



DIRECTOR'S REPORT 2024



Legal Alternatives to War: Advancing Peace and Disarmament through the UN and ICJ Swiss Parliament event, May 29, 2024

This event was moderated by **Ms Margret Kiener Nellen**, *Basel Peace Office Board Member and Former Swiss Parliamentarian*; and **Mr Fabien Fivaz MP**, *Member of the Security Policy Commission of the Parliament*.

Speakers included: **Mr Thomas Gürber**, *Deputy State Secretary, Head of the UNDivision, Federal Department of Foreign Affairs*; **Ms Nudhara Yusuf**, *Co-chair of the 2024 UN Civil Society Conference*; **Ms Ruth-Gaby Vermot-Mangold**, *Former MP of Switzerland, President of Peace Women Across the Globe*; **Mr Beppe Savary-Borioli MD**, *President, Physicians for Social Responsibility (IPPNW) Switzerland* and **Mr Alyn Ware**, *Basel Peace Office Director*.

Basel Peace Office thanks the following for their financial support in 2024:

- Basel Reformed Evangelical Church
- Basel-Stadt Kanton President's Office
- Global Challenges Foundation
- Prof Dr Andreas Nidecker
- Gray Southon
- Quaker Peace and Service Aotearoa New Zealand
- World Future Council

Basel Peace Office is a joint initiative of: Basel-Stadt Kanton, Global Security Institute, Parliamentarians for Nuclear Nonproliferation and Disarmament, Physicians for Social Responsibility (IPPNW Switzerland), Schweizer Anwälte für Nukleare Abrüstung (Association of Swiss Lawyers for Nuclear Disarmament), Swisspeace Foundation and the World Future Council.

BASEL PEACE OFFICE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

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Winners of the 2024 Peace, nuclear Abolition and Climate Engaged Youth (PACEY) Award



1. INTRODUCTION AND SUMMARY

On December 13, 2024, Reuters reported that [Switzerland plans revamp of Cold War-era nuclear bunker network](#), an indication of the rising threat of nuclear war and the **vital importance of the work of the Basel Peace Office** to reduce nuclear risks, promote the peaceful resolution of international disputes and build the framework for a nuclear-weapon-free world.

This is the twelfth 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. Our primary issues areas are peace, nuclear disarmament and climate change.

Armed conflicts, risks of nuclear war and the increasing impact of climate change provided a backdrop for a lot of our work in 2024. On the **negative side**, this has included the ongoing Russian war against Ukraine, the escalation of armed conflict in the Middle East and increasingly severe weather and climate events.

On the **positive side**, we were very active in 2024 in the successful UN Summit of the Future and in a number of significant and influential cases in the International Court of Justice relating to genocide, armed conflict, territorial disputes and climate change.



Peace and international law:

During 2024, BPO undertook a number of programs and activities to advance peace, conflict resolution and adherence to international law. This included the [Legal Alternatives to War](#) (LAW not War) program focusing on the role of the International Court of Justice to resolve international disputes, the [World Future Policy Awards](#) to highlight and spread effective policies for peace and future generations, and our [Common Security program](#) to advance diplomacy and mutual security for sustainable peace.

Nuclear Disarmament:

BPO has also been active in regional and global initiatives to reduce nuclear risks and advance the peace and security of a nuclear-weapon-free world. BPO hosts the web platforms for Abolition 2000, [Move the Nuclear Weapons Money](#), [NoFirstUse Global](#), [Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-proliferation and Disarmament](#) and [UNFOLD ZERO](#). During 2024 we produced and published the E-Newsletters for these coalitions/platforms and organized representation at key UN events relating to nuclear disarmament including the Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference (Geneva) and the UN General Assembly (New York). We organized a number of online and in-person events on nuclear disarmament throughout the year. And we organized an interfaith appeal [Pursue peace and justice through Common Security, not nuclear weapons](#), which we presented to the NPT conference.

