

DIRECTOR'S REPORT 2023



Photo: Event at the Palais de Nations in Geneva to commemorate the International Day Against Nuclear Tests and the 75th anniversary of the UN Declaration of Human Rights.

Speakers included:

- H.E. Mrs Tatiana Valovaya, *Director-General of the United Nations Office at Geneva;*
 - H.E. Mrs Doreen de Brum, *Permanent Representative of the Marshall Islands to the UN in Geneva;*
 - H.E. Mr Yerlan Alimbayev, *Permanent Representative of Kazakhstan to the United Nations Office at Geneva;*
 - Mr Alyn Ware, *Director of the Basel Peace Office*
- and a Representative of the UN Office of Human Rights in Geneva.

Basel Peace Office is established to advance research, teaching and policy-development programs dedicated to international peace, conflict resolution and security to achieve the global abolition of nuclear weapons.

Basel Peace Office is a joint initiative of:

Basel-Stadt Kanton, Global Security Institute, Middle Powers Initiative, 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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On International Women's Day for Peace and Disarmament, May 24, 2023, a delegation from Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament led by Alyn Ware (who is also Director of the Basel Peace Office), provided a briefing for the Bundestag (German Parliament) on nuclear risk-reduction, addressing Russian aggression and the UN Summit of the Future. The photo shows members of the delegation with some of the members of the Bundestag Subcommittee on Disarmament, Arms Control and Non-proliferation.

1. INTRODUCTION AND SUMMARY

This is the eleventh 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.

Russia's ongoing war of aggression against Ukraine provided the backdrop for a lot of our work in 2023. The war has already led to over 200,000 military casualties (Ukraine and Russian soldiers) and is having a horrific impact on the lives and well-being of the civilian population of Ukraine, as well as a devastating impact on global energy supplies, climate protection, food supply, economies, the refugee situation, the environment and more. It has also elevated the threat of nuclear war and eroded confidence in multilateralism.

Peace:

Durin 2023, BPO promoted, and actively engaged in, United Nations and other common security mechanisms and initiatives to respond to Russia's war against Ukraine and to advance peaceful resolution of international conflicts. This has included actions in the UN General Assembly, Human Rights Council, International Court of Justice and International Criminal Court. BPO has helped draft educational and advocacy statements, published articles and newsletters and organised events on the issue. And we have co-launched a new global campaign entitled Legal Alternatives to War (LAW not War).

Nuclear Disarmament:

BPO has also been active in regional and global initiatives to reduce nuclear risks in the Russia/Ukraine war and in other nuclear flashpoints including North-East Asia and India/Pakistan, and in promoting the peace and security of a nuclear-weapon-free world. BPO hosts the web platforms for a number of coalitions and cooperative projects including *Abolition 2000*, *Move the Nuclear Weapons Money*, *NoFirstUse Global*, *Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-proliferation and Disarmament* and *UNFOLD ZERO* platform. During 2023 we produced and published the E-Newsletters for these coalitions/platforms and organized representation for them at key UN events relating to nuclear disarmament including the UN Conference on Disarmament (Geneva), Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference (Vienna) and the UN General Assembly (New York).



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 addition, we co-organised a number of online parliamentary events in follow-up to the publication of [Assuring our Common Future, A handbook for parliamentarians on disarmament for security and sustainable development](#) including the launch event for [Defender nuestro futuro común](#), the Spanish Edition of the handbook.

Climate change and the environment: During 2023, we organized a number of events on the Climate-Nuclear Disarmament Nexus and on the campaign to take climate change to the International Court of Justice – which has succeeded in getting the case into the court. In addition, we have been working with a number of partners to establish [Mobilizing an Earth Governance Alliance](#) (MEGA). We will formally launch this initiative in the new year.

Switzerland on the Security Council:

In January 2023, Basel Peace Office published a paper in conjunction with Switzerland commencing its two-year term on the UN Security Council. The paper is entitled [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 in the period 2023-2024](#). BPO circulated the paper to Swiss peace organizations and has used it as the basis for our approach in a number of communications and consultations with the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs and Swiss UN Missions to the UN.

