



WMD Security: The Role of Civil Society

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Green Cross International

- Established 1993 by Mikhail Gorbachev
- 5 initial national affiliates: Japan, The Netherlands, Russia, Switzerland, USA
- 30+ affiliates today: Africa, Asia, Australia, Europe, North & South America





GCI Mission

- Respond to the combined challenges of security, poverty, and environmental degradation to ensure a sustainable and secure future. Seek solutions through dialogue, mediation and co-operation.
- Promote legal, ethical and behavioral norms that ensure basic changes in the values, actions and attitudes of government, the private sector and civil society, necessary to develop a sustainable global community.



GCI Mission (cont.)

- Contribute to the prevention and resolution of conflicts arising from environmental degradation.
- Provide assistance to people affected by the environmental consequences of wars, conflicts and man-made calamities.
- Green Cross International partners with civil society organizations, governments, UN organizations, and the private sector to fulfill our mission across the interconnected challenges of security, poverty and the environment.

Environmental Security & Sustainability (ESS) Program

- Promoting transparency, dialogue & consensus-building for safe & sound demilitarization
- Local & regional outreach offices in Russia
- Citizen Advisory Commissions (CACs)
- Stakeholder involvement





Environmental Security & Sustainability (ESS) Program

- Facilitating all levels – local, regional, national, and international
- Empowering local communities & officials
- Engaging NGOs, experts, academics, and governments for common goals





Environmental Security & Sustainability (ESS) Program



Environmental Security & Sustainability (ESS) Program



CWC Coalition

- Established 2010 in The Hague
- To strengthen CWC & OPCW through civil society involvement
- 75+ NGOs, academics, experts, & industries
- 3rd CWC RevCon, April 8-19, 2013





Fissile Material Working Group

- Established 2009
- To strengthen fissile material control regimes through expert NGO involvement
- Over 70 NGOs and experts globally
- Washington DC 2010 & Seoul 2012 meetings





Lessons Learned (selected)

- There is strength in solidarity and multilateral programs, projects, and regimes
- Partnerships and coalitions, both national and international, expand funding options
- Best practices, education, training, and capacity-building are much improved
- Bottom line: greater effectiveness, especially in light of global problems being addressed

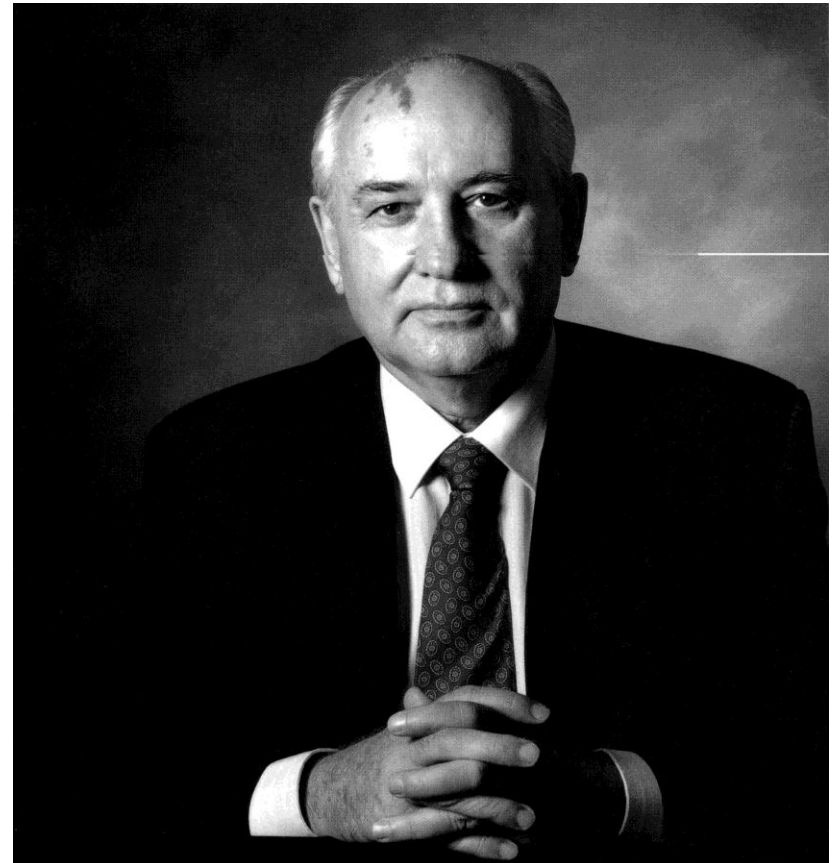


Lessons Learned (selected)

- Inclusive, non-discriminatory control and verification regimes provide best, most comprehensive results, e.g. CWC
- Engaging all stakeholders – government, non-government, civil society, industry, and independent experts – is best process
- Encouraging transparency, democratic processes, dialogue, and non-violent solutions is most successful

Conclusion

- Our challenges are global, so our work must be global (as well as national, regional, & local)
- “Give humanity a chance, give the Earth a future” – Mikhail Gorbachev





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