

## Basel Peace Office Annual Meeting - 2017

Wednesday December 6  
19:00 – 20:00 (Central European Time)  
Basel Peace Office, Petersgraben 27

### Draft Minutes

1. **Participants:** Andi Nidecker, Laurent Goestchel, Alyn Ware, Marzhan Nurzhan, Calvin Konig
2. **Apologies:** Francine John, Jonathan Granoff, Daniel Rietiker, Tarja Cronberg (attempted to join by skype), Rob van Riet, Markus Ritter, Daniela Schlettwein-Gsell
3. **Minutes of the 2016 Annual Meeting:**

*The minutes were approved.*

4. **Report of the President:** Andi presented his report. He focused primarily on BPO's activities relating to the *Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons*, the international conference BPO co-hosted on *Human Rights, Future Generations and Crimes in the Nuclear Age*, promotion of the German Version of the *Resource Guide for Religious Leaders and Communities* (Handbuch zur Nuklearen Abrüstung für Religionsvertreter und Gemeinschaften), the *Basel Peace Forum* and BPO events in Geneva.

There was discussion on each of these points, mostly on the plans for further action in 2018 (see *BPO program 2018* below).

*The meeting adopted the report along with a vote of thanks to Andi recognising his active leadership and financial support for the Basel Peace Office.*

5. **Report of the Director:** Alyn presented his report. He focused primarily on BPO 2017 program on *Abolition 2000*, engaging parliamentarians (including the *Parliamentary Action Plan for a Nuclear-Weapon-Free World*), *Move the Nuclear Weapons Money* campaign, promotion and preparations for the *2018 UN High-level Conference on Nuclear Disarmament*, and youth programs.

There was some discussion on these activities, in particular *Move the Nuclear Weapons Money* and the economic conversion research being undertaken by Calvin Konig (on economic conversion of nuclear weapons industries in USA) and Bethan Edwards (on economic conversion of nuclear weapons industries in the UK). There was a suggestion that Calvin also look at economic conversion of conventional military industries in Switzerland to see if there is relevance.

*The meeting adopted the report.*

*The meeting also agreed that the BPO banner would be updated to include a logo for the Swiss Association of Lawyers Against Nuclear Arms, since it was agreed at the last AGM to add them as a co-sponsoring organisation.*

6. **Financial Report:** Alyn presented the financial report. It was recognised by the meeting that the sources of income are now primarily from external sources (New Zealand, US and the UK) with very little coming from Switzerland.

*The financial report was adopted.*

7. **BPO Program 2018.** Alyn presented the draft work program for 2018. There was discussion on a number of items.

- a. **European NWFZ and PNND Assembly**

There was discussion about holding a forum on the proposal for a European NWFZ. This had been in the plan for 2017, but funding was not secured. For 2018 it was proposed to hold it in conjunction with the PNND Assembly (as one of the sessions) which is proposed to be in either Basel or Geneva on Mar 22-23, just before the IPU Assembly which is on Mar 24-28. Alyn will follow-up on this.

- b. **UN High-Level Conference on Nuclear Disarmament**

In addition to the activities in the draft program, it was agreed that swisspeace host a brown-bag lunch in the new year on the UNHLC and invite Alyn to speak.

- c. **Religions for Peace – Follow-up to the circulation of the Resource Guide**

In mid-2017, we made a proposal to Prof Kundert for the Protestant Reform Church to include a side event on *Religion, Reconciliation, Diplomacy and Nuclear Disarmament*, during their national assembly in Basel in 2018. This would draw from the Resource Guide, the German version of which we circulated to religious communities this year. Unfortunately, the proposal was not approved by the church hierarchy. We decided to make a second proposal to Prof Kundert of a stand-alone conference on this issue, which we would co-host, but for which we would do most of the organising and invite the religious communities through many of his contacts. Alyn will follow-up on this.

- d. **Where the Wind Blew**

BPO is organising a movie screening in Basel on Dec 7. It was proposed that we consider additional screenings of the movie in other centres.

*The work program for 2018 was adopted.*

8. **Budget.** The draft budget was amended to correctly indicate the expected donation of 2000CHF from IPPNW Switzerland (not from Andi Nidecker).

*The amended budget was adopted.*

9. **Election of Officers, Board Members and Advisory Members.** The following were elected:

- a. *President* – Andreas Nidecker
- b. *Executive Committee* – Andreas Nidecker, Laurent Goetschel, Daniel Rietiker (based on his acceptance).

*Appointment of the Executive Committee was approved.*

- c. *Members of the Board* –

- i. Andreas Nidecker (IPPNW Switzerland)
- ii. Laurent Goetschel (Swiss Peace)
- iii. Markus Ritter (Basel-Stadt Canton) – until he stands down from his position in the Basel-Stadt Kanton in early 2018.
- iv. Jakob von Uexkull (World Future Council)
- v. Jonathan Granoff (Global Security Institute)
- vi. Tarja Cronberg (Middle Powers Initiative)
- vii. Daniel Rietiker (Swiss IALANA)

It was also agreed that Andi Nidecker would request a meeting with Dr Engleberger, Head of the Basel-Stadt Kanton Dept on Public Health, to seek a replacement for Markus Ritter when he steps down.

*d. Advisory Members:*

- i. Daniela Schlettwein-Gsell
- ii. Ueli Madder
- iii. Barbara Gysi (PNND Switzerland)
- iv. Francine John-Calame (PNND Switzerland)
- v. Gunter Baitsch
- vi. Claudia Knusli (IPPNW Switzerland)

10. Other business