Youth and intergenerational dialogue:

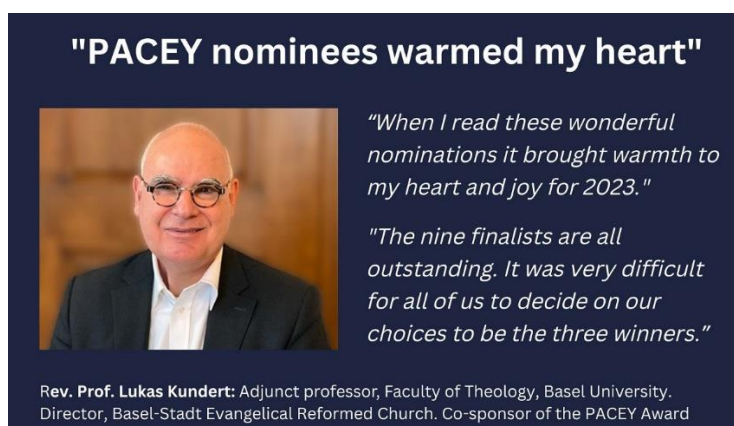
Youth programs and inter-generational dialogue have been a strong priority for Basel Peace Office this year, with a number of key events and programs undertaken in cooperation with *Youth Fusion*, the youth network of the Abolition 2000 global movement for the elimination of nuclear weapons. These included the *Youth Hotline* which we helped launched at the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly in Vancouver, the *Nuclear Stories initiative* and the *Intergenerational Forum on Peace, Climate Change and Nuclear Disarmament* which takes place annually in Basel in conjunction with the Basel Peace Forum.



The PACEY Award:

The [Peace, nuclear Abolition and Climate Engaged Youth \(PACEY\) Award](#) is conferred annually in January in conjunction with the Basel Peace Forum and Intergenerational Forum. With the Basel-Stadt Reformed Church joining the Basel-Stadt Canton and BPO as co-sponsors for 2023, we were able to give three prizes of €5000 each. The PACEY Award winners for 2023 were:

- **Peace in our Schools** (Georgia), a project to work with young Ukrainian refugees and Russian immigrants, who have fled the Russia-Ukraine war.
- **Adopt a tree, not a weapon** (Democratic Republic of Congo), a project to address the climate crisis and activism of local and foreign armed groups using children as soldiers to commit violence and destroy the biodiversity.
- **Storytelling as a Catalyst of Action for Peace, Love, and Climate Justice in the MENA region** (Middle East and North Africa), a project led by the MENA Youth Network which will harness the power of storytelling to advance and highlight urgent needs, and empower and unite youth towards establishing peace, love, and climate justice in the region.



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. CHRONOLOGICAL LIST OF 2023 EVENTS ORGANIZED OR CO-ORGANIZED BY BASEL PEACE OFFICE

Jan 12: Release of [The Doomsday Clock and Switzerland as a neutral country: Opportunities for Switzerland to advance nuclear risk reduction and disarmament in the period 2023-2024](#). *Food-for-thought paper. Online.*

Jan 20: [Inter-generational Forum on Peace, Climate Action and Nuclear Disarmament](#), *Basel*

Jan 21: [2023 PACEY Awards Ceremony](#). *Online*

Jan 25: [Human Rights and the Doomsday Clock](#). *Geneva*

Feb 8: [Common Security: Nuclear War Prevention and Global Abolition of Nuclear Weapons](#). *Online*

Apr 26: [Nuclear Stories Pre-Premier: Chernobyl Disaster Remembrance Day](#). *Zurich*

May 22: [The ICJ Case on Climate Change: How to Influence the proceedings](#). *Online*

May 24: [Roundtable on Peace, Nuclear Disarmament and the UN Summit of the Future](#). *Berlin*

Jun 29: [Rights of Future Generations: From the ICJ Climate Case to the UN Summit of the Future](#). *New York*

July 3: [Common Security, Nuclear Risk-Reduction and the UN Summit of the Future](#). *Vancouver*

July 6: [Nuclear weapons, climate change and human rights](#). *Geneva*

Jul 13 & 20: [Finding Hope in the Climate - Peace - Disarmament Nexus](#). *Online*

Aug 9: [Advancing nuclear abolition and climate protection in UN Human Rights bodies](#). *Vienna*

Aug 6 and 9: [#3DNukeMissile on Hiroshima/Nagasaki Days](#). *Vienna*

Aug 29: [International Day Against Nuclear Tests Commemorative Event](#). *UN in Geneva*

Sep 26: [Don't even THINK about starting a Nuclear War](#), *Washington DC and international*

Oct 23: [Launch event for LAW not War](#). *New York and online*

Nov 23: [The Peace, Climate Change and Disarmament Nexus: The Role of Parliamentarians](#). *Online*

Nov 28: [Mobilizing an Earth Governance Alliance website](#) goes public (official launch in early 2024)

LAW not War launch speakers elected to the International Court of Justice



On November 9, two of the speakers for our launch event of LAW not War - H. E. Mr. Juan Manuel Gómez Robledo Verduzco, Deputy Permanent Representative of Mexico to the United Nations in New York (left) and Mr Bogdan Aureescu, Former Minister of Foreign Affairs of Romania (right) were elected to be judges of the International Court of Justice.

