



Basel Peace Office

*Advancing international peace and security
through the abolition of nuclear weapons*

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2024 Presidents Report

Another rather busy year – less so for the president than for the director of the BPO, Mr. Alyn Ware. Please refer to his extensive separate report.

As usual activities of the Basel Peace Office started in late December 23 with the vetting process of some 90 entries from all over the globe for the [2024 PACEY awards](#). The 3 winners and their projects this time came from Moruroa in the Pacific (**Educational Youth Initiative on Climate Change and Nuclear Testing**), from Afghanistan (**Empowering Youth for Peace in Afghanistan**) and from the Switzerland/Czech Republic (**Effective Thesis: help students to select a thesis topic or research which allow a positive impact in the areas of climate change and peace**).

I consider it significant, that these groups of young people have committed themselves to inform and motivate their very peers to contribute to solving current global issues of major importance. Obviously among the other entries for the PACEY awards, there were many similar valuable projects. It is unfortunate that only for three groups the awards can be given. Preceding the award ceremony, once again an international Zoom conference was organized, emphasizing and furthering the intergenerational dialogue.

In advance of the 2024 UN Summit of the Future, including the discussion on a *UN Envoy for Future Generations*, the BPO was actively involved in the preparatory work. A historical first for BPO was the Parliamentary Roundtable organized under the guidance of BPO council member **Margareta Kiener Nellen** and the BPO director on May 29 under the cupola of the **Swiss Parliament Building in Bern**. Under the theme [Legal Alternatives to War – LAW not War](#), 5 high-level keynote speakers introduced their views on opportunities for Switzerland to advance peace, common security and nuclear disarmament through the United Nations and International Court of Justice. Members of Parliament of various political parties and Representatives of civil society then discussed those perspectives on the eve of the UN Summit of the Future. The event had simultaneous translation in German, French and English and was co-sponsored by IPPNW Switzerland, PNND, World Federalist Movement – Institute for Global Policy and the World Future Council.

This meeting was followed on May 30th with a Basel Regional Forum on the topic of [Peace, Climate Protection and the summit of the Future](#). The newly elected President of the Basel Canton, **Dr. Conradin Cramer**, graciously welcomed a group of some 40 young people, representatives from a number of Youth organisations. He emphasized the need for young people becoming active in shaping their future, in addition to current day politicians.

The organization of the event [Protecting the Rights & Wellbeing of Future Generations through institutional Representatives](#) was also recently organized by the BPO director Alyn Ware. In fact, this project seems to have a good chance, since at the recent Hamburg Sustainability Conference on 7 October, the UN Under-Secretary General Guy Ryder announced that the UNSG Mr. Gutierrez would follow up the recent [Pact for the Future and Declaration on Future Generations](#) by establishing the position of [UN Envoy for Future Generations](#).

This high level attention to youth and future generation issues is remarkable and personally I am proud and grateful to Alyn Ware and others from our country, to have been instrumental in pushing this demand to the UN and giving it a broad recognition nowadays.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "A. Nidecker". The signature is stylized and fluid.

Andreas Nidecker, President. December, 2024