

DIRECTOR'S REPORT 2021



Basel Peace Office, World Future Council and Youth Fusion organize a 3D NukeMissile interactive event in Barcelona during the International Peace Bureau Assembly. The 3D NukeMissile highlights the threats from nuclear weapons and engages public in nuclear disarmament action.



Youth reps from World's Youth for Climate Justice and Project for Peace and Humanity, winners of the 2021 Basel PACEY (Peace, nuclear Abolition and Climate Engaged Youth) Award, presenting updates on their projects at a public event in Basel, Nov 24, 2021.



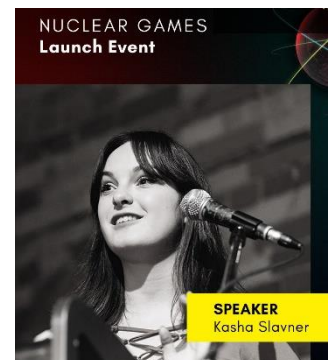
The Basel Peace Office is a joint initiative of:

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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Some of the speakers for the launch event of *Nuclear Games*: **Kehkashan Basu**, UN Huma Rights Champion and Winner of the 2016 International Children's Peace Prize; **Divina Maloum**, founder of Children for Peace and Co-winner (with Greta Thunberg) of the 2019 International Children's Peace Prize; **Disha Ravi**, founder of Schools Strike for Peace India and **Kasha Slavner**, award winning documentary film-maker.

INTRODUCTION

This is the ninth 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.

2021 is the second year of the COVID-19 pandemic. While most of our events continue to be online due to the pandemic, the gradual opening of travel and the increase in vaccinations, has enabled some events this year to be either in-person or hybrid.

In addition to organizing a number of online, hybrid and in-person events during the year, BPO also undertook program activities in cooperation with key partners. This included research, actions and advocacy, managing program websites, publishing blog articles, preparing newsletters (email updates) and undertaking social media promotion for *Abolition 2000*, *Move the Nuclear Weapons Money*, *Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-proliferation and Disarmament* and *UNFOLD ZERO*. We have also assisted *PragueVision Institute for Sustainable Security* to establish and maintain the new platform *NoFirstUse Global*.

Youth programs and inter-generational dialogue have been a strong priority for Basel Peace Office this year, with a number of key events and programs undertaken in cooperation with *Youth Fusion*, the youth network of the Abolition 2000 global movement for the elimination of nuclear weapons.

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.



Youth Fusion launched its **Youth Fusion Elders program** in March 2021 with youth-led, podcast interviews of **Bruce Kent**, *Honorary Vice-President of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament*; **Uta Zapf**, *former Chair of the German Parliament Subcommittee on Disarmament, Arms Control and Nonproliferation*; **Mogens Lykketoft**, *President of the 73rd UN General Assembly and former Prime Minister of Denmark*; **Prof Ana Maria Cetto**, *Pugwash Executive Board, Women of the Year Mexico 2003*; **Tolegen Mukhamejanov**, *Iconic Kazakhstan Musician, Composer of the Nevada-Semipalatinsk movement anti-nuclear anthem*, and **Prof Andreas Nidecker MD**, *President of the Basel Peace Office*.

CONTEXT:

NUCLEAR WEAPONS, THE PANDEMIC & THE POLITICAL ENVIRONMENT

In January 2021, the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists re-set the Doomsday Clock to 100 Seconds to Midnight indicating the increasingly dangerous risks to humanity from nuclear weapons and climate change, amplified by the erosion of scientific, evidence based approaches to public policy as demonstrated by rise of 'fake news' and the poor management of the COVID pandemic.

As the pandemic continued to shape political, economic and social life during 2021, 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, have been able to stop the spread of the pandemic, nor are they able to assist in addressing the health and economic impact of pandemics or to help 'build back better.'

The *Basel Peace Office* has taken a lead in shaping and advancing this new politique which emphasizes human security and common security - security frameworks that have been integral to most of our activities in 2020 and 2021. The concepts of human and common security are reaching new and wider audiences, bringing in those working on human rights, public health, climate action and sustainable development.