3. SUMMARY LIST OF JOINT BPO APPEALS AND WORKING PAPERS PUBLISHED/RELEASED IN 2023

- **The Doomsday Clock and Switzerland**

On January 12, BPO released [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 in the period 2023-2024.](#)

- **Protect People and the Planet: Appeal for a Nuclear-Weapon-Free World**

A [global appeal](#) to end the nuclear threat, abolish nuclear weapons and shift the weapons budgets and investments to support public health, the climate and sustainable development. Endorsed by over 1200 people including Nobel Laureates, parliamentarians, mayors, religious leaders, former military leaders, sports stars, former UN officials, youth leaders, former foreign ministers/ambassadors, academics and representatives of civil society organizations. We will be presenting the appeal to the UN Summit of the Future, September 2024.

- **Submissions to the UN Human Rights Council on nuclear weapons and climate policies**

In 2023, BPO made joint submissions made for the Universal Periodic Reviews of [Russia](#), [Germany](#) and [Canada](#). Our submissions reviewed, challenged and gave recommendations on the nuclear weapons and climate policies of these countries with regard to their obligations under international human rights law.

- **Nuclear Taboo from Norm to Law**

On April 11, BPO and partners in NoFirstUse Global released [Nuclear Taboo from Norm to Law](#), calling for the consolidation and implementation of the statement adopted at the Bali G20 Summit that *'the threat or use of nuclear weapons is inadmissible.'* During 2023, the declaration was presented to the [G7 Summit](#) in Hiroshima, G20 Summit in New Delhi and the [Conference of States Parties to the NPT](#) in Vienna.

- **Working papers and joint statement to the Conference of States Parties to the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty (NPT)**

BPO joined with partners in the following papers and joint statements submitted to the NPT Conference at the UN in Vienna:

- [No-first-use of nuclear weapons: An Exploration of Unilateral, Bilateral and Plurilateral Approaches and their Security, Risk-reduction and Disarmament Implications](#)
- [Abolition 2000 NWC Reset: Frameworks for a Nuclear-Weapon-Free World.](#)
- [Common Security v. Nuclear Weapons: How to replace the current reliance on nuclear deterrence with sustainable security for all](#), endorsed by 170 organizations.

Joint statement: Common Security v Nuclear Weapons



John Vlasto (World Federalist Movement) presents the joint statement Common Security v. Nuclear Weapons: How to replace the current reliance on nuclear deterrence with sustainable security for all to a plenary session of the Conference of States Parties to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) at the UN in Vienna.

4. PROGRAMS:

a. Peace, common security and international conflict resolution

Common Security

In mid-2023, we launched a [Common Security platform](#) which includes an introduction to common security, an outline of key common security mechanisms and links to their founding documents, an explanation of the difference between common security and collective security, information on common security appeals/campaigns (including LAW not War) and a list of articles, videos and other resources on common security.

We co-organized an event on [Common Security, Nuclear Risk-Reduction and the UN Summit of the Future](#) at the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly in Vancouver and we spoke about common security at various other events during 2023.

In addition, we organized and [presented](#) a statement [Common Security v. Nuclear Weapons: How to replace the current reliance on nuclear deterrence with sustainable security for all](#) to the *Conference of States Parties to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty* in Vienna on August 2, 2023. Through outreach to our networks, we received endorsement for the statement by 170 civil society organizations from 37 countries.

Legal Alternatives to War (LAW not War)

[Legal Alternatives to War: Increasing the universality and effectiveness of the International Court of Justice](#) (LAW not War) is a new global campaign 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).

On October 23, we launched LAW not War at a hybrid event in New York in conjunction with International Law Week and UN Disarmament Week. The launch was attended by 50 people in-person (full house) and over 200 people online. Speakers included a former ICJ judge, three international lawyers who have served as Agents before the court in significant cases (genocide, territorial disputes, nuclear weapons threat or use...) and other experts. Participants included government diplomats, lawyers, policy experts, youth/students and representatives of civil society organizations from around the world.

