

Abolition 2000
2017 Annual General Meeting
Minutes

“How would you define the current global situation in one word?”



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ABOLITION 2000

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

May 1, 2017

Donau City Church, Donau-City-Straße 2, Vienna, Austria

The Abolition 2000 Global Network to Eliminate Nuclear Weapons held its 22nd Annual General Meeting (AGM) in Vienna, Austria on May 1, 2017 on the eve of the first Preparatory Committee meeting for the 2020 Review of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. This AGM was hosted by the Austrian branch of International Fellowship for Reconciliation (IFOR), and their representative Peter Hämmerle made welcoming remarks. IFOR Austria is a member of the NGO Committee on Peace and Disarmament in Vienna. The meeting included 48 participants representing a variety of organisations from a number of countries (*see annex #1*).

I. Goals of the meeting

The AGM is an opportunity for affiliated networks, working groups and member groups to report on their activities, to propose and discuss projects for Abolition 2000 and to affirm the Coordinating Committee and Global Council.

II. Review of History

Alyn Ware, one of the co-founders of Abolition 2000, briefly described the origins of the network. During the NPT Review and Extension Conference in 1995, disarmament organisations from around the world, gathered at the UN in New York for the Conference, drafted and adopted the Founding Statement of Abolition 2000. It was a call to governments to implement Article VI of the NPT by negotiating a global Nuclear Weapons Convention (NWC) to achieve the elimination of nuclear weapons within a timebound framework. The Abolition 2000 Statement also recognized the inextricable link between nuclear weapons and nuclear power.

Meeting participants read out the eleven-point Abolition 2000 Statement and reflected on advancements that have occurred over the past two decades.

1. Initiate immediately and conclude negotiations on a nuclear weapons abolition convention that requires the phased elimination of all nuclear weapons within a timebound framework, with provisions for effective verification and enforcement

Progress: The UN General Assembly (UNGA) has voted on a resolution every year since 1996 calling for negotiations on a NWC – a global treaty that would prohibit the threat or use of nuclear weapons and establish a phased programme for their complete elimination under strict and effective international control. Over 130 countries have supported the resolution including some of the nuclear-armed States – China, India, North Korea and Pakistan. However, no such negotiations have begun. The start of negotiations on a Ban treaty can be seen as a step towards a NWC.

2. Immediately make an unconditional pledge not to use or threaten to use nuclear weapons.

Progress: The 1996 ICJ Advisory Opinion affirmed that the threat or use of nuclear weapons would be generally illegal. Discussion of a no first-use policy has been gaining traction in some quarters. As an example, the UK opposition leader has declared that if he were to become Prime Minister he “would never push the button”.

3. Rapidly complete a truly comprehensive test ban treaty with a zero threshold and with the stated purpose of precluding nuclear weapons development by all states.

Progress: When the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) opened for signature in 1996, a de-facto international norm against nuclear testing was established. However, India, Pakistan and North Korea have conducted tests since then, and the fact that the CTBT has not yet entered into force remains unfinished business. Further, the CTBT does not deal with all means of nuclear weapons design and development, such as subcritical and laboratory tests.

4. Cease to produce and deploy new and additional nuclear weapons systems, and commence to withdraw and disable deployed nuclear weapons systems.

Progress: The total number of nuclear weapons in the world's arsenal has indeed decreased since 1995. However, modernisation programs are underway in all of the nuclear-armed states. While there are fewer nuclear weapons than there were 20 years ago, many are more powerful and precise, with features designed to give them new military capabilities.

5. Prohibit the military and commercial production and reprocessing of all weapons-usable radioactive materials.

Progress: Negotiations to prohibit the military and commercial production and reprocessing of all weapons-usable radioactive material have not begun. Negotiations on a more limited fissile materials treaty have been blocked by Pakistan in the Conference on Disarmament (CD) in Geneva. However, there is an ongoing civil society expert group, the International Panel on Fissile Materials, working actively on such a prohibition, and a high level group of governmental representatives was established in October 2016 to advance this objective.

6. Subject all weapons-usable radioactive materials and nuclear facilities in all states to international accounting, monitoring, and safeguards, and establish a public international registry of all weapons-usable radioactive materials.

Progress: The verification of Iran's peaceful nuclear program was mentioned as an example of many daily activities by the IAEA.

7. Prohibit nuclear weapons research, design, development, and testing through laboratory experiments including but not limited to non-nuclear hydrodynamic explosions and computer simulations, subject all nuclear weapons laboratories to international monitoring, and close all nuclear test sites.

Progress: Some nuclear test sites have been closed (e.g. Semipalatinsk in Kazakhstan, Lop Nur in China and the French test site in Mururoa). And the victims of nuclear tests are receiving more international attention. Unfortunately, nuclear weapons research, design, development and testing, including through laboratory experiments is continuing in all the nuclear-armed states.

8. Create additional nuclear weapons free zones such as those established by the treaties of Tlatelolco and Rarotonga.

Progress: New nuclear weapons free zones (NWFZ) have been established since 1995 including those covering Southeast Asia, Africa and Central Asia. There is ongoing discussion about establishing NWFZs in Northeast Asia, Europe and the Middle East. The 2010 NPT Review Conference unanimously agreed to convene a conference in 2012 on a zone free of nuclear and other WMD in the Middle East, to be attended by all parties in the region. Regrettably, the conference was cancelled by the United States.