However, there continues to be very powerful resistance to peace and nuclear disarmament from 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, as well as the *Move the Nuclear Weapons Money* campaign and the UNFOLD ZERO program, help address these political dynamics.

Finally, we should mention the *Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons*, which entered-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 refrain so far from joining 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.

CHRONOLOGICAL LIST OF EVENTS AND ACTIONS

Events organized or co-organized by Basel Peace Office

- **January 4:** Submissions made to the UN Human Rights Committee arguing that the nuclear weapons policies of [Iceland](#) and [North Korea](#) violate their obligations to protect the Right to Life under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR).
- **January 19:** [Intergenerational forum on peace, the climate, nuclear disarmament and the pandemic](#); Event included the voting and presentation of the [PACEY Award](#);
- **January 21:** [Nuclear Disarmament in the Changing Political Environment](#), Panel for the Basel Peace Forum moderated by Marzhan Nurzhan, BPO Director;
- **January 25:** [75th anniversary of UN Resolution 1 \(1\) on nuclear weapons elimination](#). Event included presentation to the UN of [Protect People and the Planet: Appeal for a Nuclear-Weapon-Free World](#);
- **January 25:** [Submission to the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women](#) arguing that the nuclear weapons policies of Denmark as a member of NATO, and the lack of action on the 1968 Thule nuclear weapons accident, constitute violations of Denmark's obligations under the *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women*;
- **January 27,** [The role of parliamentarians to advance disarmament in cyber-space](#), a global event for parliamentarians and experts in follow-up to the launch of the parliamentary handbook [Assuring our Common Future: disarmament for security and sustainable development](#);
- **February 8:** [Peace Agenda 2045: Abolish Nuclear Weapons and War](#), a panel at the *PyeongChang Peace Forum 2021*;
- **February 27:** *UN Youth Association (Denmark) Nuclear Disarmament Talks*;
- **March 1:** [World Future Day 24-hour discussion](#) and [Launch of Youth Fusion Elders](#);
- **March 8:** [Inter-generational dialogue on gender, peace and nuclear disarmament](#). Held on International Women's Day. The event included the launch of the [PNND Gender, Peace and Security program](#) developed by BPO and PNND staff and leaders;
- **April 29:** [Time for No-First-Use policies in the USA and around the world](#). Global webinar held in sessions for Asia/Pacific and Americas/Europe/Africa/Middle East.
- **May 24:** [Women's role in disarmament highlighted on International Women's Day for Peace and Disarmament](#). Statement commemorating the day and affirming the *2020 Women's Appeal for Human Security, public health, peace and sustainable development*.
- **May 26-27:** [No-First-Use Global Campaign and strategy meeting](#). Establishing the global civil society campaign on promotion of no-first-use policies by the nuclear-armed countries.
- **May 29:** Submissions to the UN Human Rights Committee arguing that the nuclear weapons policies of [France](#) and [Canada](#) violate their obligations under the ICCPR to protect the Right to Life.
- **June 10:** [Open Letter on Nuclear Risk Reduction and Disarmament](#) sent to Presidents Biden and Putin prior to their summit in Geneva. The letter is endorsed by over 1200 political, military and religious leaders, as well as legislators, academics/scientists and other representatives of civil society.
- **June 17:** [How do we move from a dysfunctional world to a world free of nuclear weapons?](#) Video conversations with a range of civil society leaders.
- **June 19:** [Abolition 2000 Annual Assembly](#). International meeting in 3 sessions of the global network for the elimination of nuclear weapons.
- **June 30:** [World Court and Climate Change campaign Webinar 1: The importance of climate litigation and the experience from the ICJ case on nuclear weapons](#).
- **July 15:** [International launch of NoFirstUse Global](#), including the launch of the global action [Don't even THINK about starting a nuclear war](#).
- **July 24:** Global launch of [Nuclear Games](#), a documentary and interactive online platform telling five stories of the nuclear age.
- **August 4:** [International Press conference on the Olympic Moment of Silence for Peace proposal](#)
- **August 24:** [World Court and Climate Change Webinar 2: What question to ask the Court? What sources of law to use?](#)

