

Basel Peace Office

Presidents Report for 2016 / 17

Please refer to the attached list of the national and global activities of the Basel Peace Office (BPO) Director Mr. Alyn Ware, staff and interns, staffing the office temporarily. This list supplements the president's report and gives detailed information about all activities of the BPO.

As in previous years, as the BPO President I was unable to attend most of the events organized by BPO. However, the director from his other office in Prague consulted me closely on BPO program and activities throughout the year. The BPO continued to be very active in Switzerland, in particular in Geneva and Basel, and in a number of other places worldwide. A key focus of BPO over the past year has been the negotiations for a **“Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons” (TPNW)**, which was adopted at the United Nations on July 7th this year, supported by 122 nations, but not by or any of the nuclear-armed or ‘nuclear umbrella’ states (NATO, Japan, South Korea, Australia). The TPNW represents a small, but important step on the still long path to full nuclear abolition.

Other key activity areas have been preparations for the 2018 UN High Level Conference on Nuclear Disarmament, and addressing the nuclear-weapons related conflicts between Russia and Europe/USA, and between North Korea and USA. Basel Peace Office was also contracted this year to undertake a number of network management tasks for Abolition 2000, the global network to eliminate nuclear weapons. These included webpage rebuilding, working group management, AGM organizing and communication and outreach tasks.

In Basel the BPO organized an interesting workshop at the premiere of the **Basel Peace Forum**, organized by swisspeace under Prof. Laurent Goetschel. The topics were “New threats, emerging solutions” and “Nuclear Weapon Free Zone in Europe” and there was an interested audience.- A further activity was the sending of some 700 copies of the **German Version of the “Resource Guide for Religious Leaders and Communities”** (Handbuch zur Nuklearen Abrüstung für Religionsvertreter und Gemeinschaften) to corresponding groups and persons in German speaking Europe. This was facilitated and sponsored by the Prof. Dr. Lukas Kundert, President of the Evangelical Reformed Church of Basel. In this outreach activity BPO staff Ms Leroy and Mr Voellmy were of great help. - BPO was also a co-sponsor of the **Symposium this September on “Human Rights, Future Generations and Crimes in the Nuclear Age”** at the University of Basel. The director and the president of the BPO and BPO board members Laurent Goetschel and Dr. Daniel Rietiker were speakers at the event, and staff assisted with logistics. The conference produced a significant outcome document – the Basel Declaration on human rights and trans-generational crimes resulting from nuclear weapons and nuclear energy.

BPO co-organised a number of **events in Geneva** during the year. In January these included a consultation event on „nuclear disarmament negotiations / deliberations“ and a second meeting on the „draft Parliamentary Action Plan“ for a Nuclear-Weapon-Free World. There was also a 3D-nuclear Missile event for the anniversary of the UNGA first resolution. In June, BPO organised a press-conference and government briefing at the United Nations on nuclear weapons divestment. In September BPO coorganised a roundtable for governments to discuss preparations for the 2018 UN High Level Conference on Nuclear Disarmament.

The **financial support of the BPO** remains low. Swiss funding has dried up and income is limited to grants and donations from the New Zealand Quakers, Nuclear Non-proliferation Research (UK), Abolition 2000, PNND membership fees and some small individual donations. As a base for activities in Geneva and Europe, Basel as location of the BPO is excellent, and surely this city could profit more from vast International network of the BPO director and the partner organizations

Basel, November 15, 2017

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Nidecker', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Prof. (em) A. Nidecker, MD
President BPO