The campaign works in cooperation with a group of like-minded states that has released a [Declaration on promoting the jurisdiction of the International Court of Justice](#). More than 70 non-governmental organizations have joined the campaign as participating organizations.

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).

LAW not War launch: Report by Peace TV (22 minutes)



b. NoFirstUse Global

[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 2023, NoFirstUse Global and Basel Peace Office co-organised a number of events and appeals (some of which are listed above), submitted a working paper to the NPT Review Conference entitled [No-first-use of nuclear weapons: An Exploration of Unilateral, Bilateral and Plurilateral Approaches and their Security, Risk-reduction and Disarmament Implications](#) and organised social media actions [Don't even THINK about starting a nuclear war](#).

Basel Peace Office program officers also wrote and published a number of newsletters and blog articles for NoFirstUse Global in 2023, including:

- Oct 12: [Don't even THINK about starting a nuclear war](#)
- Sep 13: [G20 Leaders in Delhi affirm inadmissibility of nuclear weapons threat or use](#)
- Aug 21: [Support grows for Nuclear Taboo from Norm to Law. 22,000 new endorsements from Japan.](#)
- Aug 13: [NPT States parties call for No-First-Use policies](#)
- July 31: [No-First-Use and the NPT Prep Com in Vienna: A declaration, a working paper and a side-event](#)
- July 24: [G7 Hiroshima Summit backtracks on norm against nuclear weapons](#)
- May 18: [G7 Hiroshima Summit should reaffirm the Nuclear Taboo](#)
- April 19: [UK former Naval Commander: We don't need nuclear forces to address aggression](#)
- April 10: [Nuclear Taboo: From norm to law – a Declaration of Public Conscience](#)
- Feb 27: [Nuclear restraint, no-first-use and the Russia/Ukraine war](#)

c. UNFOLD ZERO, nuclear disarmament and the UN Summit of the Future

[UNFOLD ZERO](#) is a global platform which Basel Peace Office co-founded in 2014 as a coalition of key organisations in follow-up to the [Open the Door to a Nuclear Weapon Free World](#) campaign. **UNFOLD ZERO** promotes United Nations initiatives for nuclear disarmament and UN mechanisms to prevent war and achieve security without reliance on the threat or use of force.

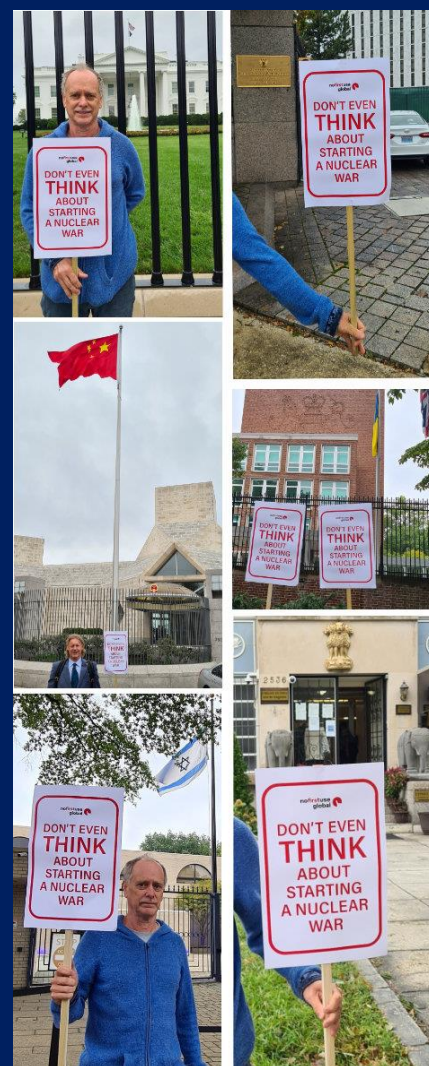
Key activities over the year included webinars, [blog articles](#), [newsletters](#) (circulated to a subscription list of over 4000 people and organizations) and an appeal [Protect People and the Planet](#) which we will present to the UN Summit of the Future in September 2024.



**Protect People and the Planet:
Appeal for a Nuclear-Weapon-Free World**

UNFOLD ZERO was also active in the 2023 preparations for the [UN Summit of the Future](#), including by hosting and facilitating the [civil society consultations for the Peace and International Security theme](#).

