

DIRECTOR'S REPORT 2020



Roundtable of parliamentarians, UN officials and ambassadors organized by BPO Director Alyn Ware at the UN, Feb 19, 2020, to discuss the draft outline of the Parliamentary Handbook to support the UN Disarmament Agenda.



Marzhan Nurzhan, BPO Deputy-Director, ringing the Nagasaki Peace Bell in Heiden for an event to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the nuclear bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

The Basel Peace Office is a joint initiative of:

Association of Swiss Lawyers for Nuclear Disarmament, Basel-Stadt Kanton, Global Security Institute, Middle Powers Initiative, Parliamentarians for Nuclear Nonproliferation and Disarmament, Physicians for Social Responsibility (IPPNW Switzerland), Swisspeace Foundation, World Future Council and the University of Basel Sociology Seminary.

BASEL PEACE OFFICE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

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INTRODUCTION

This is the eight year of Basel Peace Office (BPO) operations. Despite very low funding, our programs and events have been very successful and have had impact in Switzerland, Europe and globally.

We organized and/or were actively involved in a few physical events during the year. However, due to the pandemic, most of our events were shifted to online platforms. This has cut down possibilities for informal, inter-personal interaction. However, it has enhanced the capacity to engage a wider range of people on a more cost-effective basis than is possible with physical, in-person events.

In addition to organizing a number of webinar events during the year, BPO also managed program websites, blog articles, newsletters (email updates) and social media promotion for *Abolition 2000*, *Move the Nuclear Weapons Money*, *Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-proliferation and Disarmament*, *UNFOLD ZERO* and the new platform *#WeThePeoples2020*. We also engaged in a number of academic, United Nations, inter-parliamentary and civil society platforms in order to enhance dialogue, evaluate policy, build cooperation and strengthen initiatives and campaigns.



Prof Dr (med) Andreas Nidecker opening the youth forum in Basel, Jan 9, 2020

CONTEXT: NUCLEAR WEAPONS, THE PANDEMIC & THE POLITICAL

ENVIRONMENT

In January 2020, the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists set the Doomsday Clock to 100 Seconds to Midnight – the closest it has ever come to midnight – indicating the increasingly dangerous risks to humanity from nuclear weapons and climate change.

High tensions, unresolved conflicts and the erosion of arms control agreements such as the INF Treaty, START, Open Skies Treaty and the JCPOA (Iran nuclear non-proliferation agreement) had already been happening during the past couple of years, and this was only getting worse.

Then the pandemic hit, and as the impact spread widely and deeply, political debate on the role of nuclear weapons opened up in the nuclear armed and allied states more than previously, along with a re-examination of the role of military security. Neither nuclear weapons, nor conventional weapons, were able to stop the spread of the pandemic, nor are they able to assist in addressing the health and economic impact of pandemics or help to build back better.

The *Basel Peace Office* has taken a lead in shaping and advancing this new politque which emphasises human security and common security. It has been an integral part of all of our activities this year, and is reaching new and wider audiences than our traditional disarmament and security networks – bringing in those working on human rights, public health, climate action and sustainable development.

However, there is strong resistance to nuclear disarmament, peace and human security from those sectors and actors that derive political and economic benefit from militarism. These include, in particular, nationalistic type leaders/movements and the weapons industries. Our engagement with regional and inter-national forums of legislators helps address the first dynamic. The *Move the Nuclear Weapons Money* campaign helps address the second.

Finally, we should mention the *Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons*, which enters-into-force on January 22, 2021. This is an important measure by non-nuclear States. However, the nuclear armed and allied States have all opposed the treaty, calling it counter-productive to the *Non-Proliferation Treaty*, and have vowed not to join.

This growing divide between the treaty supporters and the nuclear-reliant countries has led the Swiss government to hesitate to join the treaty - questioning whether it can influence the nuclear armed States - even though Switzerland launched the humanitarian initiative that led to the treaty.



BPO Director Alyn Ware speaking at the UN negotiations for the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

In this context, the work of the *Basel Peace Office* is vitally important. We make important contributions in bridging the divide between nuclear and non-nuclear States. We identify and promote effective measures to move the nuclear armed and allied States to reduce the risk of nuclear weapons use, phase out nuclear deterrence and make progress toward a nuclear-weapon-free world. We make links between the disarmament, peace, climate and sustainable development communities. We build cooperation between key stakeholders including diplomats, legislators, religious leaders, youth and civil society organizations. And we identify and promote strategies to move those with investments and vested financial interests in the nuclear arms race (and fossil fuel industry), to shift these financial interests away from nuclear weapons and instead toward diplomatic, social, economic and environmental need.