CHRONOLOGICAL LIST OF EVENTS AND ACTIONS – continued

- **August 26-31:** [Bike for Peace Switzerland tour](#)
- **August 29:** [#StepUp4Disarmament Youth Action](#) for the International Day Against Nuclear Tests
- **September 9:** [Nuclear Weapons & Climate Change](#). Hybrid event at Central Hall Westminster and online.
- **September 19:** [Letter sent to all UN member governments for the opening of the UN General Assembly](#) calling on them to use the UN High Level Week (Sep 21-28) to a) affirm that a nuclear war should never be fought, b) call for or commit to the total elimination of nuclear weapons no later than 2045, and c) support the end of investments in the nuclear weapons industry.
- **September 28:** Basel Peace Office nominations are selected as [the two civil society representatives to address world leaders](#) at the UN High Level Meeting on the Elimination of Nuclear Weapons;
- **October 2:** [Nonviolence in the 21st Century](#). An online event to commemorate the International Day of Nonviolence and the 152nd anniversary of the birth of Mahatma Gandhi.
- **October 16:** Workshop on Nuclear Weapon Free Zones and display of the 3DNuke Missile at the IPB Assembly in Barcelona.
- **October 28:** [The United Nations and the Climate-Nuclear Disarmament Nexus](#). A special event during UN Disarmament Week, 2021 in preparation for the UN Climate Change Conference (COP 26) and the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference.
- **November 9-10:** [Disarmament, public health, and pandemics](#). A participatory webinar on parliamentary action for disarmament to support public health, peace and economic sustainability in relation to pandemic prevention, management and mitigation. The second global event for parliamentarians and experts in follow-up to the launch of the parliamentary handbook [Assuring our Common Future: disarmament for security and sustainable development](#);
- **November 15-17:** Astana Forum and Global Alliance of Leaders for a Nuclear Weapon-Free World. In-person event in Astana, Kazakhstan
- **November 24:** [Climate Change, the World Court and the Right to Peace: Youth taking the lead in global actions](#). Public in-person event featuring the winning projects of the 2021 Basel PACEY Award.
- **November 29:** *Parliament's role in addressing the risks of diversion in arms transfers*. Special in-person session of the IPU Assembly in Madrid in follow-up to the launch of the parliamentary handbook [Assuring our Common Future: disarmament for security and sustainable development](#).



Some of the speakers for the January 25 Commemoration event for the 75th Anniversary of UN Resolution 1 (1) on nuclear weapons elimination: **H.E. Ms Maria Fernanda Espinosa**, *President of the 73rd UN General Assembly, Chair of the World Future Council Commission on the Rights of Children and Youth and former Foreign Minister of Ecuador*; **Dr Randy Rydell**, *Executive Adviser for Mayors for Peace and former Senior Political Officer at the UN Office of Disarmament Affairs*, and **H.E. Ms Tatiana Valovaya**, *Director-General of the UN in Geneva, Secretary-General of the Conference on Disarmament*.

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, and convenes some of the [Abolition 2000 working groups](#).

During 2021, BPO helped organise the [Abolition 2000 AGM](#), assisted with the Abolition 2000 video series [How do we move from a dysfunctional world to a world free of nuclear weapons](#), established a new Abolition 2000 project on the Nuclear Weapons Convention, and published a number of blog articles on the Abolition 2000 website including: [USA President-elect Biden urged to take action on nuclear risk reduction and disarmament](#), [World Future Day](#) and [Intergenerational dialogue on International Women's Day](#).