Don't even THINK about starting a nuclear war



NoFirstUse Global social media action organized by Alyn Ware outside the White House and the US embassies of other nuclear-armed States.

UN International Days

Basel Peace Office and UNFOLD ZERO co-organized actions and events to commemorate key **UN and International Days** relating to peace and disarmament, including:

- **Jan 24.** [Roll back the Doomsday Clock](#). Action for the Anniversary of UN Resolution 1 (1) establishing the goal of a nuclear-weapons-free world. We also organized an in-person event in Geneva [Human Rights and the Doomsday Clock](#).
- **May 24:** *Peace, Nuclear Abolition, Earth Trusteeship and the Summit of the Future*, a roundtable event in Berlin in commemoration of International Women’s Day for Peace and Disarmament.
- **Aug 6 and 9:** #3DNukeMissile – an inter-active mobile art piece – displayed in Vienna central square on Aug 6 in commemoration of Hiroshima Day and inside the UN in Vienna for August 9, Nagasaki Day, during the Conference of States Parties to the NPT.
- **August 9:** [General Comment 36: Advancing nuclear abolition and climate protection in UN Human Rights bodies](#), a Nagasaki Day event at the UN in Vienna
- **Sep 26:** [Nuclear Weapons Elimination Day](#), an action platform for the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons. Includes the [Don’t even THINK about starting a Nuclear War](#) social media action

August 6 and 9: #3DNukeMissile in Vienna



We displayed the #3D NukeMissile – an inter-active mobile art piece – inside the UN in Vienna for August 9, Nagasaki Day, during the Conference of States Parties to the NPT.

May 24: Presenting the Peoples’ Pact for the Future to the German government



Basel Peace Office, Youth Fusion and World Future Council present the People’s Pact for the Future to a representative of the German government during the roundtable event in Berlin on the International Women’s Day for Peace and Disarmament. Germany is one of the two co-facilitators for the UN Summit of the Future.

May 24: Roundtable event in Berlin



Roundtable event in Berlin to commemorate Women’s International Day for Peace and Disarmament

January 25: Geneva roundtable

Human Rights and the Doomsday Clock

Using international human rights law to address existential threats posed by nuclear weapons and climate change.



January 25, 2023
1:15-2:45pm

Mont Blanc meeting room
Sidley Austin Law Firm
Rue du Pré-de-la-Bichette 1, Geneva
Light refreshments provided

A side event to the
42nd Universal Periodic Review
(UN Human Rights Council)

d. Mayors for Peace

BPO serves as the liaison and organiser of the Mayors for Peace program for the Basel-Stadt Kanton. In 2023 this included participation of Mayors for Peace members in a number of our online events, endorsement by some members of Mayors for Peace in the appeals *Protecting People and the Planet: Appeal for a Nuclear-Weapon-Free World* and *Nuclear Taboo from Norm to Law*, and engagement of Mayors for Peace in the Basel Intergenerational Forum on Peace, Climate Change and Nuclear Abolition.

e. Abolition 2000



Basel Peace Office serves as a European support office for Abolition 2000, the global civil society network for the elimination of nuclear weapons. We help to manage the [website](#), oversee the [working groups](#) and organize Abolition 2000 events including Abolition 2000 side-events at the 2023 Conference of States Parties to the NPT and the [Abolition 2000 Annual General Meeting](#).

During 2023 we worked in a sub-committee of Abolition 2000 to draft [Abolition 2000 NWC Reset: Frameworks for a Nuclear-Weapon-Free World](#), a working paper to the Conference of States Parties to the NPT, and to organize a number of consultation events with governments and civil society over the

recommendations in the working paper.

This *Frameworks for a Nuclear Weapon Free World* working paper is one of the few serious efforts to bridge the growing divide between the States Parties to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (non-nuclear States) and the States which have rejected the TPNW (all the nuclear armed and allied states and some of the non-nuclear states).

The paper, and the series of accompanying events we organized, provide a range of approaches which the nuclear-armed and allied states could feasibly take to address their security concerns relating to nuclear disarmament.



f. Parliamentary actions and events

Basel Peace Office hosts the European Office for [Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-proliferation and Disarmament](#) (PNND). Alyn serves as PNND Global Coordinator and Marzhan serves as PNND Coordinator for CIS countries (former Soviet Union). 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. 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 Ware.