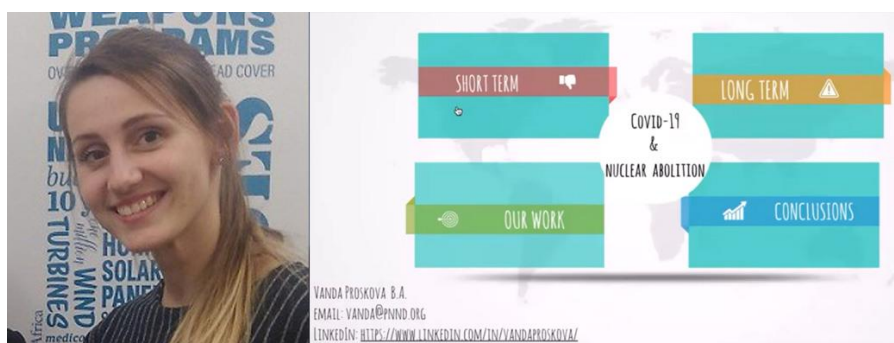


Basel Peace Office holds a public event with the #3DNukeMissile outside the European Stock Exchange in Amsterdam, highlighting the listed European companies manufacturing nuclear weapons.

SUMMARY: PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Highlights for our 2020 program include organizing (or co-organizing) the following:

- **January 9:** Roundtable event in Basel on *Climate, peace and security: From youth voices to policy action* including award of the PACEY Prize;
- **January 10:** Pavilion at the *Basel Peace Forum*, including premier screening of our video project on *European youth voices on climate, peace and security*;
- **February 9-11:** *PyeongChang Peace Forum* in South Korea;
- **February 19:** Roundtable event at the UN in New York on *Parliamentarians and the UN Disarmament Agenda*;
- **April 21:** Global webinar *Move the Nuclear Weapons (and fossil fuel) Money*;
- **May 14 and May 19:** Global webinars on *Youth Actions for Climate, Nuclear Disarmament and Sustainable Development*;
- **May 23:** *Abolition 2000 AGM* which included the release of a global statement against resumed nuclear testing;
- **May 24:** *Women's Appeal for Human Security, public health, peace and sustainable development*. The appeal was endorsed by 250 women leaders (mayors, parliamentarians, religious leaders and leaders of civil society organizations).
- **June 24:** Global webinar *UN2020: Enhancing peace, disarmament and the role of women*, with two top UN officials plus some of the appeal endorsers.
- **July 1:** Two global online meetings (in English and French) for parliamentary input for the draft parliamentary handbook on disarmament;
- **July 30:** Global webinar *100 Seconds to Midnight What does this mean? What can we do?*
- **August:** Outreach materials and a global calendar of actions and events for the 75th anniversary of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombings;
- **August 6:** Public event with the #3DNukeMissile outside the European Stock Exchange in Amsterdam highlighting the listed European companies manufacturing nuclear weapons;
- **September 3:** Global webinar on *Peace, nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation in Africa and the World*;
- **September:** Development and launch of #WeThePeoples2020, a global platform for UN high level events and civil society actions from Sep 21 (International Day for Peace) until Oct 2 (International Day for Non-violence);
- **September 26:** Global civil society commemoration event for the *International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons*. This was 10 hours of video statements, presentations, music, workshops and panels.
- **September 28:** Global online screening of *The Man Who Saved the World*, followed by discussion with the movie director;
- **October 2:** Launch of *Protect People and the Planet: Appeal for a Nuclear-Weapon-Free World*. Over 300 people have endorsed including mayors, parliamentarians, medical professionals, business leaders, former UN and government officials, religious leaders, former military leaders, youth, academics and representatives of civil society organizations.
- **November 5 and 6.** Launch events in English and French for *Assuring our Common Future*, a parliamentary handbook on disarmament.



Vanda Proskova presented on topic of 'COVID-19 and Nuclear Abolition' to the Abolition 2000 AGM

PROGRAMS:

ABOLITION 2000

BPO serves on the coordinating committee of the *Abolition 2000 global network to eliminate nuclear weapons*, manages the Abolition 2000 events calendar, posts blog articles on the [Abolition 2000 website](#) and convenes some of the [Abolition 2000 working groups](#) (law, nuclear-weapon-free zones and youth). In addition, in 2020 BPO organized the [education and campaign materials for the 75th anniversary of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombings](#) and helped organized the [Abolition 2000 Annual General Meeting](#), which had the theme *Nuclear abolition in the post-covid-19 world*.



UN INITIATIVES FOR PEACE AND NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT

a. UNFOLD ZERO platform

UNFOLD ZERO is a global platform which BPO co-founded in 2014 as a coalition of key organizations in follow-up to the [Open the Door to a Nuclear Weapon Free World](#) campaign.



UNFOLD ZERO promotes United Nations initiatives for nuclear disarmament and UN mechanisms to prevent war and achieve security without reliance on the threat or use of force. Key activities over the year included webinars, [blog articles](#) and [newsletters](#) (which are shorter version of the blogs and are circulated to the **UNFOLD ZERO** mailing list of nearly 4000).

