

Basel Peace Office Annual Meeting

Monday November 17, 2014
16:15 (Central European Time)
Basel Peace Office, Petersgraben 27

Draft minutes

1. **Present:** Andreas Nidecker (President), Laurent Goetschel (Executive Committee Member), Markus Ritter (Executive Committee Member), Susanne Wyder (on behalf of Ueli Mäder, Board Member), Alyn Ware (Director), Rob van Riet (via skype – on behalf of Jacob von Uexkull, Board Member), Jonathan Granoff (Board Member - via skype).
2. **Apologies:** Ueli Mäder, Jacob von Uexkull
3. **Minutes of previous annual meeting.** Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Basel Peace Office Association, held on 29 October 2013, were approved.
4. **Report of the President.** Andreas Nidecker presented the President's Report. The report was approved. A vote of thanks was given to the President.
5. **Report of the Director.** Alyn Ware presented the Director's Report. The report was approved. A vote of thanks was given to the Director along with a commendation for the success of the programs.
6. **Financial Report.** BPO Director Alyn Ware presented the Financial Report. The Director thanked the Basel Kanton and swisspeace for facilitating funding for the OSCE program. He gave special thanks to Daniela Schlettwein-Gsell for providing sustaining funding when funding from other sources fell far short of expected levels.

Alyn noted the advantages of the partnership between BPO and GSI which enabled donations/grants from North America and Europe for the programs coming into either office, and then being transferred as required.

Alyn was thanked for his decision to continue as the Director despite insufficient funds for a salary. In response to questions on the lack of adequate finances to be able to move to Switzerland, the Director reported that he continues to work as a consultant for Basel Peace Office, and is able to be half-time in Basel and the rest of his time working from his consultancy base in New Zealand, GSI office in New York, World Future Council office in London and other locations in his global networks in order to continue operating the BPO international programs.
7. **Election of officers.** The following officers were elected by unanimous vote.
 - a. President – Andreas Nidecker
 - b. Executive Committee – Andreas Nidecker, Laurent Goetschel, Markus Ritter
 - c. Members of the Board - Andreas Nidecker (IPPNW Switzerland), Laurent Goetschel (Swiss Peace), Markus Ritter (Basel-Stadt Canton), Ueli Mäder (University of Basel Sociology Seminary), Jakob von Uexkull (World Future Council), Jonathan Granoff (Global Security Institute).
A pro forma decision was taken that nominations of either David Krieger or John Burroughs would be accepted as the representative for the Middle Powers Initiative.
8. **Draft program for Dec 2014 – Nov 2015.** The Director presented the draft work program. There was some discussion on the funding for specific programs and events.

Laurent proposed that specific Board members (or other BPO friends) become point persons for certain strands, in order to assist with funding outreach and to engage the related constituencies. It was suggested that Andi focus on the religious communities and Laurent focus on the academic communities.

Jonathan proposed that BPO could provide a focal point in Basel for bringing leaders of churches and other religious communities together to produce religious statements and actions on the immorality of nuclear weapons. BPO could build on the Basel launch of the Religions for Peace Resource Guide (German edition), the fact that Rev Wipf from Switzerland is now the Moderator of the Religions for Peace European Interfaith Network, and the bringing together by GSI of Religions for Peace and the United Religions Initiative to cooperate on the promotion of nuclear abolition. It was agreed to add this to the 2015 program, in particular a proposal for a 2-day interfaith workshop in Basel in 2015.

Andi noted that funding from local sources would be enhanced by a clearer outline of Basel-based events and activities. Alyn noted the Basel-located events planned for 2015 including an Abolition Forum workshop, World Humanitarian Day commemoration and an international conference to follow-up the 2015 NPT Review Conference.

Alyn reported that the Swiss FDFA is prepared to support such an international conference focused on implementation of the Review Conference outcome, with a primary constituency of parliamentarians but also to include mayors, officials from key governments, academics and civil society representatives. Swiss FDFA would like this to be in Basel to follow-up on the successful Basel OSCE Forum and because they expect the Basel Kanton to also support (Swiss FDFA requires co-funding from another source). Andi and Markus agreed to draft a proposal to the Basel Lottery Board for 50,000 as approximately 50% funding for the conference.

The amended work program was approved.

9. **Draft budget.** The Director presented the draft budget. Rob noted that the salary/compensation for the Director was very low and asked whether it was indeed possible to live on such low remuneration. The Director replied that, despite aspirations from Basel Kanton and Basel Peace Office partners to raise sufficient funds for a salary, the financial reality is that this is not possible. As such, the Director has adapted his life-style (renting out his room and staying on friends' couches while travelling) in order to be able to continue to work on the very important BPO programs – which have been incredibly successful. The Director was thanked for his sacrifices to ensure the success of the programs.

There was some discussion on other aspects of the budget including the criteria for the European Commission, the need to seek other individual donors and the possibility from funding for the Nuclear Abolition Forum from Swiss FDFA and the Science Foundation. The Director note the positive also noted the funding sources from New Zealand as an indication of the support from his home country for the programs being run in Europe and internationally through BPO.

10. The meeting was closed at 5:45 pm.