Speakers in the Abolition 2000 video series *How do we move from a dysfunctional world to a world free of nuclear weapons?* From top left: **Elayne Whyte Gomez** (Costa Rica), Chair of the 2017 UN Conference to negotiate the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons; **Jacques Depelchin** (Congo/Brazil/United States), Author and Historian, Visiting Scholar at the University of California, Berkeley; **Rev. Dr. Liz Theoharis** (United States), Director of the Kairos Center and Co-Chair of the Poor People's Campaign; **Pía Figueroa** (Chile), Founding Director of Presenza International Press Agency; **Robert Forsyth** (United Kingdom), Retired Commander in the Royal Navy; **Sara Medi Jones** (United Kingdom), Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament; **Stephen Morse** (United States), Veterans for Peace and **Susie Jo** (South Korea), Captain of the South Korean Ice Hockey Team, and member of the Korean Unified Team at the 2018 Winter Olympics in Pyeongchang.

UNFOLD ZERO AND UN DISARMAMENT DAYS

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 hosts the

[#WeThePeoples2020](#) platform.

UNFOLD ZERO blog articles in 2021 included [Abolish nuclear weapons for a sustainable future](#), [US-Russia Summit advances key points in international Open Letter](#), [UN General Assembly high level meetings and International Days: Sep 21 – Oct 2, 2021](#), [Civil society reps to UN High Level meeting call on UN members to act now on climate change and nuclear disarmament](#) and [The UN and the Climate – Nuclear Disarmament Nexus](#).

- UN Disarmament and related Days

BPO and UNFOLD ZERO and PNND organized events on key international peace and disarmament days including: **January 25** on the [75th anniversary of UN Resolution 1 \(1\) on nuclear weapons elimination](#); **March 8** [Inter-generational dialogue on gender, peace and nuclear disarmament](#), commemorating International Women’s Day; **August 29** [#StepUp4Disarmament Youth Action](#) and Bike for Peace commemoration event at the UN in Geneva to commemorate the *International Day Against Nuclear Tests*; **September 9** [Nuclear Weapons & Climate Change](#) also to commemorate the International Day against nuclear Tests; **October 2** [Nonviolence in the 21st Century](#) to commemorate the International Day of Nonviolence and the 152nd anniversary of the birth of Mahatma Gandhi; and **October 28** [The United Nations and the Climate-Nuclear Disarmament Nexus](#) to commemorate UN Disarmament Week.

We also undertook a global action for **September 26**, International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons, sending a [Letter to all UN member governments for the opening of the UN General Assembly](#) calling on them to use the UN High Level Week (Sep 21-28) to a) affirm that a nuclear war should never be fought, b) call for or commit to the total elimination of nuclear weapons no later than 2045, and c) support the end of investments in the nuclear weapons industry.

Nonviolence in the 21st Century

Speaker:

Ela Gandhi
(South Africa)

Co-founder of the Gandhi Development Trust and Grand-daughter of Mahatma Gandhi



Nonviolence in the 21st Century

Speaker:

Aminatou Haidar
(Western Sahara)

Co-founder, Sahrawi human rights movement and 2019 Right Livelihood Laureate



Nonviolence in the 21st Century

Speaker:

Kasha Jacqueline Nabagesera
(Uganda)

LGBT advocate and 2015 Right Livelihood Laureate



Three of the speakers for the October 2 event Nonviolence in the 21st Century.

- Protect People and the Planet: An Appeal for a Nuclear Weapon Free World

During 2021, BPO and UNFOLD ZERO promoted [Protect People and the Planet: an Appeal for a Nuclear-Weapon-Free World](#). The appeal has been [endorsed](#) by over 1000 civil society leaders including mayors, parliamentarians, former UN and government officials, religious leaders, academics, former military leaders, youth and others. Many of the endorsers have provide [supporting quotes](#) which we post online and circulate vis social media.



**Protect People and the Planet:
Appeal for a Nuclear-Weapon-Free World**

NUCLEAR WEAPONS AND THE RIGHT TO LIFE

In October 2018, the UN Human Rights Committee affirmed that the use of nuclear weapons is incompatible with the Human 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).