UNFOLD ZERO also hosted the [#WeThePeoples2020](#) platform (see below).

Topics for the blog articles during the year included the [peace, disarmament and the pandemic](#), the [UNSG's global ceasefire initiative](#), the [Target 2045 campaign](#), [nuclear weapons and human rights](#), [nuclear disarmament and strategic competition](#), [nuclear disarmament through diplomacy, law and common security](#), the [UNSG's disarmament agenda](#), and [how to achieve a nuclear weapons free world](#).

b. UN International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons

The UN commemorates the *International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons* on September 26. In conjunction with [#WeThePeoples2020](#) (see below) we organized a [call to governments](#), a [social media action](#) and two key events: [A Nuclear-Weapon-Free World](#), the global civil society event for *the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons* and [The Man Who Saved the World](#), a movie screening followed by discussion with movie Director Peter Anthony.



Divina Maloum (Cameroon), 2019 Co-winner of the International Children's Prize (with Greta Thunberg) and co-author of the UNFOLD ZERO blog article on [Coronavirus, armed conflict and children: African youth leaders urge support for UN ceasefire call](#).

77 government leaders (Presidents, Prime Ministers and Foreign Ministers) spoke at the [UN High Level Meeting on the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons](#) on October 2. In addition two representatives from global civil society were invited to speak, both of whom are associated with the Basel Peace Office. They were PNND Co-President **Saber Chowdhury** and PNND Gender, Peace and Security Program Director **Vanda Proskova**.

c. Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons

BPO was actively involved in 2020 in encouraging non-nuclear States to ratify the [Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons](#) (TPNW) and for them to implement the TPNW with the adoption of effective national implementation measures. The TPNW was unfortunately drafted in such a way as to make it unlikely, if not impossible, for nuclear armed and allied States to join. Never-the-less, BPO has been countering the erroneous claims by the nuclear armed and allied states that the TPNW undermines the Non-Proliferation Treaty. See [BPO statement on entry-into-force of the TPNW](#).

d. UN 75th anniversary and UN2020

2020 has been a very busy year of UN related meetings and events with a focus on the 75th anniversary of the founding of the UN. Much of the global civil society coordination for the anniversary has been facilitated by UN2020.



BPO served on the coordinating committee for UN2020, with our primary responsibility being to focus on peace and international security. This included presentations on the topic at various UN2020 events, input on peace and security into the [UN75 Peoples Declaration and Plan of Action](#), and advocacy on peace and security text for the UN 75 Declaration adopted by the [UN General Assembly at its High Level Meeting to Commemorate the un 75th Anniversary](#).

e. #WeThePeoples2020 – linking peace, climate, SDGs and nuclear abolition

In order to build connections and cooperation between the key UN issues and High Level events, BPO co-founded #WeThePeoples2020, a joint initiative of over 100 organisations. #Wethepeoples2020 highlights in particular, the links between peace, climate protection, disarmament, sustainable development, public health and COVID-19 recovery.



#Wethepeoples2020 was most active in September and October 2020, promoting the key UN days and events from the International Day for Peace (September 21) until the International Day for Nonviolence (October 2). This also included the [UN 75th Anniversary High Level Event](#) (Sep 21), [Sustainable Development Summit](#) (Sep 21-24), [UN Climate Week](#) (Sep 21-27), [UN Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons](#) (Sep 26), [UN Summit on Biodiversity](#) (Sep 30), [High Level Meeting on Women - Beijing +25](#) (Oct 1) and the [UN Day of Nonviolence](#) (Oct 2).

A cooperative outcome of the platform was the launch of [Protect People and the Planet: an Appeal for a Nuclear-Weapon-Free World](#). Already the appeal has been endorsed by over 300 civil society leaders including mayors, parliamentarians, former UN and government officials, religious leaders, academics, former military leaders, youth and others.

"Deterrence owes more to national egotism than reality. Far from keeping nations safe, nuclear weapons threaten the continued existence of nations."

Cmdr Robert Forsyth, Retired Royal Navy Nuclear Weapons Commander, UK. Endorser of Protect People and the Planet.

"The US and Russia should renounce preemptive first-strike and nuclear weapons 'launch-on-warning'. They could do this by eliminating land-based ICBMs."

Daniel Ellsberg, Author, *The Doomsday Machine: Confessions of a Nuclear War Planner*. Co-author, *The Pentagon Papers*.

f. Nuclear weapons and UN Human Rights Bodies

In October 2018, the UN Human Rights Committee affirmed that the use of nuclear weapons is incompatible with the Right to Life as affirmed in the *International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights* (and found also in several other Human Rights instruments), and that there is an obligation to achieve the elimination of such weapons. All of the nuclear armed and allied countries are parties to the Covenant (except China which has signed but not ratified).