Opportunities for Switzerland to advance nuclear disarmament:

In 2024, we also followed up on our publication of [The Doomsday Clock and Switzerland as a neutral country: a Food-for-thought paper on Opportunities for Switzerland to advance nuclear risk reduction and disarmament](#) (also available in [German](#)). This included engagement with Swiss parliamentarians, civil society organizations and government officials to discuss the analysis and proposals in the paper. Some of the ideas and proposals were advanced in the interfaith appeal presented to the NPT Prep Com, and in events we organized in Basel, Bern and Geneva during the year.



Climate change and the environment:

During 2024, we organized a number of events on climate and the environment including joint establishment of [Mobilizing an Earth Governance Alliance](#) (MEGA) in March and the [ImPACT Coalition on Earth Governance](#) in May, input into the [International Court of Justice case on climate change](#), and organizing a number of in-person and online events on MEGA proposals and campaigns.

This included organization of an interfaith appeal [Protecting Our Common Climate System: Earth Governance for a Sustainable Future](#), which was endorsed by over 400 faith-based leaders and organizations, and which we presented today to the 2024 UN Climate Change Conference (COP 29) in Baku, Azerbaijan in November.



Youth and intergenerational dialogue including the PACEY Award:

Youth programs and intergenerational dialogue continue to be a very strong priority for Basel Peace Office. Our activities include the annual [Intergenerational Forum on Peace, Climate and Disarmament](#) and the [Peace, nuclear Abolition and Climate Engaged Youth \(PACEY\) Award](#) both of which are organized in conjunction with the annual *Basel Peace Forum*. We thank the Basel-Stadt Reformed Church and the Basel-Stadt Canton, who have joined with the President of Basel Peace Office, to each provide financial support so that we can provide three prizes of €5000 each for the PACEY Award.

Rights and wellbeing of Future Generations:

In 2024 Basel Peace Office elevated its program on the rights and wellbeing of future generations. This included engagement in the *Future Generations Forum* in Wales, advancing rights of future generations in the Pact for the Future and Declaration of Future Generations adopted at the [UN Summit of the Future](#) in September, and promotion in particular of the proposal to establish a UN Envoy for Future Generations and institutional representatives for future generations at local, national and regional levels. One success in this area of work was the announcement in October by the [UN that the Secretary-General will establish a UN Envoy for Future Generations](#) next year.

Coalitions and cooperative platforms:

We also engaged in a number of regional and international academic, United Nations, inter-parliamentary and civil society platforms in order to enhance dialogue, evaluate policy, build cooperation and strengthen initiatives and campaigns. This includes being members of the *European Union Non-proliferation and Disarmament Consortium*, *Earth Trusteeship Initiative* and the *Coalition for the UN We Need*, as well as playing active roles in the *OSCE Parliamentary Assembly* and *Inter-Parliamentary Union* and as a member of KOFF, the Swiss Platform for Peacebuilding.



2. 2024 EVENTS ORGANIZED/CO-ORGANIZED BY BASEL PEACE OFFICE

(does not include numerous events organized by others at which Basel Peace Office leaders were invited to speak)

Jan 22: *Basel.* [2024 Inter-generational Forum on Peace, Climate Action and Nuclear Disarmament](#)

Jan 22: *Online.* [2024 PACEY Awards Ceremony](#)

Feb 3: *Online.* [Abolition 2000 AGM](#) (including the [Report of Basel Peace Office](#))

Feb 12: *Washington DC.* [Engendering Sustainable Peace: Toward a Culturally Sensitive UN Peacekeeping Framework](#)

Mar 24: *Geneva.* [Addressing Strategic Threats through Common Security and the Rule of Law](#), at IPU Assembly

Mar 26: *Geneva.* [Launch of MEGA](#)

Apr 11-12. *Basel.* BPO has a stall at the [Swiss FDFA International Cooperation Forum](#)

May 9: *Nairobi.* Event to establish the [Impact Coalition on International Judicial Institutions](#)

May 10: *Nairobi.* [Peace and Future Generations Solidarity Walk](#)

May 10: *Nairobi.* Event to establish the [Earth Governance ImPACT Coalition](#)

