

Basel Peace Office Annual Meeting - 2015

Thursday November 26
15:00 (Central European Time)
Basel Peace Office, Petersgraben 27
Participation by person or by skype

Draft Minutes

1. **Present:** Andreas Nidecker, Markus Ritter, Uele Mäder, Laurent Goetschel, Rob van Riet (by skype)
2. **Apologies:** Jonathan Granoff
3. **Minutes of the 2014 Annual Meeting:** The minutes were approved
4. **Report of the President:** The report (attached) was presented and approved. The President extended a vote of thanks to the Director for implementing successful programs in Switzerland and internationally with minimal funding.
5. **Report of the Director:** The report (attached) was presented and approved. The Director extended a vote of thanks to the President and Dr Schlettwein-Gsell for their generous contributions to ensure funding for the Basel Peace Office. He also extended a vote of thanks to the other board members and to the interns for their contribution to the programs.
6. **Financial Report:** The report (attached) was presented and approved
7. **Election of Officers, Board Members and Advisory Members.** The following were elected:
 - a. *President* – Andreas Nidecker
 - b. *Executive Committee* – Andreas Nidecker, Laurent Goetschel, Markus Ritter
 - c. *Members of the Board* –
 - i. Andreas Nidecker (IPPNW Switzerland)
 - ii. Laurent Goetschel (Swiss Peace)
 - iii. Markus Ritter (Basel-Stadt Canton)
 - iv. Ueli Mäder (University of Basel Sociology Seminary)
 - v. Jakob von Uexkull (World Future Council)
 - vi. Jonathan Granoff (Global Security Institute)
 - vii. Tarja Cronberg (Middle Powers Initiative)

Barbara Gysi (PNND) was approved as a member of the board contingent upon her accepting the nomination.

 - d. *Advisory Members:*
 - i. Daniela Schlettwein-Gsell

Rudolf Rechsteiner and Francine John-Calame were approved as Advisory Members contingent upon them accepting their nominations.

8. **Draft program for 2015-2016:** The draft program was presented. There was discussion on a number of points.
 - a. **European Nuclear Weapon Free Zone.** Andi reported on the support that the Swiss and Austrian governments gave for a research project on the proposal. Alyn noted that the draft program includes a conference on the proposal to be organised by Basel Peace Office, PNND and IPPNW Switzerland. He recommended that we investigate holding the event in Bern hosted by PNND Swiss parliamentarians (particularly Christa Markwalder). Alyn will arrange for him and Andi to meet with Christa prior to Christmas to see if this is a project for PNND Switzerland – or to ascertain what else she thinks PNND Switzerland should work on.
 - b. **Religions for Peace.** Andi noted that Prof Kundert, who organised the funding of the German edition of the *Religions for Peace Resource Guide on Nuclear Disarmament*, is interested in doing follow-up with Basel Peace Office, but we have not yet managed to meet him to organise this. Alyn will set up such a meeting at the earliest possible time.
 - c. **The Man who Saved the World:** Andi recommended that we reserve the cinema for two screenings (rather than one) of the English language version.
 - d. **Swiss Foreign Ministry.** Andi noted that he will be meeting with the Foreign Ministry early in the new year, and will raise the possibility for funding support for Basel Peace office programs including the European NWFZ and work we do on the humanitarian initiative. One possibility was to seek interest in the Foreign Ministry to make the Basel Peace Office Director a part-time advisor to the Foreign Ministry on a specific project.
 - e. **Relationship with Basel University and swisspeace.** Ueli reported that the arrangement for office space at the university will come to an end when he leaves in July. So too would the teaching arrangement Basel Peace Office has for the graduate program on conflict analysis. Laurent noted that it might be possible for the Basel Peace Office to move to the swisspeace space at the university, but it would be helpful for Basel Peace Office to explore other ways of increasing the connection with the university. One option would be to supervise PhD programs. Laurent indicated that he would be willing to supervise a suitable PhD candidate/topic. Alyn agreed to explore possible candidates.
 - f. **Interns and staffing:** Alyn noted that we have some short-term interns in the beginning of the year (Feb – April) and then Caroline Leroy will start a one-year placement from the end of May. There is some funding for her position from the donation from Daniela, and the possibility of the remainder from Abolition 2000 if they accept the BPO proposal to take on more Abolition 2000 tasks.

The work program for 2016 was adopted.

9. **2016 budget:** Alyn presented the draft budget (attached). There was some additional discussion on fundraising, including an assurance from Markus that some funding from the Basel Stadt Kanton would likely be available – about 5000 CHF, so this was added to the budget. Andi noted that it should be possible to get some funding for the European NWFZ program from the government. Laurent suggested that the government was more likely to fund work on the humanitarian dimension (IHL), as this is something that they have led on, and given lots of funding, with relationship to conflicts and other weapons systems. Andi suggested that if there is an opening, it might be useful to have Jakob write a support letter – as the Swiss government have recently given a large grant to WFC/RLA to establish the office in Geneva.

10. The meeting closed at 4:30pm