BPO and the *Swiss Association of Lawyers for Nuclear Disarmament* started working this year with the *Lawyers' Committee on Nuclear Policy* (USA) and the *International Association of Lawyers Against Nuclear Arms* on submissions to relevant human rights bodies challenging specific nuclear armed and allied states to implement their nuclear disarmament obligations as they each come up for review. The first such submission was made in relation to the review of the United States.

Engaging youth

a. Youth voices for climate, peace and disarmament

[Youth Voices for the Climate, Peace and Disarmament](#) is an initiative we launched in late 2019. In the first stage of the project, youth around Europe were invited to record short video messages on the climate, peace and/or disarmament, what they would like parliaments and international bodies like the United Nations and OSCE do to advance these issues.



Some of the participants in the Youth Voices video project

A [compilation of the video messages](#) was released at the Basel Youth Forum (see below). In the second phase, youth around the world were asked to record short video messages. The [compilation of these was released on August 12](#) to coincide with UN International Day for Youth.

b. Basel Youth Forum, Basel Peace Forum and PACEY Award

In January 2020, we organised [Climate, peace and security: From youth voices to policy action](#), a youth forum in Basel. We invited young leaders in these fields to make presentations to a select group of policy makers, including parliamentarians, mayors, UN officials and leaders of key civil society organisations. The policy makers then responded to the presentations, and a dialogue between youth and policy makers was held. We also hosted a pavilion at the Basel Peace Forum, an annual event organised by Swisspeace. In our pavilion we showed the youth voices video, and then recorded responses from additional policy-makers. These youth messages and video responses were circulated on social media.

In January 2020, we launched the inaugural [Peace and Climate action of European Youth \(PACEY\) Award](#). This is an annual award funded by Dr Andreas Nidecker of the Basel Peace Office, to support a European youth project or proposal to advance effective action to cut

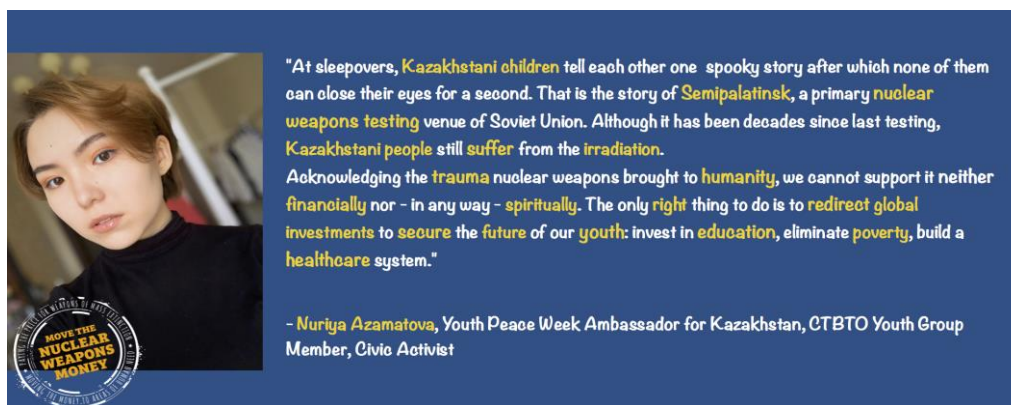


Alyn Ware with Anesa Colakovic and Hysein Damati, co-founders of the Education Innovators, Kosovo, which won the inaugural PACEY Award.

carbon emissions, enhance the transition to renewable energies, address and resolve international or regional conflicts, abolish nuclear weapons, reduce weapons budgets and investments, and/or support the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. Finalists presented their projects/proposals at the Basel Youth Forum and the winner was determined by voting of the forum participants. The first award was won by the [Green Building Municipality project](#), a multi-ethnic youth gardening initiative from a conflict region in Kosovo.

c. Youth Fusion and global youth webinars

BPO manages Youth Fusion, the Abolition 2000 youth network. On May 14 and May 19 the network held global webinars on [Youth Actions for Climate, Nuclear Disarmament and Sustainable Development](#). The May 14 webinar was timed to suit participants in the Americas, Europe and Africa. The May 19 webinar was timed to suit participants in Asia and the Pacific. Speakers include young leaders from Bangladesh, Canada, Czech Republic, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Morocco, Philippines, Romania, South Korea, United Arab Emirates and the USA.



Nuriya Azamatova, one of the speakers for the Youth webinar on May 19

d. Youth internship and volunteer program

BPO trains youth through an internship and volunteer program. The majority of our interns are university students, many who are studying at American University in Prague where internships are a requirement for their university program. We also host interns supported by the EU Non-proliferation Consortium. Interns and youth volunteers for 2020 included Daria Ivovska (Ukraine), Mariia Ashikhmina (Russia), Chaimae Sebbani (Morocco), Matej Moles (Czech Republic), Kristýna Chyňavová (Czech Republic), Arthur Duforest (Denmark), Michaela Sorenson (Denmark) and Christoph Jaschek (Germany).