May 23: *Online.* [A New Agenda for Peace: Priorities for the United Nations Summit of the Future](#)

May 29: *Bern.* [UN Summit of the Future event in the Swiss Parliament](#)

May 30: *Basel.* [Basel Regional Forum on Peace and the UN Summit of the Future: The roles of cities and youth.](#)

May 30: *Zurich.* Right Livelihood Spring Lecture: *Can we Prevent War and Achieve Peace through Common Security*

July 18: *Online.* [Global Justice in Conversation: Successes in Nuclear Nonproliferation & Disarmament](#)

July 23: *Geneva.* [Turn Back the Doomsday Clock: Parliamentary Actions for Nuclear Disarmament](#)

July 26: *Geneva.* [Can Common Security replace Nuclear Deterrence?](#)

July 26: *Online.* [Abolition 2000 Live from the NPT](#)

July 29: *Geneva.* [The Climate-Nuclear Disarmament Nexus: Lessons from the NPT for a Fossil Fuel NPT](#)

July 30: *Geneva.* [Denuclearization in North-East Asia through a 3+3 Model Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone](#)

July 30: *Geneva.* [NPT and the UN Summit of the Future: Peace, Disarmament, AI and Future Generations](#)

July 31: *Geneva.* [3D Nuclear Missile social media event: Marking the 33rd anniversary of the START 1 Treaty](#)

Aug 21: *Online.* [Global Justice in Conversation: Pathways toward Environmental Justice](#)

Sep 5: *Online.* [Protecting the Rights and Wellbeing of Future Generations through Institutional Representatives](#)

Sep 20: *New York.* [Building a More Just Future: Buttressing Our International Judicial Architecture](#)

Oct 1: *Online.* [From the Summit of the Future to a Nuclear-Weapon-Free World](#)

Oct 10: *The Hague.* [Advancing ICJ potential through increased acceptance of its compulsory jurisdiction](#)

Nov 18: *Baku.* [Presentation to COP 29 of Protecting Our Common Climate System Interfaith Appeal](#)

Nov 27: *Geneva.* [World Future Policy Award Ceremony](#)

Dec 5: *Online.* [US mid-range weapons in Germany](#)

Dec 6: *The Hague.* [Complementarity and Consistency across the ICC and ICJ](#)



3. PROGRAMS:

a. **PACEY Award:** *Youth initiatives for peace, nuclear abolition and the climate;*

The [Peace, nuclear Abolition and Climate Engaged Youth \(PACEY\) Award](#) provides three annual awards of €5000 each for youth projects relating to these issues. The winners are decided and the awards given at the annual *Intergenerational Forum on Climate, Peace and Nuclear Abolition* which Basel Peace Office organises as part of the Basel Peace Forum.

Basel Peace Office also provides strategic assistance and organizational support to many of the award winners, some of which have used this support to build considerable success. One of the 2021 winners, for example, was [World's Youth for Climate Justice](#). With our support, they have [succeeded in getting the issue of climate change before the International Court of Justice](#). The case is currently pending.

The PACEY Award winners for 2024 were:

- **Educational Youth Initiative on Climate Change and Nuclear Testing**, a project of [Moruroa e Tātou](#) to educate and engage youth in these issues through a series of workshops on various islands of Māōhi Nui (French Polynesia);
- **Bridge Builders: Empowering Youth for Peace in Afghanistan**, a project of the [Afghanistan Women's Think Tank](#) to rekindle the peace-building spirit and activate youth participation in peacebuilding;
- **Empowering Youth for Climate Action and Peace**, a project of [Effective Thesis](#) to help students choose a thesis topic that could make positive impact for the world in the areas of climate change and peace, and to provide thesis coaching once the thesis topic has been chosen.



b. **LAW not War:** *Advancing peace, conflict resolution and the rule of law;*

[Legal Alternatives to War](#) (LAW not War) is a global campaign we co-launched in October 2023 to enhance the jurisdiction and use of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) in order to assist countries to resolve international disputes peacefully rather than through recourse to the threat or use of force.