In 2021, BPO joined with Aotearoa Lawyers for Peace, World Future Council, Youth Fusion and others in submissions to UN Human Rights bodies claiming that nuclear weapons policies and practices of [Canada](#), [Denmark](#), [France](#), [Iceland](#) and [North Korea](#) violated their obligations to protect the Human Right to Life

ENGAGING YOUTH

Engaging youth in peace and disarmament is a major focus of BPO. In addition to running an internship program to train students in diplomacy and civil society action, we organized the following youth-focused and youth-led activities during the year, mostly in cooperation with Youth Fusion;

- **Basel Youth Forum and intergenerational dialogue**

In January 2021, we organised a [Youth Forum and Intergenerational Dialogue on Peace, the Climate, Nuclear Disarmament and the Pandemic](#) in Basel, Switzerland. The event brought youth activists together with experts and global policy makers to discuss actions and effective policies to address these critical issues for humanity. The event included presentations of the finalists in the *Peace, nuclear Abolition and Climate Engaged Youth (PACEY) 2021 Awards*.

- **PACEY Award**

Following the Basel Youth Forum, we held the [PACEY Award ceremony](#). Over 200 participants watched presentations from the six finalists and then voted to support a European youth project/proposal and a global youth project/proposal to advance effective action to cut 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 UN Sustainable Development Goals.



Platform for Peace and Humanity [video presentation](#).



World's Youth for Climate Justice [video promotion](#)

The two winners were *Towards the enforcement of the right to peace* is a project of the [Platform for Peace and Humanity](#) (Slovakia) to establish a *Global Coalition of Youth Ambassadors for the Right to Peace*, and *World's Youth for Climate Justice (Global)* a [youth-led campaign](#) to achieve an advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on obligations to reduce carbon emissions to protect current and future generations. In addition to a cash prize of €5000 each (donated by the Basel City and Dr Andreas Nidecker), we provided program advice and other support for the two projects during the course of the year.

- Climate change, the World Court and the Right to Peace

On November 24 we hosted [Climate Change, the World Court and the Right to Peace: Youth taking the lead in global actions](#), a public event in Basel with leaders of the two winning projects at which they gave updated reports on how the projects were developing.

We followed this on November 25 with a workshop meeting for the two projects to help them develop their strategy, outreach and program activities.

In light of the success of these two events, it was decided to organize similar events with the winners of the 2022 Bael PACEY Award.



- Youth Fusion

On December 10, 2020 (UN Human Rights Day), [Youth Fusion](#), the revamped youth network of Abolition was launched. The Co-convenors are Marzhan Nurzhan (Basel Peace Office) and Vanda Proskova (PragueVision Institute for Sustainable Security).

Youth Fusion co-organised a number of events and programs during the year with BPO, PNND, World Future Council and others. These included the [#StepUp4Disarmament Youth Campaign](#), [Youth Fusion Elders](#), [Nuclear Games](#) and a number of [intergenerational webinars](#).



Youth Fusion Co-convenors **Marzhan Nurzhan**, speaking at a conference of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty Organization, and Vanda Proskova, a speaker for the January 25th event commemorating the 75th anniversary of UN Resolution 1 (1) on the elimination of nuclear weapons.