Gender, peace and security

BPO and PNND worked on gender, peace and security issues during the year in both our methodology of operations and in the focus of our program activities.

With regard to methodology, we have ensured participation in all events and program activities. With regard to program focus, we have ensured that the role of women is included in our publications and policy documents, such as Assuring our Common Future (see below). And we have organised some events specifically on role of women and/or with a gender focus. These have included the [Women's Appeal for Human Security, public health, peace and sustainable development](#) which we released on May 24, in conjunction with *Women's International Day for Peace and Disarmament*, and a follow-up webinar on June 24 on [UN2020: Enhancing peace, disarmament and the role of women](#), at which we presented the appeal to the UN. The appeal was endorsed by 250 influential women legislators, religious leaders and heads of civil society organisations.

We are now working on formalizing our Gender, peace and security program.

Gender, peace and security (continued)



Speakers for the June 24 webinar: **Ms Izumi Nakamitsu**, UN Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for Disarmament Affairs; **Mr Fabrizio Hochschild**, UN Under-Secretary-General and Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on the United Nations' 75th Anniversary; **Ms Maria Fernanda Espinosa**, President of the 73rd UN General Assembly; **Ms Gabriela Cuevas Barron MP**, President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union; **Baroness Sue Miller**, PNND Co-President; **Ms Divina Maloum**, Founder of Children for Peace and Co-winner (with Greta Thunberg) of the 2019 International Children's Peace Prize; **Ms Elizabeth Warner**, Managing Director, Ploughshares Fund and the Women's Initiative; **Rep Carol Ammons**, Member Illinois State Assembly and member of the Women Legislators' Lobby; **Ms Ann-Sofie Nilsson**, Sweden's Ambassador for Disarmament and Non-proliferation; **Holly Near**, singer/songwriter.

Move the Nuclear Weapons Money

Move the Weapons Money is a global campaign which BPO co-founded and manages. The campaign focuses on cutting nuclear weapons budgets, encouraging divestment (of governments, cities, universities and banks) from companies manufacturing nuclear weapons and their delivery systems, and reallocating these budgets and investments to meet economic, social and environmental need – such as ending poverty, protecting the climate, supporting renewable energy, creating jobs, and providing adequate healthcare, housing and education for all. Below are some of the activities for this initiative.

a. Nuclear weapons divestment consultations and handbook

With support from the Grassroots Foundation, we were able to contract an assistant, Thies Kaetow, to work on a series of consultations with experts in socially responsible and impact investment in order to prepare a *Handbook on Nuclear Weapons Divestment*. The text of the handbook has been drafted and is awaiting final proofing, design, publication and promotion.

b. Global webinar

We organised a global webinar [Move the Nuclear Weapons \(and fossil fuel\) Money: Cutting nuclear weapons budgets. Ending investments in nuclear weapons & fossil fuels](#), which took place on April 21, 2020.

The webinar was held in conjunction with the *Global Days of Action on Military Spending*. The webinar was held in two sessions: Session 1 on Divestment and ethical/impact investment. Session 2 on Legislative action and public promotion. Information and ideas from the webinar fed into the draft Handbook on Nuclear Weapons Divestment.

Move the Nuclear Weapons Money
Global Webinar, April 21, 2020

Speakers:

- Susanna Choe (USA)**
Executive Director of the Regeneration Fund, Investment Community Visibility Group
- Thies Kaetow (Germany)**
Divestment Researcher, World Future Council
- Marzhan Nurzhan (Kazakhstan/Switzerland)**
Coordinator, Abolition 2000 Youth Network
- Jeff Perkins (USA)**
Executive Director, Friends Fiduciary Corporation
- Vanda Proskova (Czech Republic)**
Social Media Director, Move the Nuclear Weapons campaign
- Jennifer Blemur (USA)**
Director, Women Legislators' Lobby
- Matt Robson (New Zealand)**
Former New Zealand Minister for Disarmament and Arms Control
- Kehkashan Basu (UAE/Canada)**
World Future Council Youth Ambassador
Winner, 2016 International Children's Peace Prize
- Quique Sanchez (Spain)**
Global Campaign on Military Spending

*** Cutting nuclear weapons budgets.**

*** Ending investments in nuclear weapons & fossil fuels.**

*** Reallocating these to public health, climate protection and sustainable development.**


Contact: info@nuclearweaponsmoney.org
Visit: www.nuclearweaponsmoney.org

c. Social media promotion

We have been engaging parliamentarians, mayors, artists, youth, religious leaders, celebrities, civil society leaders and others in social media promotion of the Move the Nuclear Weapons Money campaign through social media memes (photo-graphics). Over 200 people from around the world have contributed memes, including some from Switzerland. Below are a few examples. More examples are at the end of this report.



"When in 2019 **none** of the **17** **sustainable development goals** (SDG's) set by the **UN General Assembly** have been achieved due to under financing, it is obscene to learn that in the coming 10 years the US alone, as the largest **democracy** will be spending at least **494 billion USD**."