Key objectives of the campaign are to:

- Encourage all UN member states to accept compulsory jurisdiction of the ICJ (74 countries currently accept such jurisdiction);
- Promote greater use by UN bodies of the option to request Advisory Opinions from the ICJ;
- Encourage more frequent use of the compulsory ICJ jurisdiction provision which is in a number of international treaties;
- Encourage states to adopt constitutional amendments to affirm the UN Charter prohibition of war and the obligation to resolve international disputes peacefully including through recourse to the ICJ (similar, for example, to the Costa Rica constitution).

We work in cooperation with like-minded States including **Switzerland** which has produced a [handbook on acceptance of ICJ jurisdiction](#) and about 30 countries including Switzerland who have released a [Declaration on promoting the jurisdiction of the International Court of Justice](#).



Nearly 100 organizations have joined the campaign and are supporting its activities, which include events and advocacy. We promoted the ICJ in the preparatory process for the UN Summit of the Future, which resulted in moderate support for the ICJ being included in the [Pact for the Future](#) adopted at the Summit. Stronger support for the ICJ was included in the [Peoples Pact for the Future](#), adopted by civil society (which we helped draft).

We co-organised LAW not War roundtable events in Geneva in March (at the Inter-Parliamentary Union Assembly), New York in September (side-event to the UN Summit of the Future) and the Hague in October and December. These events included legal experts, like-minded States and target States (those that we are encouraging to accept ICJ jurisdiction).

c. World Future Policy Award: Policies for peace and future generations



Basel Peace Office partnered with World Future Council, Inter-Parliamentary Union and Geneva Centre for Security Policy on the [2024 World Future Policy Award](#). The topic for 2024 was *Peace and Future Generations*.

The *World Future Policy Award* celebrates top policy solutions on critical issues for humanity and the planet. The award raises global awareness of exemplary laws and policies, accelerating policy action towards a common future where every person lives in dignity on a healthy, sustainable planet. As the world's premier policy prize, it amplifies and spreads

inspiring and effective policies on the international stage.

The topic of *Peace and Future Generations* was chosen for 2024 because **we need effective peace policies now**. The world is facing the largest number of armed conflicts since 1946, with a quarter of the world's population living in conflict-affected areas. More than 170,000 lives were lost to war and violent conflicts last year. And a record 114 million people worldwide have been forced to flee their homes due to conflict, persecution and human rights violations

The WFPA team, which included **Basel Peace Office Director Alyn Ware**, spent over 400 hours undertaking interviews and other research on the 49 nominated policies in order to arrive at a finalist list of 12 from which the jury selected four Winners, three Honorary Mentions and one Vision Award. (See [2024 World Future Policy Award Report](#)).

The **Switzerland Active Neutrality Policy** was one of the 12 finalists. The winning policies were:

- **Kauswagan's "From Arms to Farms" Programme** (Philippines), reintegrating former combatants through sustainable agriculture, dramatically reducing poverty and fostering peace between Christian and Muslim communities. (See [2min video of the policy](#))
- **Well-Being of Future Generations Act (2015) Wales**, moving beyond political cycles by mandating public bodies to consider the long-term impacts of decisions on future generations and establishing a Future Generations Commissioner to lead its implementation. (See [2min video of the policy](#))
- **Moriori Peace Covenant (Nunuku's Law)**, an extraordinary commitment to non-violence, peace, and sustainability by the indigenous Moriori of Rēkohu (Chatham Islands, New Zealand) established in the 15th century, and remaining a powerful living ethos and source of inspiration today. (See [2min video of the policy](#))
- **Canada's Feminist International Assistance Policy**, placing gender equality, the empowerment of women and girls, and women's leadership in peacebuilding and security at the core of its international assistance. (See [2min video of the policy](#))



Derek Walker, Wales Commissioner for Future Generations. The 2015 Wales Wellbeing Act for Future Generations, which established the Future Generations Commissioner position, was a winner in the 2024 World Future Policy Awards.