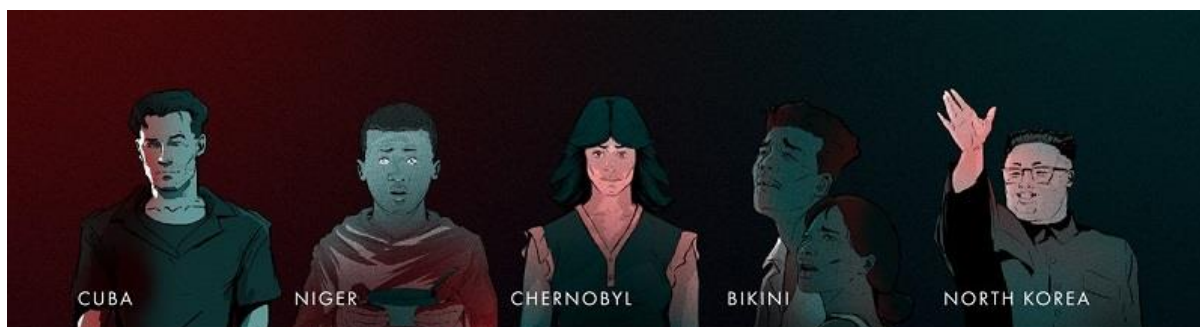
NUCLEAR GAMES AND THE OLYMPIC PEACE PROPOSAL

On July 23, just prior to the opening of the Tokyo Olympics, BPO and Docmine released [Nuclear Games](#), an innovative film and online platform addressing our nuclear history and the risks and impacts of nuclear weapons and energy.

The platform contains a 65-minute long animated documentary, a series of short manga stories and an interactive "web-documentary." It was previewed in a [one-hour special on Swiss TV](#) three weeks before release. An article on the project [Tokyo's Games Are Harming the Nuclear Weapons Ban](#)

[Movement](#) was published in The Nation. The [launch event](#) included youth leaders in peace, climate action, human rights and nuclear abolition.

Then on August 3, we helped organize a joint [press conference](#) with Tadatoshi Akiba, former Mayor of Hiroshima, following up the appeal to the International Olympic Committee to hold one minute silence for peace on August 6 during the Olympic Games in Tokyo. Unfortunately, the IOC rejected the appeal. For more see [Former Hiroshima Mayor Akiba steps up his call for an Olympics moment of silence on August 6](#).



Nuclear Games tells five stories addressing different aspects of the nuclear age including the Soviet submarine commander who prevented nuclear war during the Cuban missile crisis, uranium mining and conflict in Niger, the heroic 'liquidators' responding to the Chernobyl nuclear power plant accident, refugees from the nuclear tests in the Marshall Islands, the North Korean nuclear weapons program.

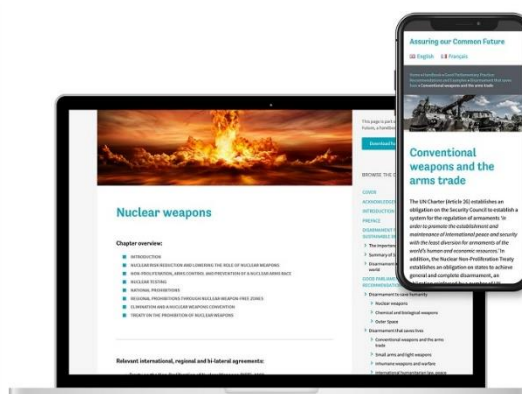
Engaging parliamentarians and mayors

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. Key PNND activities for 2021:

- **Parliamentary Handbook on the UN Disarmament Agenda**

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.

PNND secured cooperation with the *United Nations Office of Disarmament Affairs, Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU)* and other parliamentary organisations to draft and publish a parliamentary handbook entitled '*Assuring our Common Future: A Guide to Parliamentary Action in support of Disarmament for Security and Sustainable Development*, which was released in November 2020 in English and French.



- Online parliamentary events

In follow-up to the publication of *Assuring our Common Future*, PNND organised two online global parliamentary events in 2021 on specific topics/sections in the Handbook. These were [The role of parliamentarians to advance peace and disarmament in cyber-space](#) on January 27 and Disarmament, public health, and pandemics on November 9 and 10, 2021.

In addition, PNND organised parliamentary events to introduce the handbook to the **UK parliament** on March 9 (see [UK launch of Handbook on Disarmament for Security & Sustainable Development](#)), the **Sweden Parliament** on April 26 and for the **New Zealand, Australian and Pacific Island parliaments** on June 29, 2021 (see [NZ Parliament website: Launch of Parliamentary Handbook on Disarmament for Security and Sustainable Development](#)).



