

# **Abolition 2000 Annual General Meeting, May 2, 2015**

## **Brief History of the Network**

In May 1995, during the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) Review and Extension Conference at the United Nations in New York, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) from around the world recognized that the declared nuclear weapons states were unwilling to discuss complete nuclear disarmament as stipulated in the treaty. A large number of these NGOs came together and drafted the 11-point Abolition 2000 Statement, which calls for “the definite and unconditional abolition of nuclear weapons.”

The Abolition 2000 Statement, as its number one demand, calls for the immediate initiation of negotiations on a verifiable Nuclear Weapons Convention (treaty), requiring the elimination of nuclear weapons within a timebound framework. The Abolition 2000 Statement recognizes “the inextricable link between the ‘peaceful’ and warlike uses of nuclear technologies,” and calls for the establishment of an international energy agency to promote and support the development of sustainable and environmentally safe energy sources.

The Abolition 2000 Statement became the basis for the Abolition 2000 Global Network to Eliminate Nuclear Weapons, which was launched in November 1995 in The Hague, Netherlands, during the historic hearings before the International Court of Justice on the illegality of nuclear weapons.

At its January 1997 Annual General Meeting in Moorea, Te Ao Maohi (French Occupied Polynesia), hosted by Hiti Tau, an umbrella organization of indigenous peoples’ groups, on the one year anniversary of the last French nuclear test, the Moorea Declaration was adopted as a supplement to the Abolition 2000 Statement. The Moorea Declaration recognizes the particular suffering of indigenous and colonized people as a result of the nuclear cycle.

In 2001, the Abolition 2000 Global Council, meeting in Saffron Walden, England, issued the Saffron Walden Declaration recognizing “the rising tide of discontent at the economic inequity and lack of social justice among the vast majority of the earth’s people in order to maintain [the nuclear weapon states and their allies] access to world resources and their unsustainable levels of consumption,” and calling for “a world that is free of nuclear weapons, free of the resultant environmental contamination, and free of social and economic injustice.”

The 1995 Abolition 2000 Statement called for the conclusion of negotiations on a Nuclear Weapons Convention “by the year 2000.” Recognizing that the nuclear weapons states would likely fail in their obligations to conclude such negotiations, this phrase was removed at the end of 2000. At the same time, the network successfully campaigned to recruit more than 2000 member groups (in over 90 countries) in order to keep our name relevant.

As an outgrowth of the Abolition 2000 Network, a working group of international lawyers, scientists and activists drafted a Model Nuclear Weapons Convention which was, submitted to the United Nations by Costa Rica, and circulated as United Nations document A/C.1/52/7 in 1997. It was updated and resubmitted in 2007 by Costa Rica and Malaysia, and was referenced in the UN Secretary General’s Five Point plan for disarmament in 2008. The draft treaty provides for the verifiable phased elimination of nuclear weapons. It is analogous to the Chemical Weapons Convention and the Biological Weapons Convention.

Abolition 2000 regional networks have been established in many places, including Europe, UK, and New Zealand. In addition, informal Abolition 2000 working groups have established themselves to focus on a variety of specific issues.

Abolition 2000 circulated an international petition that was signed by more than 13.4 million individuals worldwide. During the 2000 NPT Review Conference, the signed petitions were symbolically presented to Ambassador Baali of Algeria, Chairman of the Conference. During the opening week of the 2010 NPT Review Conference, President Libran Cabactulan and UN High Representative Sergio Duarte accepted symbolic presentations of more than 17 million signatures collected around the world expressing the collective will of international civil society to see the commencement of negotiations on a nuclear weapons convention without further delay. Abolition works closely with Mayors for Peace and its 2020 Vision Campaign, which reset the original Abolition 2000 target date, with the goal of eliminating nuclear arsenals by the year 2020. Abolition 2000 also works closely with Parliamentarians for Nuclear Nonproliferation and Disarmament and ICAN.

The 2014 Annual General Meeting endorsed the Peace & Planet Mobilization for a Nuclear-Free, Peaceful, Just and Sustainable World and mandated criteria for establishing an international planning group.

Abolition 2000 mainly is a volunteer network, but has received essential administrative support from a series of organizations that have served as its Secretariat since its founding. These have included the California-based Nuclear Age Peace Foundation, the New York-based Global Re-source Action Center for the Environment (GRACE), the Polaris (now Rideau) Institute, Ottawa, Canada, Pax Christi USA, and IKV Pax Christi (now PAX), The Netherlands. The Secretariat duties are currently being shared by members of the Coordinating Committee. Western States Legal Foundation serves Abolition 2000's fiscal sponsor, and the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation maintains the database.

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Responsibilities of Global Council (GC) members (adopted at the 2011 Abolition 2000 AGM):

The GC is made up of individuals, not representatives of organizations

- GC members are expected to be active with Abolition 2000
- GC members are encouraged to serve as advisors and ambassadors for Abolition 2000, and Work with Abolition 2000 groups in their regions and thematic areas
- GC members are expected to check in with or respond to the CC at least once a year (respond to a draft statement, contribute to the e-newsletter, or some other way)
- GC members are expected to abide by the Abolition2000 Operating Principles