



## Work program and key events 2020

(December 2019 – November 2020)

The Basel Peace Office undertakes research, program development and public education over a range of issues relating to international peace and nuclear disarmament. In addition, we organise events in Basel, at the United Nations (in Geneva and New York) and in other key capitals/cities around the world.

### 1. Work program

#### Abolition 2000

Basel Peace Office (BPO) is a coordinating member of [Abolition 2000](#), the global civil society network to eliminate nuclear weapons. BPO will help organise the 2020 annual meeting of Abolition 2000 in New York, co-draft and promote Abolition 2000 international appeals and action alerts, and co-manage the website. In addition, we will continue to convene a number of [Abolition 2000 working groups](#), including on Youth, Nuclear Weapons and International Law, Nuclear Weapons Convention, Interfaith Action, and Economic Dimensions of Nuclearism.

#### Basel Peace Forum

BPO is planning a pavilion at the [Basel Peace Forum 2020](#) on January 10, in cooperation with IPPNW Switzerland, PNND and the World Future Council. The pavilion will include a video of youth voices for the climate, peace and nuclear disarmament collected especially for the forum, plus information on youth actions and initiatives on these issues. Forum participants will be invited to respond to the youth voices with their own comments either online or by short video interview.

BPO will also organise a meeting of legislators (mayors, city councillors, parliamentarians) with youth leaders in climate action, peace and disarmament on January 9 (see **Mayors for Peace** below and flyer at the end).

#### Engaging legislators - PNND

BPO serves as the main European office for PNND. Prague serves as the international office. BPO Director Alyn Ware, jointly based in Prague, Basel and New York, serves as PNND Global Coordinator. Key activities for PNND in 2020 will be:

- a) Further implementation of [Global Parliamentary Action Plan for a Nuclear-Weapon-Free World](#), which was developed in cooperation with the *Inter-Parliamentary Union* (IPU) and the *OSCE Parliamentary Assembly*. Priority will be given to engage parliamentarians in the Move the Nuclear Weapons Money campaign, nuclear risk-reduction initiatives including no-first-use, NWFZ initiatives including for the Middle East and North-East Asia, and support for the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons;
- b) Development of *Secure Disarmament for our Common Future: A Parliamentary Handbook on the UN Secretary-General's Disarmament Agenda*. This includes organising an international parliamentary meeting in New York in February to build parliamentary input into the handbook;
- c) Continuing the *Comprehensive disarmament initiative* organised in cooperation with IPU, Geneva Centre for Security Policy and the Strategic Concept for Removal of Arms Proliferation (SCRAP).
- d) Organising the PNND 2020 Assembly to be hosted by the Korean Parliament in Seoul;

- e) Organising events and advocacy at the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly in Vancouver and the IPU Assemblies in Geneva and Kigali;
- f) Organising parliamentary participation and side events at Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference in New York

### **Humanitarian impact, human rights and the law**

BPO will continue to promote the humanitarian and legal imperatives to prevent nuclear war and achieve a nuclear-weapon-free world. This includes promotion of the UN Human Rights affirmation that nuclear weapons violate the Right to Life, through further circulation of the flyer for activists: [\*Nuclear weapons violate the Right to Life: Using UN Human Rights Committee General Comment 36 in grassroots actions and campaigns\*](#), and through an event we plan in Geneva during the year (date tbc).

### **Korea peace and denuclearization process**

The Korea peace and denuclearization process is one of the most exciting developments in the field. This process has already made a breakthrough with a series of leaders' summits/meetings to advance the process toward a formal end to the Korean War, the verified denuclearisation of the peninsula and the establishment of a sustainable peace regime. However, the political dynamics are complicated, the conflicts entrenched and the process faces many hurdles. Dedicated diplomacy, supported by parliaments and civil society, will be required for success.

BPO and PNND are intimately involved in the process.

PNND leadership in South Korea, Japan and USA includes key legislators involved in the process such as **Taro KONO**, Japan Minister of Defence and Honorary President of PNND Japan; **Se-kyun CHUNG**, PNND Co-President and former President of the Korean National Assembly; **Ik-pyo HONG**, PNND Korea Executive Member and Chief Spokesperson for the Democratic Party; and **Senator Ed Markey**, PNND US Co-President and Ranking member in the US Senate on East Asia. Through this leadership we are active in advancing parliamentary approaches and initiatives to support the peace process. In addition, PNND will be holding its 2020 Assembly in Seoul hosted by the Korean National Assembly. A key aim of the assembly is to build global parliamentary understanding and support for the peace process.

BPO helped organise the 2019 *PyeongChang Global Peace Forum*, which took place in February 2019 on the first anniversary of the 2018 Olympic Peace initiative (which opened up the diplomatic process). We are now assisting in organisation of the 2<sup>nd</sup> *PyeongChang Global Peace Forum* which will take place February 9-11, 2020.