d. UNFOLD ZERO: *Common security to achieve nuclear disarmament*

UNFOLD ZERO is a global platform which Basel Peace Office co-founded in 2014 with other key organisations to promote United Nations initiatives for peace and nuclear disarmament. **UNFOLD ZERO** focuses in particular on:

- Addressing nuclear threats arising from conflicts in Europe, Middle East, NE Asia and South Asia
- Legal Alternatives to War (LAW not War): Role of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) and other UN bodies to prevent war and resolve international conflicts;
- The Climate/Nuclear Disarmament Nexus, COP process and the ICJ case on protecting the climate;
- UN Summit of the Future and the UN Agenda for Peace;
- Replacing nuclear deterrence with Common Security;
- Implementing the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty and the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons;
- Advancing the Right to Life free from the nuclear threat in UN Human Rights bodies.

Key activities over the year included in-person events, webinars, [blog articles](#) and [newsletters](#), which are circulated to a subscription list of over 4000 people and organizations.

During 2024, Basel Peace Office and other **UNFOLD ZERO** partners advanced common security through three appeals and a number of events. The appeals were:

- [Turn back the Doomsday Clock](#), a parliamentary appeal to the Non-Proliferation Treaty Prep Com;
- [Common Security v. Nuclear Weapons: How to replace the current reliance on nuclear deterrence with sustainable security for all](#), a civil society appeal;
- [Pursue peace and justice through Common Security, not nuclear weapons](#), an interfaith appeal presented to the NPT Prep com.

We are now cooperating with the Geneva Graduate Institute and Inter-Parliamentary Union on a research project on Common Security.



What is Common Security

Common security is an approach to achieving national, regional and international security by taking into account the security needs of other nations - including one's adversaries - as well as one's own security needs. It is based on the assumption that sustainable security cannot be obtained by undermining or threatening the security of others, but rather on resolving conflicts with one's adversaries and ensuring that the security of all is upheld.

Common Security relies on diplomacy, negotiation, mediation, arbitration and other forms of conflict resolution, as well as on the application of international law, to ensure peace, fairness and security for all.

Common Security is a **win-win approach** to relations between countries (resolving issues so that everyone benefits) – rather than a win-lose approach (one country dominant over another) or a lose-lose approach (such as war).

Excerpt from the UNFOLD ZERO Common Security platform

Human rights and nuclear disarmament:

Also in 2024, we continued work on our program on [Nuclear Weapons and Human Rights Law](#), including to implement the [affirmation made by UN Human Rights Committee in 2018](#) that the threat or use of nuclear weapons violates the right to life under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. As a result of our advocacy on this issue, Kazakhstan submitted a statement to the UN Human Rights Council, endorsed by another 39 countries, on the [Right to life without Threat of Nuclear Weapons](#). And on UN Human Rights Day, December 10, 2024, Nihno Hidankyo were presented with the Nobel Peace Prize. We joined Abolition 2000 in an [open letter congratulating Nihno Hidankyo](#) and highlighting the human right to be free from the threat or nuclear weapons.

e. UN and the Future: Rights and wellbeing of future generations

Basel Peace Office was actively engaged in 2024 in the preparations for the UN Summit of the Future. This included participation in:

- Online consultations organized by the governments that facilitated the drafting of the PACT for the Future and the Declaration on Future Generations;
- Drafting of the Peoples Pact for the Future;
- 2024 UN Civil Society Conference in Nairobi, which served as a feed-in to the UN Summit;
- Impact coalitions established for advocacy to the UN Summit. Basel Peace Office Director serves as co-convenor of the Earth Governance ImPACT Coalition and the ImPACT Coalition on the Just Institutions and the International Court of Justice;
- Organizing a number of in-person and online events focused on the UN Summit of the Future, including an online form on Sep 5 on [Protecting the Rights and Wellbeing of Future Generations through Institutional Representatives](#).

Basel Peace Office advanced a number of issues and initiatives for the UN Summit of the Future including on nuclear risk-reduction, disarmament, peaceful resolution of conflicts, rule of law including the role of the International Court of Justice and promotion of the Rights and Wellbeing of Future Generations.