Following 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 2023 these included:

- [The Peace, Climate Change and Disarmament Nexus](#)
- [Women's Leadership, Gender Perspectives and Gender Approaches in Disarmament Action](#)



Margareta Kiener Nellen, BPO Board Member and PNND Council member, speaking at a recent IPU Assembly.

Parliamentary events including for a North-East Asia Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone

During 2023, PNND also organized a number of events and actions in national parliaments and at inter-parliamentary bodies including the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly and IPU Assembly. In 2023 these included;

- Joint Japanese and Korean Parliamentary conference in the South Korean National Assembly on a *Denuclearized North-East Asia through a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone treaty* (the 3+3 model);
- [Delegation of Japanese parliamentarians to Washington DC to advance a North-East Asia Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone](#).
- Roundtable event in US Congress on a *North-East Asia NWFZ* hosted by Senator Markey;
- PNND briefing for the German Parliament on *Common security, nuclear disarmament and the UN Summit of the Future*.
- [Common Security, Nuclear Risk-Reduction and the UN Summit of the Future](#), a roundtable event at the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly in Vancouver.



Basel Peace Office Director Alyn Ware was one of the Speakers of the 3+3 NE Asia NWFZ conference in the Korean National Assembly in April, 2023



Senator Markey (3rd from left) hosting the meeting of 3+3 Delegation with US legislators in Capitol Building in September, 2023.

g. Climate action and the Climate/Nuclear Disarmament Nexus

Basel Peace Office was very active in 2023 on the climate crisis and on the [climate/nuclear disarmament nexus](#) – our program which highlights the connections between the nuclear weapons and climate change issues and builds cooperation amongst climate and nuclear abolition campaigns and networks.

- Peace – Climate- Nuclear Nexus

In 2023 we organized online events including and in-person events including [The Peace, Climate Change and Disarmament Nexus: The Role of Parliamentarians](#) and in-person events including a side-event at the Conference of States Parties to the NPT in Vienna.

- World Court and Climate Change campaign

Following the PACEY Award win by World's Youth for Climate Justice (WY4CJ) for their initiative to take the issue of climate change to the International Court of Justice, Basel Peace Office has been working with WY4CJ and Normandy Chair for Peace on a number of events and meetings to advance the campaign. In March the campaign was successful in moving the UN General Assembly to adopt by consensus a resolution to take the case to the International Court of Justice. The case is now in the first stage of its proceedings – acceptance of submissions from UN member States and international organizations. During 2023, we organized two in-person events and a number of online events to promote the ICJ case and to encourage governments to make strong submissions to the Court. This included an event for UN ambassadors in New York in June and an event at the European Parliament in November.



Arnold Kiel Loughman, Attorney-General for the Republic of Vanuatu speaking at the European Parliament event on the ICJ Climate Case. Also on the panel were Mounir Satouri MEP; Jule Schnakenberg, World's Youth for Climate Justice; Sandrine DIXSON-DECLÈVE, Co-President of The Club of Rome; Derek WALKER, Future Generations Commissioner for Wales; Emilie GAILLARD, Professor and Researcher, expert on rights and law for Future Generations and Alyn Ware, Director, Basel Peace Office.

h. Engaging youth: Intergenerational events and the PACEY Award

Engaging youth in peace and disarmament is a major focus of BPO. In addition to running an internship program to train students in diplomacy and civil society action, we organized the following youth-focused and youth-led activities during the year, mostly in cooperation with Youth Fusion:

- **Basel intergenerational forum on peace, the climate and nuclear abolition.**

In January 2023, in conjunction with the Basel Peace Forum, we co-organised an [Intergenerational forum on peace, the climate and nuclear disarmament](#) which brought together youth, experts and policy makers to discuss actions and effective policies on these topics.

- **PACEY Awards 2023**

Following the Intergenerational Forum, we held the [PACEY 2023 Award event](#). The [PACEY Award](#), established in 2020, supports youth projects which advance effective policy action to cut carbon emissions, enhance the transition to renewable energies, address and resolve international conflicts, abolish nuclear weapons, reduce weapons budgets and investments, and/or support the UN Sustainable Development Goals. The PACEY Award event was attended by approximately 200 participants. It included presentations by the finalists, voting to establish the winners and then presentation of the PACEY Awards.