Banner for the global parliamentary event on January 27



NZ Parliament notice for the June 29 event

- PNND blog articles and updates

PNND [blog articles](#) and [updates](#) in 2021 included:

- [No fingers on nuclear buttons: Appeal for a nuclear-weapon-free world;](#)
- [Legislators, experts, officials and youth discuss climate change and nuclear disarmament connections at special London event;](#)
- [US legislators call on President Biden to reduce the role and cut the numbers of nuclear weapons;](#)
- [Senator Markey introduces Invest in Cures Before Missiles \(ICBM\) Act;](#)
- [UK expands nuke policy. Gender, peace and nuclear disarmament events;](#)
- [PNND leader to be honoured as 'Youth Fusion Elder' on World Future Day;](#)
- [U.S. Senators call for US/China nuclear weapons talks](#)
- [Senator Markey: Shift funds from the military to climate action. And end the nuclear threat!](#)
- [PNND and the Climate - Nuclear Disarmament Nexus.](#)

- PNND Gender, peace and security program

On March 8, International Women's Day, PNND launched the updated [PNND Gender, Peace and Security program](#) with an [inter-generational dialogue event](#) featuring **Ms Izumi Nakamitsu**, *UN Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for Disarmament Affairs*; **Dr Hedy Fry MP**, *Special Representative on Gender Issues for the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe* and others. The Gender, Peace and Security program was developed by BPO and PNND interns in consultation with Alyn Ware, PNND Global Coordinator.

- Mayors for Peace

BPO serves as the liaison and organiser of the Mayors for Peace program for the Basel-Stadt Kanton. In 2021 this included participation of Mayors for Peace members in a number of our online events, 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 in the *Move the Nuclear Weapons Money* social media campaign, inclusion of examples of joint BPO/Mayors for Peace actions in *Assuring our Common Future*, the *parliamentary handbook on disarmament for security and sustainable development*, and joint organizing of the Bike for Peace Switzerland tour.

- Bike for Peace Switzerland tour

From August 26-31, Bike for Peace, undertook a [biking tour in Switzerland](#), co-sponsored by Basel Peace Office, to promote nuclear risk-reduction and disarmament. A team of Bike for Peace cyclists from Norway and New Zealand, led by **partially blind cyclist Tore Naerland**, organised bike rides, events and advocacy meetings in **Lausanne** and **Geneva**.

Bike for Peace events included:

- Bike ride to **Villa la Grange**, the venue for the historic [June 16 Summit](#) between Presidents Joseph Biden and Vladimir Putin, where the two leaders agreed that ‘a nuclear war cannot be won and must never be fought’.
- Commemoration event for the [International Day Against Nuclear Tests](#) at **Place des Nations** in front of the United Nations. The event included UN leaders, youth and cyclists. [Click here](#) for the video recording of the event.
- Bike rides to the **UN Missions of the Russian Federation, United States and France** and meetings with their Ambassadors to discuss nuclear risk-reduction and disarmament proposals;
- Reception for the Bike Ride hosted by the Kazakhstan Mission to the UN.

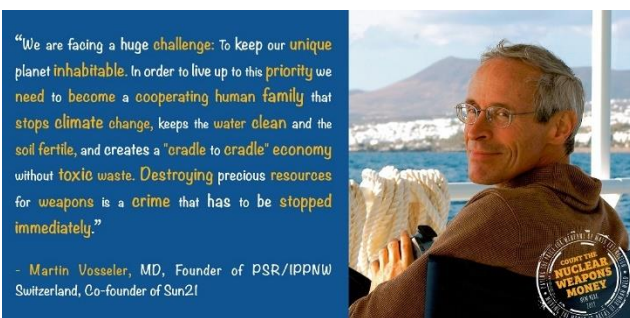


Bike for Peace a) visiting Villa la Grange, the venue for the historic June 16 Summit between Presidents Joseph Biden and Vladimir Putin, b) discussing nuclear disarmament with the Ambassador of France to the Conference on Disarmament (himself a long-distance cyclist), and c) outside the US Mission to the UN with the sign ‘Don’t even THINK about starting a nuclear war.’