- **Andreas Nidecker**, MD, President Basel Peace Office.
Board Member and Past President IPPNW Switzerland



"Let us imagine that in times of **Corvid -19** the German government understands the **real priorities** in **security policy** because of people's lasting and continuous **protests**. Being a nuclear umbrella state it will start with **nuclear disarmament**. It resolves to send back the **20 US nuclear weapons** from Büchel, Germany to the US according to a parliamentary decision taken in 2010. It refuses the offer to buy **30 nuclear bombers** (F - 18 bombers) costing nearly **7,5 billion Euro**. Instead it will spend the **money** for **60.000 nurses** and **25.000 doctors**, for **100.000 intensive care beds** and **30.000 ventilators**. Historians will praise this as **the first step** to joining the **Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons**."

- **Dr. Angelika Claussen** MD (Germany), European Vice-President of International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War



"How can we leave people to face **disasters** of a scale we have never seen before; abandon **health, education** and meaningful **work**, and still spend **endless billions** of dollars on **nuclear weapons**? We know we can **never use** a **nuclear bomb**, no matter how small, because the **effect on the planet** would be **catastrophic**. Continuing this way, without a **moral compass**, is unprecedented folly."

- **Dr. Mary-Wynne Ashford**, Past Co-President of International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War

"We are facing a huge **challenge**: To keep our **unique planet inhabitable**. In order to live up to this **priority** we need to become a **cooperating human family** that **stops climate change**, keeps the **water clean** and the **soil fertile**, and creates a "**cradle to cradle**" economy without **toxic waste**. **Destroying** precious resources for weapons is a **crime** that has to be **stopped immediately**."

- **Martin Vosseler**, MD, Founder of PSR/IPPNW Switzerland, Co-founder of Sun21



Engaging parliamentarians and mayors

Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-proliferation and Disarmament

BPO provides the primary management of Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-proliferation and Disarmament (PNND), a global network of parliamentarians working to reduce nuclear risks, prevent nuclear weapons proliferation and achieve a nuclear-weapons-free world. PNND members are active in their national legislatures, inter-parliamentary organizations, at the UN and in public arenas to advance effective policies and parliamentary action. PNND supports these actions and publicizes them through the PNND blog and newsletter. Articles in 2020 included:



- [Parliamentarians, the Doomsday Clock and UN Res 1 \(1\)](#);
- [PNND and the Corona Virus](#);
- [Former Royal Navy Commanders to UK parliament: 'Cut nuclear weapons budget, end Continuous-at-sea-deterrent and address Covid-19](#);
- [Senator Markey to world's governments: Invest in people not nukes](#);
- [100 seconds to Midnight. What does it mean? What can we do?](#)
- [Senator Markey and Abolition 2000 tell President Trump not to resume nuclear tests](#);
- [Senator Ed Markey, PM Jacinda Ardern and other PNND members mark Hiroshima/Nagasaki anniversary](#);
- [Action call to governments for the UN High Level Meeting on Nuclear Weapons](#);
- [PNND joins world leaders to address UN High Level Meeting on Nuclear Weapons](#)

PNND and the United Nations

PNND is especially well respected amongst the United Nations community. In 2020, PNND work with the UN included the production of a parliamentary handbook to support the UN Secretary-General's Disarmament Agenda (see below), a number of events organized in cooperation with the UN Office of Disarmament Affairs, and cooperation on the *International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons*. For the [UN High Level Meeting on the Elimination of Nuclear Weapons](#), the two representatives from global civil society invited to speak were both from PNND. They were **Saber Chowdhury**, PNND Co-President and **Vanda Proskova**, PNND Gender, Peace and Security Program Director. [Click here](#) for their video presentations.

PNND Co-President Ed Markey's video message for the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons



*In a [video message](#) released by PNND on September 25, PNND Co-President Ed Markey called on world leaders who would be speaking at the **October 2 UN High Level Meeting on Nuclear Weapons Elimination** to commit to building back better from the CORONA-19 pandemic and to invest in the lives of people, not in nuclear weapons.*

Parliamentary handbook

In 2018, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres released [Securing our Common Future: An Agenda for Disarmament](#), which discusses the connections between disarmament and sustainable development and outlines approaches for advancing disarmament of both conventional and non-conventional weapons, including weapons of mass destruction.



Parliamentary handbook on implementation of Securing our Common Future, the UN Secretary-General's disarmament agenda
www.DisarmamentHandbook.org

In order to ensure input and engagement of parliamentarians from around the world and across the political spectrum, I organised three international meetings of parliamentarians and disarmament experts on the draft handbook.

The first was held at the UN in New York on February 19, 2019. The second two meetings were supposed to be held in Geneva in April, but due to the pandemic were changed to online meetings which were held in July. All three meetings were held in English and French. Hon Matt Robson, former NZ Minister for Disarmament and Arms Control, played a very active role in these meetings and in the handbook development.

