

## **Introduction**

delivered by Ray Acheson, Reaching Critical Will of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF)

Ambassador Cabactulan, delegates, Secretariat, and fellow members of civil society,

I am Ray Acheson, director of Reaching Critical Will, a project of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom. I also act as NGO Coordinator for the participation of civil society in the Review Conference and as an NGO liaison with the Secretariat.

Thank you for providing the opportunity for non-governmental organizations to participate in your work at this important Review Conference. We have been following the proceedings closely and holding our own educational and advocacy events. This year, 1500 individuals from 121 organizations from around the world have been accredited to attend the Conference.

The presentations you are about to here have been in development since November 2009. Over one hundred NGO representatives have participated in the drafting of some of these statements through a process held mostly online, to facilitate the participation of people working around the world. The drafters are listed at the top of each statement in your package. These presentations are also available online at [www.reachingcriticalwill.org](http://www.reachingcriticalwill.org).

We hope the views presented here provide some food for thought in your deliberations. We always welcome feedback, questions, and comments and are happy to engage with delegates at any time. As many of you have pointed out, collaboration and cooperation between governments and civil society has resulted in great achievements on arms control and disarmament issues in the past, and we believe that there are limitless possibilities for the future.

Without further ado, I would like to invite the first speaker of our programme to take the floor, Ms. Jody Williams of the Nobel Women's Initiative, who was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for her work, in just such cooperation with governments, to ban antipersonnel landmines.

Thank you.