In addition, BPO Deputy Director Marzhan Nurzhan is undertaking research on the role of citizen diplomacy in the Korean peace process for her PhD at Basel University. BPO is helping coordinate civil society support through [Abolition 2000](#) and the [Korea Peace Network](#).

### **Mayors for Peace**

BPO and PNND will continue to build on the cooperation with Mayors for Peace. In 2020 this will include a Joint meeting in Basel on January 9 of legislators (mayors, councillors and parliamentarians) and youth leaders in climate, peace and disarmament (see attached flyer); a joint meeting of religious leaders and legislators in Seoul on April 24 in conjunction with the PNND Assembly, and a European regional conference of Mayors for Peace on July 8 (anniversary of the International Court of Justice opinion on the illegality of nuclear weapons).

### **Move the Nuclear Weapons Money**

Move the Nuclear Weapons Money is a global campaign established by BPO and partner organisations to cut nuclear weapons budgets, end investments in nuclear weapons and redirect these budgets and investments to support peace, climate action and sustainable development. The campaign also works very closely with the global fossil fuel divestment campaign.

In 2019, BPO received grants from the Grassroots Foundation for the nuclear weapons divestment program, and from World Future Council for public education focusing on the Count the Nuclear Weapons action over

UN Disarmament Week (Oct 24-30, 2019). We expect a renewal grant from Grassroots for organisational and campaign development in 2020.

In 2020 we will continue to promote and support nuclear weapons divestment at multiple levels – by federal and local governments (e.g. of sovereign wealth funds and pension funds), universities, religious institutions, investment bodies, banks and other investors.

We will maintain the website, publish blog articles on campaign developments and engage a wide range of stakeholders through outreach, events, advocacy and Move the Nuclear Weapons Money memes.

- *Count the Nuclear Weapons Money installation*

As a result of the Count the Nuclear Weapons Money action, we have the basis of an art installation, utilising the 17 baskets full of money and the meme exhibition. In 2020, we aim to display this at the UN exhibition space and perhaps at other locations.

### **Nuclear weapons treaties: NPT and the Ban Treaty**

The NPT is the cornerstone multilateral agreement for nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament. BPO will participate in the NPT Review Conference (New York, April 2020). The Review Conference, which takes place every 5 years, will include all States Parties (nuclear weapon states, allied states and non-nuclear states). Key issues at the NPT will include nuclear risk-reduction, the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons and the Middle East Zone free from Nuclear Weapons and other WMD. BPO will work closely with the new *Stepping Stones initiative* advanced by the foreign ministers of 16 countries, a mix of non-nuclear and allied countries.

BPO participated in the negotiations of the Ban Treaty and will be active in 2020 on two key aspects:

- a) increasing the number of signatories to the treaty;
- b) assisting with ratification and national implementation.

BPO and PNND will continue to encourage parliaments and governments to adopt strong implementing legislation based on the model of the New Zealand which prohibits transit and financing as well as possession, manufacture, use and threat or use of nuclear weapons, and which establishes a public advisory committee and a Minister for Disarmament and Arms Control to promote nuclear disarmament.

### **Nuclear Weapon Free Zones – Europe and the Middle East**

BPO has been active in building parliamentary and civil society support for a Middle East zone free from nuclear weapons and other WMD. We will continue to monitor and engage where possible in developments and events including in follow-up to the first UN Conference on a Middle East WMD free zone being held from Nov 18-23, 2019. Contingent on funding, BPO and PNND will organise a conference in Jordan on the Middle East NWFZ initiative and build parliamentary support through a new joint parliamentary statement (the last one was organised by PNND in 2011).

BPO has promoted discussion on a European NWFZ, including organising events on this topic at the UN and at the NPT Prep Com. We will consider whether there are any opportunities to promote the proposal at the UN and NPT in 2020, or at the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly.

### **Peace and Sport**

BPO has developed a proposal with Non-violence International, the Olympism Project and World Future Council on an *Olympic Peace Convocations Initiative: Advancing the Olympic Truce vision*. The proposal envisages a series of convocations (specialized conferences) of Olympic sportspeople and international peace practitioners to take place every two years in conjunction with the Olympic Games. We are currently liaising with the International Olympic Committee Education Commission to ascertain whether this could move ahead at the 2020 Olympics in Tokyo.

## **Religions for Peace**

BPO Director is convenor of the [Abolition 2000 Interfaith Working Group](#) and author of the [Religions for Peace Nuclear Disarmament Resource Guide](#). A German language edition of the Resource Guide was published with the support of Prof Lucas Kundert and the Basel Reformed Evangelical Church. In 2020, BPO plans to continue participating in inter-faith nuclear disarmament events, promotion of the resource guide, and engaging religious leaders in our key initiatives including Move the Nuclear Weapons Money through the memes.