The handbook, entitled 'Assuring our Common Future: A Guide to Parliamentary Action in support of Disarmament for Security and Sustainable Development.' will be launched at global online events on November 5 (English edition) and November 6 (French edition).

Mayors for Peace

BPO serves as the liaison and organiser of the Mayors for Peace program for the Basel-Stadt Kanton. In 2020 this included participation of Mayors for Peace Europe leaders in the *Basel Youth Forum* and *Basel Peace Forum* in January, endorsement of the *Women's Appeal for Human Security, public health, peace and sustainable development* by a number of women leaders in Mayors for Peace, engagement of Mayors for Peace representatives in the June 24 webinar *UN2020: Enhancing peace, disarmament and the role of women*, endorsement by some members of Mayors for Peace in *Protecting People and the Planet: Appeal for a Nuclear-Weapon-Free World*, engagement of Mayors for Peace members (including Basel-Stadt Kanton President Elisabeth Ackermann) in the *Move the Nuclear Weapons Money* social media campaign, and inclusion of examples of joint BPO/Mayors for Peace and PNND/Mayors for Peace actions in *Assuring our Common Future, the parliamentary handbook on disarmament for security and sustainable development*.

"The use of nuclear weapons would have such catastrophic effects on the population and environment of our canton that their development and use must be prohibited. That is why the immensely high expenditure on nuclear weapons programmes seems appalling. Instead, the money should be used to safeguard human needs and preserve our environment."

- Elisabeth Ackermann,
President of the Government of the Canton of Basel-Stadt, Switzerland



Regional initiatives

a. Europe

BPO is a member of the [EU Non-proliferation Consortium](#), a network of research and policy institutes coordinated by the *Peace Research Institute of Frankfurt* (PRIF) under the auspices and funding of the European Union. BPO participates in EU Non-proliferation Consortium events including their youth forum, annual networking meeting and annual conference – all of which were held this year as virtual meetings. In 2020, the **BPO internship of Chaimae Sebbani** was funded by the Consortium.

BPO and PNND normally participate in *OSCE Parliamentary Annual Assemblies*. However, the 2020 Assembly which was scheduled to take place in Vancouver, Canada, was postponed due to the pandemic.

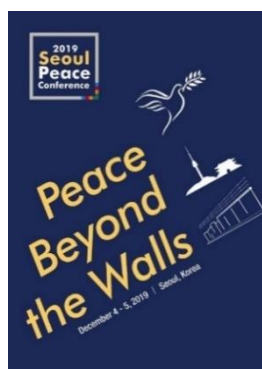
BPO is a participant of the *Nuclear-Weapon-Free Europe Network*, which is hosted by the *International Peace Bureau*. The network's primary objectives include the removal of US nuclear weapons hosted by NATO countries and encouraging European countries to join the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. BPO encourages the network to also focus on Russian, French and UK nuclear weapons, and to consider the proposal for a European NWFZ, but so far we have not had much pick-up by the network on these issues.

b. North East Asia

Peace and denuclearisation in the Korean peninsula and more broadly in North-East Asia is a key focus area for BPO and PNND. Activities in this period have included participation in the Seoul Peace Conference and the NE Asia Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone conference in Seoul, an active role in the Korea Peace Network which lobbies the US Congress, and co-organising the PyeongChang Peace Forum in Feb 2020. PNND was planning its AGM in Seoul in April, hosted by the Korean National Assembly, but this has been postponed due to the pandemic.

- **Seoul Peace Conference, Dec 2019**

The Mayor of Seoul, Mr Park Won-soon, hosted an international conference [Peace Beyond the Walls](#) on December 4-5, 2019. The conference focused on diplomatic and civil society initiatives to resolve entrenched conflicts and how these might provide inspiration for the Inter-Korean peace and denuclearisation process. I was invited to speak at the conference on the topic of Achieving peace and security without nuclear weapons.



Speakers at the Seoul Peace Conference included the Rt Hon Helen Clark, Nobel Peace Laureate Jose Ramos Horta, Korean Prime Minister Lee Nak-yeon, Seoul Mayor Park Won-soon, Alyn Ware...

- **PyeongChang Peace Forum, Feb 2020**

BPO was on the organising committee for the [PyeongChang Peace Forum](#), an international event commemorating the 2nd anniversary of the PyeongChang Winter Olympics, at which the Inter-Korean peace process was initiated.

The forum included political, business, sports and civil society leaders. It launched the *PyeongChang Action Plan (PCAP) 2030* which includes a number of initiatives to achieve peace in NE Asia and around the world, and to advance the SDGs.