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.

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 250 people from around the world have contributed memes, including some from Switzerland. Below are a few examples.





"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



Move the Nuclear Weapons Money blog articles in 2021 included:

- [Invest in Cures Before Missiles \(ICBM\)](#)
- [Call to support the Global Appeal to 'Move the Nuclear Weapons Money'](#)
- [Senator Markey: Shift funds from the military to climate action. And end the nuclear threat!](#)

Climate / Nuclear Disarmament Nexus

BPO stepped up our Climate / Nuclear Disarmament Nexus program in 2021, in cooperation with PNND, World Future Council and Youth Fusion. The program highlights connections between climate change and nuclear weapons/disarmament including:


- The impacts of climate change emissions and the use of nuclear weapons are trans-border and transgenerational. They cannot be contained in either time nor space – impacting globally and far into the future.
- Neither issue can be resolved solely at national levels, but require international cooperation and the building of common security.
- Climate change stimulates conflicts that could spill over into nuclear conflict, while any use of nuclear weapons in armed conflict would create catastrophic climatic consequences, compounding the current impact of climate change emissions.
- The human and financial resources currently devoted to nuclear weapons are desperately required to instead be invested in assist carbon emission reduction and climate stabilisation.



A number of events and actions already mentioned above have made connections between the two issues, brought together climate change and nuclear abolition campaigners to build cooperation and mutual support, and advanced policy solutions building on the connections. These include a number of events specifically on the Climate / Nuclear Disarmament Nexus.

Tzaporah Berman
Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty

Speaker at the
**UN and the Climate -
Nuclear Disarmament
Nexus**




Thurs Oct 28, 2021

1:15-2:45pm EDT
7:45-8:30pm CET

www.unfoldzero.org

Ambassador Thomas Graham
GSI Non-Partisan Security Group

Speaker at the
**UN and the Climate -
Nuclear Disarmament
Nexus**




Thurs Oct 28, 2021

1:15-2:45pm EDT
7:45-8:30pm CET

www.pnnd.org

Natália Vicente
World's Youth for Climate Justice

Speaker at the
**UN and the Climate -
Nuclear Disarmament
Nexus**



Thurs Oct 28, 2021

1:15-2:45pm EDT
7:45-8:30pm CET

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Some of the speakers for the October 28 event *The UN and the Climate / Nuclear Disarmament Nexus*

Regional initiatives – Nuclear Weapon Free Zones

Basel Peace Office is active in the Abolition 2000 working group on Nuclear Weapon Free Zones which works to support existing regional NWFZs and promote the establishment of additional NWFZs including in the Arctic, Europe, Middle East and North East Asia.

From Nov 29 – Dec 3, 2021, the UN hosted the 2nd session of the *Conference on establishing a Middle East Zone free of Nuclear Weapons and other Weapons of Mass Destruction*. BPO Director Alyn Ware reports on progress being made by the UN process in an article [Middle East Nuclear-Weapons-Free Zone, Long Elusive, is Making Progress, say Experts](#) published by InDepth News on December 4, 2021. BPO is also active in the new [3+3 Coalition for a North East Asia NWFZ](#).

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

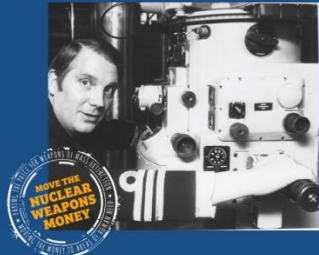
BPO was funded in 2021 through grants and donations from the Basel-Stadt Kanton, Quaker Peace and Service Aotearoa-New Zealand, Prof Dr (med) Andreas Nidecker (Basel) and Gray Southon (New Zealand). Funding is insufficient for any full-time salaries. Project work is undertaken by board members, volunteers, 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, 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 Kristýna Chyňavová, Arthur Duforest, Michaela Sorenson, Kilian Roux, Yuehui Yan (Elouise, Yangtao Hu (Accardo), Haipeng Yu (Hiker) 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