## **UNFOLD ZERO – United Nations initiatives for nuclear disarmament**

BPO co-founded [UNFOLD ZERO](#) with PNND, Mayors for Peace, PragueVision, the NGO Committee on Disarmament and Aotearoa Lawyers for Peace, in conjunction with the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs. In 2020, UNFOLD ZERO will continue to promote UN initiatives and processes through the [UNFOLD ZERO newsletter](#) and [blog](#). And we will continue to organise actions, events and networking platforms including for the [Global Week of Action on Peace, Climate and Nuclear Abolition](#) and the UN International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons.

## **Youth programs**

BPO will continue its youth internship program to train youth in international diplomacy, policy development and campaign building. BPO will also promote the [Youth Appeal to World Leaders](#) which was adopted at the [Prague Youth Conference](#), and other activities of the [Abolition 2000 Youth Network](#) which we convene. We will also continue to participate in the IPU Network of Young Parliamentarians, and advance nuclear disarmament initiatives to young parliamentarians through this network.

## **2. Basel Peace Office key events/dates for December 2019 – November 2020**

### **2019:**

**Dec 11-12:** *Monaco*. Peace and Sport International Forum.

**Dec 12-14:** *Brussels*. European Non-proliferation Consortium conference

### **2020:**

**Jan 9-10:** *Basel*. Basel Peace Forum and joint meeting of legislators and youth.

**Jan 24:** *Global*. Anniversary of UN Resolution 1 (1) on nuclear disarmament.

**Feb 9-11:** *Pyeongchang*. PyeongChang Global Peace Forum.

**Feb 17-19:** *New York*. IPU UN Hearing & Parliamentary meeting on the UNSG Disarm Agenda.

**Apr 16-20:** *Geneva*. IPU Assembly

**Apr 22-24:** *Seoul*. PNND Assembly

**Apr 27-May 22** *New York*. NPT and Abolition 2000 Assembly

**Jul 3-7:** *Vancouver*. OSCE Parliamentary Assembly

**Jul 8:** *Hannover*. Mayors for Peace European conference

**Aug 6-9:** *Hiroshima & Nagasaki*. 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary events of the nuclear bombing of these cities.

**Sep 21-27:** *Global*. Global week of action on peace, climate action, SDGs and nuclear disarmament.

**Sep 26:** *Global*. International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons

**Oct 10-15:** *Kigali*. IPU Assembly

**Oct 18-30:** *New York*. UN General Assembly



**Climate, peace and security:  
From youth voices to policy action.**

**A special meeting of parliamentarians  
& city leaders with youth campaigners  
from the climate, peace and nuclear  
disarmament movements.**

*January 9, 2020. 1pm – 5:30pm.  
Euler Hotel, Centralbahnplatz 14,  
Basel, Switzerland*

IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE

**BASEL PEACE FORUM 2020:  
CITIES IN TIME OF CONFLICT & PEACE  
January 9-10, 2020**

<https://basel-peace.org/2020>

**Co-hosted by the Basel Peace Office,  
Basel-Stadt Kanton, Parliamentarians for Nuclear  
Non-proliferation and Disarmament,  
and the World Future Council.**

Contact: [info@baselpeaceoffice.org](mailto:info@baselpeaceoffice.org)

[www.baselpeaceoffice.org](http://www.baselpeaceoffice.org)



# Climate, peace and security: From youth voices to policy action.

*A special meeting of legislators (parliamentarians, mayors and city councilors) and youth leaders from the climate, peace and nuclear disarmament movements.*

## Introduction:

Youth movements for climate action, peace and nuclear disarmament have sprung up in Europe and around the world in the past few years. Young people have become concerned about existential threats to current and future generations, and increasingly frustrated at the insufficient action by governments to address these threats. Furthermore, the United Nations General Assembly in October 2019 adopted a new resolution emphasizing the important role of engaging youth in disarmament and non-proliferation issues.

This special meeting will bring together leaders of key youth movements with legislators who are concerned about the issues of climate change, peace and disarmament, in order to build such dialogue and cooperation.

The meeting will be held in conjunction with the 4<sup>th</sup> Basel Peace Forum, an annual event involving experts and decision-makers from politics, business, civil society, and academia focusing on key issues for maintaining peace in Europe and globally.

## Program

13:00: Registration. Refreshments

13:30: Opening: Welcome from Basel-Stadt Kanton. Member Mayors for Peace (tbc)

13:45: Keynote: *The connections between climate, peace and nuclear disarmament*

14:00: Youth voices on climate, peace and nuclear disarmament

*Discussion*

15:30: Coffee break

16:00: Policy initiatives by cities, parliaments and the United Nations

*Discussion*

17:30: Closing

*“Legislators (parliamentarians, mayors and city councilors) can play key roles in turning the concerns, demands and visions of youth into effective policies. To do so requires dialogue and cooperation.”*