The PNND/BPO Peace and Disarmament caucus



Ban Ki-moon and other speakers at the Forum

c. Middle East

BPO and PNND are actively engaged in the proposal for a Middle East Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone, including the [UN Conference on the Establishment of a Middle East Zone Free of Nuclear Weapons and Other Weapons of Mass Destruction](#), the first session of which was held in November 2019. The second session was supposed to be held in November 2020, but has been postponed due to the pandemic. BPO also engages in a number of initiatives to support this process including the [Academic Peace Orchestra Middle East](#) and the [Middle East Treaty Organization](#) which from January 2021 will be hosting the Abolition 2000 secretariat.

Basel-Prague-Hamburg-New York partnership

Basel Peace Office partners with the *Global Security Institute* (based in New York), *World Future Council* (based in Hamburg) and *PragueVision Institute for Sustainable Security* (based in Prague) to advance our programs. Due to limited funds for BPO and the much lower cost of living in Prague (less than half the cost of living in Switzerland) most of our interns work primarily from the Prague office on general programs and travel to Basel to assist with the events. Since 2018, BPO Director Alyn Ware has also been living in Prague.

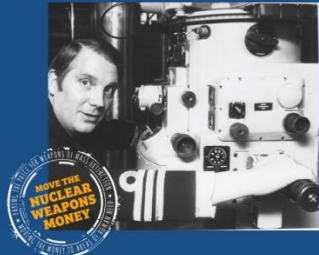
Financial summary

BPO was funded in 2020 through grants and donations from the Basel-Stadt Kanton, Quaker Peace and Service Aotearoa-New Zealand, Grassroots Foundation, the EU Non-Proliferation Consortium, Prof Dr (med) Andreas Nidecker (Basel) and Gray Southon (New Zealand). Funding is insufficient for any full-time salaries. Project work is undertaken by board members, volunteers, interns and contractors.

Personnel – Board members, consultants, volunteers and interns

A note of deep gratitude to Dr Andi Nidecker for being a totally hands-on President, providing inspiration, guidance, support and leadership far beyond the call of duty. A note of thanks also to other Board members who have been especially active in BPO management and/or programs including Laurent Goetschel, Lukas Ott, Rudolf Rechsteiner and Daniel Rietiker. A big thank you to Vanda Proskova, Thies Kätow, Marzhan Nurzhan and Rob van Riet who undertook excellent consultancy work on key programs. A big thank you also to the dedicated volunteers and interns Daria Ivovska, Mariia Ashikhmina, Chaimae Sebbani, Matej Moles, Kristýna Chyňavová, Arthur Duforest, Michaela Sorenson and Christoph Jaschek.


Move the Nuclear Weapons Money social media memes (some more examples)



"Nuclear-armed States continue to **modernise** and in some cases **expand**, their **nuclear weapon capabilities**, costing **trillions**, while the world is struggling to afford the necessary measures to counter the worldwide **threat to health, climate change** and **world economies** that **Coronavirus** poses. This is **unacceptable**. Nuclear weapons powers should focus instead on **human security** for a **safe, healthy** and **sustainable** world."


- Commander **Robert Forsyth** RN (Ret'd) Former Submarine Commanding Officer

"The official and unofficial **nuclear states** are just learning that they **cannot** deter a **virus** with **nuclear weapons**. For the sake of their own citizens and the citizens of all countries they should **redirect** the **billions** of dollars for their **nuclear weapon programs** to **public health** in a common effort."




- Dr. **Finokh-Krämer**, Former Member of the German Parliament. Council Member of Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-proliferation and Disarmament.

"Nothing can be the same after **Covid19**. To restore the **planet** and its **people** we need **radical changes**, including to **shift** funding away from **nuclear weapons** and into endeavours which build people's **resilience**, improve access to **education** and **health** systems, promote **equality** and grow **sustainable economies**. In 2008, when I was Aotearoa/New Zealand Minister responsible for Accident Compensation (ACC), I was able to announce **divestment** by the ACC Fund from the **nuclear weapons industry**. Our small step is an example for others to follow, especially now. Nuclear weapons are **useless** in the face of a **global pandemic**."




- Hon **Maryan Street**. Former NZ Cabinet Minister and MP. Former Chairperson of PNND New Zealand



It's a **dark** and **seary** moment when a bunch of microbes brings **humanity** to its knees. We've come to a turning point in **history**. Neither **nuclear weapons**, nor all the **armies** in the world, can stop **COVID-19**. The old ways of building **security** - bigger and better **weapons** - are completely **irrelevant** now."

- Hon **Douglas Roohe** (Canada). Former Senator and Canadian Disarmament Ambassador. Founding Chair of Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-proliferation and Disarmament.

"My daily lessons from the **Corona** pandemic: 1. stop the **waste** of **human capital**: let's use our **brains** to improve **medicine** instead of deadly **weapons**. 2. The new **nuclear arms race** soaks up the **financial resources** we urgently need for good **global health care**."



- Dr **Lars Pohlmeier** M.D. A doctor treating patients with Corona and other infections. Board Member of IPPNW - International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War, Germany