A key proposal we have been promoting regarding future generations is to establish a [UN Envoy on Future Generations along with additional representatives of future generations at local, national and regional levels](#). We were therefore very pleased that UN Under-Secretary Guy Ryder [announced at the Hamburg Sustainability Conference](#) in October that the UN Secretary-General will indeed move ahead and establish such a position in 2025.

Speakers for the Sep 5 online forum:

Protecting the Rights and Wellbeing of Future Generations through Institutional Representatives

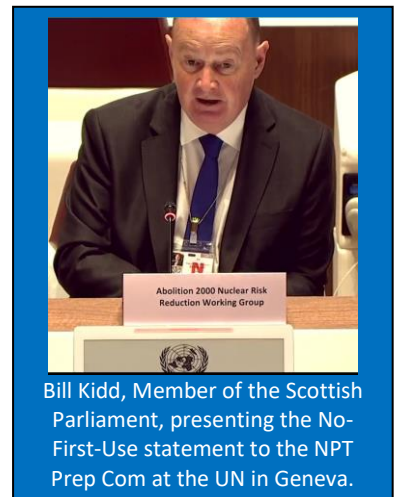


f. NoFirstUse Global: Preventing nuclear war

[NoFirstUse Global](#) is a platform and campaign involving 80 participating organizations which Basel Peace Office co-founded in 2021 in order to encourage nuclear armed and allied states to adopt policies never to launch a nuclear war, i.e. to never be the first to use nuclear weapons in a conflict. During 2024, NoFirstUse Global and Basel Peace Office co-organised a number of events on nuclear risk-reduction, and re-submitted a [working paper on No-First-Use policies](#) to the NPT Review Conference.

In addition, we circulated a number of NoFirstUse Global updates, including:

- [NPT Chair's Summary includes some of NoFirstUse Global's proposals](#);
- [China's no-first-use proposal and inadmissibility of nuclear threat or use](#);
- [UNSG warns against "apocalyptic rhetoric": NoFirstUse Global memo to the NPT and UNGA](#);
- [Nuclear risk reduction, no-first-use and the UN Summit of the Future](#).



g. **Mayors for Peace: Building local body engagement in peace and disarmament**

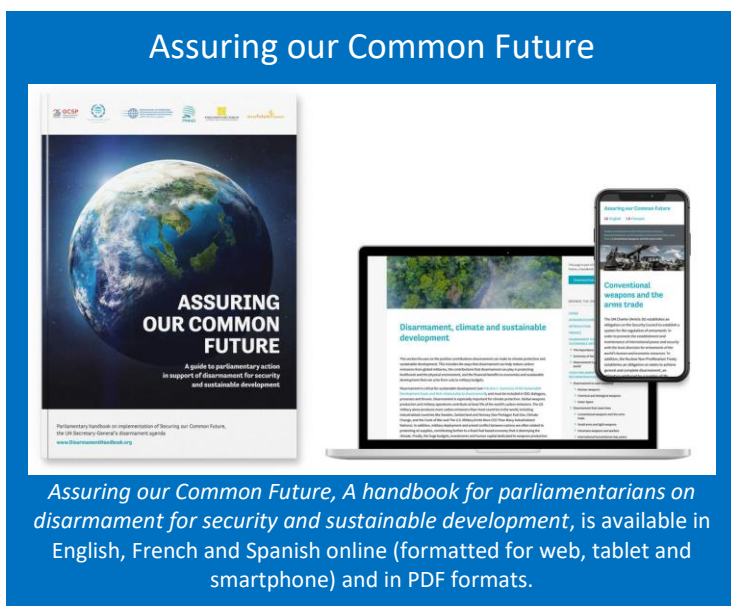
Basel Peace Office serves as the contact point for the membership of Basel in Mayors for Peace. This includes communicating with Mayors for Peace Europe Secretariat in Spain and the Mayors for Peace International Secretariat in Hiroshima in order to keep up-to-date on Mayors for Peace activities, as well as to inform and engage Mayors for Peace in our relevant activities.