PACEY 2023 winners were:

- **Peace in our Schools** (Georgia), a project to work with young Ukrainian refugees and Russian immigrants, who have fled the Russia-Ukraine war.
- **Adopt a tree, not a weapon** (Democratic Republic of Congo), a project to address the climate crisis and activism of local and foreign armed groups using children as soldiers to commit violence and destroy the biodiversity.
- **Storytelling as a Catalyst of Action for Peace, Love, and Climate Justice in the MENA region** (Middle East and North Africa), a project led by the MENA Youth Network which will harness the power of storytelling to advance and highlight urgent needs, and empower and unite youth towards establishing peace, love, and climate justice in the region.



- Youth Fusion

[Youth Fusion](#) is a global youth network established by Abolition 2000, the civil society network for the global elimination of nuclear weapons. Youth Fusion has a number of innovative and exciting



StepUp4Disarmament, one of projects Youth Fusion has organized with key partners including the UN Office of Disarmament Affairs and the Kazakhstan government.

programs/initiatives including [Nuclear Stories](#), [Youth Fusion Elders](#), [Youth Hotline](#), [Youth Fusion at the 2023 NPT](#), [Step Up for Disarmament](#) and a number of podcast series produced in cooperation with PNND and Basel Peace Office. The series include [Nuclear Collateral Damage: Conversations with Survivors and Experts](#), [Space for Peace](#), [Youth Fusion: Peace Out](#) and more.

Basel Peace Office provides logistical and program support for Youth Fusion. In addition, Youth Fusion is a principal partner in many of the events we organize, especially those that we organize as inter-generational events.

i. Gender, peace and security

Basel Peace Office, PNND and Youth Fusion cooperate on a [Gender, Peace and Security program](#). The program in 2023 included:

- Promoting [Participation of women in peace and disarmament](#), a section of the [Parliamentary Handbook on Disarmament for Security and Sustainable Development](#).
- Organising a roundtable event in Berlin on May 24, International Women's Day for Peace and Disarmament;
- Presenting proposals on [Gender inclusivity and approaches to enhance the NPT Review Process](#) to the 2023 Conference of States Parties to the NPT in Vienna.
- Co-organising an event with IPU on [Women's Leadership, Gender Perspectives and Gender Approaches in Disarmament Action](#).



Vanessa Lanteigne, Program Officer for PNND and Basel Peace Office, presenting proposals on *Gender inclusivity and approaches to enhance the NPT Review Process* to the Conference of States Parties to the NPT in Vienna.

5. 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 vorzubringen](#)).

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 contribute 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 provides background to some of the Basel Peace Office projects for 2023-2024, and a basis for discussion with other Swiss organizations on advocacy for effective Swiss government action on these issues.

6. FINANCIAL SUMMARY

BPO was funded in 2023 through grants and donations from the Basel-Stadt Kanton, Quaker Peace and Service Aotearoa-New Zealand, Prof Dr (med) Andreas Nidecker (Basel) and Gray Southon (New Zealand). Funding is insufficient for any full-time salaries. Project work is undertaken by board members, volunteers, interns and contractors.

7. PRAGUE-BASEL-HAMBURG-NEW YORK PARTNERSHIPS

Basel Peace Office partners with the *Global Security Institute* (based in New York), *World Future Council* (based in Hamburg) and *PragueVision Institute for Sustainable Security* (based in Prague) 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.

8. 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. A note of thanks also to other Board members who have been especially active in BPO management and/or programs including Laurent Goetschel, Lukas Ott, Rudolf Rechsteiner, Daniel Rietiker and Margareta Kiener Nellen.

A note of deep gratitude also to BPO Deputy Director Marzhan Nurzhan and Program Officers Vanda Proskova, Michael Sorenson, Nico Edwards and Arthur Duforest who undertook excellent work on key programs. And a big thank you to the interns and volunteers including Alison Gryzlo, Vanessa Lanteigne and Teresa Bergman.

Bonus: More quotes on the PACEY Award

PACEY Award - Elevating youth actions

"Young people around the world are standing up to demand policy progress on the climate crisis, nuclear abolition and ending war. They clearly see the threats to current and future generations and are taking action."



Professor Andreas Nidecker MD
President of the Basel Peace Office.
Founder of the PACEY Award.

PACEY Award - Stimulating transformative action

"The PACEY Award supports innovative projects which empower youth to lead transformative actions in the fields of peace, climate security and disarmament."



Marzhan Nurzhan
PNND Coordinator for Central Asia
Core Team Member, Youth Fusion
Deputy-Director, Basel Peace Office