In 2024 this included the *Basel Peace Forum and Intergenerational Forum on Peace, the Climate Change, Disarmament and the UN Summit of the Future* in January, and the *Basel Regional Forum on peace, climate protection and the UN Summit of the Future: The roles of cities and youth* in May.



h. **PNND and IPU: Parliamentary actions for global cooperation**

Basel Peace Office hosts the European Office for [Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-proliferation and Disarmament](#) (PNND). Alyn Ware, the Director of the Basel Peace Office, also serves as PNND Global Coordinator. PNND actively engages legislators around the world in disarmament issues and processes. A key focus of this work is to build parliamentary action to help implement *Securing our Common Future*, the UNSG's Disarmament Agenda released in 2018.



Assuring our Common Future, A handbook for parliamentarians on disarmament for security and sustainable development, is available in English, French and Spanish online (formatted for web, tablet and smartphone) and in PDF formats.

In 2020, PNND, the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), World Future Council and several other organizations jointly produced the online parliamentary resource [Assuring our Common Future](#), edited by Alyn.

Over the years since the release, PNND and IPU have co-organised a series of national, regional and global events to introduce the handbook to parliamentarians, highlight key recommendations, share examples of effective disarmament policy, and take forward parliamentary action.

In 2024, PNND also organized a roundtable at the 148th IPU Assembly in March on the

topic of [Addressing strategic and existential threats through common security and the rule of law](#). More than 60 parliamentarians from around 50 countries participated in the event. At the 149th IPU Assembly in October, Basel Peace Office Director Alyn Ware was invited to speak at a plenary session on the topic of *The role of parliamentarians in preventing conflicts over natural resources*. Mr Ware highlighted the **important role of environmental law, environmental courts and the International Court of Justice** in helping to resolve such conflicts in a just and peaceful way.

i. **MEGA: Building Earth Governance to protect our global ecosystem**

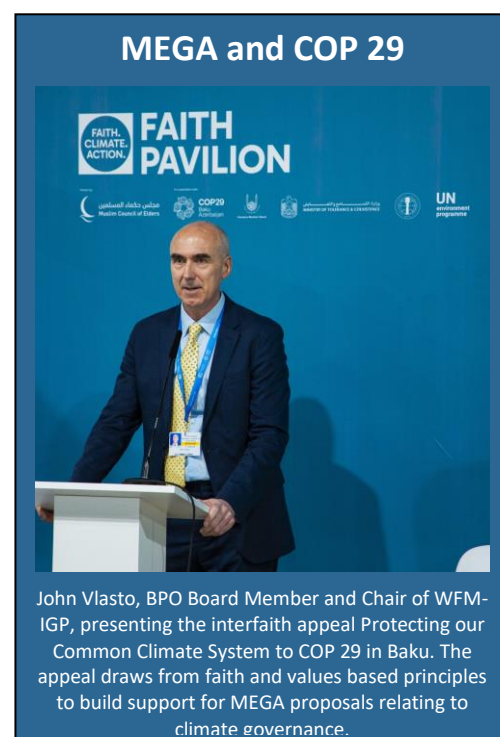


Mobilizing an Earth Governance Alliance

In March 2024, we co-launched [Mobilizing an Earth Governance Alliance](#) (MEGA) with World Federalist Movement-Institute for Global Policy, the Climate Governance Commission and another 25 organizations. MEGA is a coalition of civil society organizations working in cooperation with like-minded governments and other

stakeholders to strengthen environmental governance. The platform includes [24 earth governance proposals](#) and [8 earth governance campaigns](#). In addition we co-convene the [Earth Governance ImpACT Coalition](#) which coordinates advocacy to the UN Summit of the Future on some of these proposals/campaigns. For more information on our MEGA events and advocacy – and the traction building on some of the proposals/campaigns – see:

- [Work program](#) of the Earth Governance ImpACT Coalition;
- [The Climate-Nuclear Disarmament Nexus: Lessons from the NPT for a Fossil Fuel NPT](#), a panel we organized at the 2024 NPT Prep Com;
- [Protecting the Rights and Wellbeing of Future Generations through Institutional Representatives](#), an online forum we held on September 5.
- [WFM and MEGA Live from the Summit of the Future](#), an online report on how our advocacy for environmental governance was going at the UN Summit of the Future.
- [Tackling the Planetary Emergency: Supporting a Declaration of Planetary Emergency at the UN General Assembly and the Convening of a Planetary Emergency Platform](#), published August 19, 2024;
- [Pacific Island States propose that Ecocide be adopted as a crime under the International Criminal Court](#), published September 11, 2024;
- [One big step closer to a UN Special Envoy on Future Generations](#), published October 11, 2024.
- [Protecting Our Common Climate System: Interfaith Appeal Presented to COP 29](#), published November 18, 2024.



4. OPPORTUNITIES FOR SWITZERLAND TO ADVANCE NUCLEAR RISK REDUCTION AND DISARMAMENT IN 2023-2024

On January 12, 2023, BPO released a *Food-for-thought* paper entitled [Neutral countries and the Doomsday Clock: Opportunities for Switzerland to advance nuclear risk reduction and disarmament in the period 2023-2024](#). (German version: [Chancen für die Schweiz, atomare Risikominderung und Abrüstung für den Zeitraum 2023-2024 voranzubringen](#)).

The paper, which was drafted by Prof Andreas Nidecker MD and Alyn Ware, was sent to the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs prior to public release (and was edited slightly based on feedback from FDFA). It explores political opportunities for the Swiss government to further advance nuclear risk-reduction and disarmament over the next 2-3 years.

The paper suggests policy proposals that, if adopted, would have significant impact on the practices of the nuclear armed and allied states and make an important contribution to the global prohibition and elimination of nuclear weapons. It focuses on:

- a) Multilateral processes and forums including the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, Non-Proliferation Treaty, UN Security Council, Human Rights Council and upcoming UN Summits (Summit on Sustainable Development and Summit for the Future);
- b) Specific policy approaches that could be effectively advanced in these forums.

The paper provided background to some of the Basel Peace Office projects for 2024, and a basis for discussion with other Swiss organizations on advocacy for effective Swiss government action on these issues.

5. FINANCIAL SUMMARY

BPO was funded in 2024 through grants and donations from the Basel-Stadt Kanton, Basel Reformed Evangelical Church, Global Challenges Foundation, Quaker Peace and Service Aotearoa-New Zealand, World Future Council, Prof Dr (med) Andreas Nidecker (Basel) and Gray Southon (New Zealand). Funding was insufficient for any full-time salaries. Project work is undertaken by board members, volunteers, interns and contractors.

6. PRAGUE-BASEL-HAMBURG-NEW YORK-THE HAGUE PARTNERSHIPS

Basel Peace Office partners with the *Global Security Institute* (based in New York), *World Future Council* (based in Hamburg), *PragueVision Institute for Sustainable Security* (based in Prague) and the *World Federalist Movement-Institute for Global Policy* (registered in New York and the Hague) 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. Alyn works on the programs through a mix of pro bono work and contracted work for WFM-IGP and World Future Council.

7. PERSONNEL

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. Sincere thanks also to BPO Deputy Director Marzhan Nurzhan, especially for her assistance with the PACEY Awards and the BPO annual intergenerational forum. A note of thanks also to other Board members who have been active in BPO management and/or programs including Laurent Goetschel, Lukas Ott, Lukas Kundert, Marie Biermann, Alexandra Wandel, Margareta Kiener Nellen and Marie-Claire Graf.

Special thanks also to Teresa Bergman, Bertylle Duforest and Camila Magnani who worked tirelessly on the outreach, research and event organization for the very successful 2024 World Future Policy Awards. And a thanks to BPO and PNND interns and program officers who have worked pro bono on our programs with high level of professionalism – especially Camilla Braito, Ayleen Roy and Elysia McCabe.

Bonus photos: a few things we could not fit into the report text



Start of the Peace and Future Generations Walk we organized at the 2024 UN Civil Society Conference in Nairobi