9. Recognize and declare the illegality of threat or use of nuclear weapons, publicly and before the World Court.

Progress: In its 1996 advisory opinion, the International Court of Justice found that the threat or use of nuclear weapons is generally illegal under international law.

10. Establish an international energy agency to promote and support the development of sustainable and environmentally safe energy sources.

Progress: The International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) has been established as an intergovernmental organisation that supports countries in their transition to a sustainable energy future, and serves as the principal platform for international cooperation. However, not all countries are members yet.

11. Create mechanisms to ensure the participation of citizens and NGOs in planning and monitoring the process of nuclear weapons abolition.

Progress: The significant pressure that civil society organisations were able to exert in order to achieve the commencement of the Ban Treaty negotiations was applauded. Advancement was also noted in the Open Ended Working Group (OEWG) on Taking Forward Multilateral Disarmament Negotiations in 2013 and 2016. The OEWGs were highlighted as the UN nuclear disarmament forums with the best processes for NGO engagement. NGOs were able to make interventions and submit working papers similar to those of governments. NGO experts were also invited to address the OEWG and the Ban Treaty negotiations on specific topics.

III. Operating principles of the network

Alyn Ware explained the Operating Principles of the network, affirming that Abolition 2000 is a network that facilitates cooperation among its member organisations. To join the network, an organisation must sign onto the original founding statement. However, there is no requirement for it to be active on all points. This allows flexibility for the network to manage the differing priorities of its member groups. Decisions are made by consensus, with a fall back to a 2/3 majority voting process if consensus cannot be reached (almost never needed). The network maintains a database of member organizations which is available to any member group upon request. While statements are never issued in the name of Abolition 2000 as a whole, statements can be issued by Annual General Meetings, the Global Council or working groups.

IV. Coordinating Committee Report including a report on follow-up to decisions from the previous AGM in 2016

Jackie Cabasso assumed the role of facilitator and briefly explained the workings of the Coordinating Committee. The Coordinating Committee is comprised of volunteers from member groups, who are affirmed at the Annual General Meetings. The Committee is primarily responsible for caretaking the network and ensuring that the annual general meetings take place.

Jackie presented a financial report, explaining that this year we were once again fortunate to receive a USD 10,000 donation from the Craigslist Charitable Fund. She also reported on the allocation of funds in 2016:

- Basel Peace Office received funds for network maintenance and service (USD 7,000)
- A new working group “Moving Beyond Missile Defence and Space Weapons” (MBMDS) received funds to develop a research project (USD 7,000)

Jackie went briefly through the minutes from the 2016 AGM summarising its main outcomes. ([This document](#) is available on the Abolition 2000 website, under Resources.)

The main points identified for follow up at this AGM included reports from working groups and affiliated networks, proposals for and discussion of new activities, affirmation of the Coordinating

Committee and Global Council, inviting people to join existing working groups and forming new ones if decided. She noted that the network is a great “incubator” for projects.

V. Obstacles and opportunities: assessing the global context

When planning the AGM, the Coordinating Committee agreed that it would be beneficial to the objectives of the meeting to begin the day with an “obstacles and opportunities” discussion started off by Andy Lichterman and Arielle Denis.

Andy began his remarks by inviting the group to look at the world in the bigger picture, where the old order is on “its last legs but refuses to die” but there is no clear alternative to replace it.

The humanitarian initiative and the consequent Ban Treaty have raised awareness about the effects of nuclear weapons in a new generation, but still has not proved sufficient to spark significant mass movements in nuclear-armed states. Most people still see nuclear weapons as weapons that are highly unlikely to be used, and don’t see nuclear arsenals as something they can do anything about.

So, the first obstacle is a lack of public awareness that we once more are in a time when the danger of war among nuclear-armed countries is on the rise.

A related problem is that like many other issues, most work on arms control and disarmament for the last several decades has been single issue and focused on technical, legal, and diplomatic issues and on the effects of the weapons, rather than on the forces driving the rising risk of war among nuclear-armed states.

A renewed focus on the dynamics driving the growing risk of war among nuclear-armed countries will be essential. It’s the path to making the connections to other issues, from wealth and income inequality to the damage wrought to the environment by an economy dependent on endless competition and endless material growth.

Finally, there is the resurgence in many places, including the nuclear-armed countries, of authoritarian nationalism as a political force.

The rise of authoritarian nationalisms typically brings with it increased militarism and efforts to direct attention away from domestic causes of popular discontent by blaming foreign enemies and whipping up war scares.

But the nationalist movements of this period pose some particular conundrums for peace movements.

The grievances and passions powering many of these movements arise from opposition to the same global economic and political order whose growing strains and antagonisms are contributing to the rising risk of great power war.

They are strongest in regions and populations that have seen their standards of living decline and their ways of life disappear under neoliberal globalization.

Organizations working for disarmament and the fragmentary remainders of past peace movements, in contrast, are disproportionately concentrated in metropolitan areas that have benefited from the current order of things.

As was the case during the last great wave of disarmament movements during the 1980’s, the challenge will be to build a new internationalism, not aligned with the policies or ideologies of any state.

And that challenge will be even greater today, in a far more multipolar world and could generate a number of overlapping confrontations among nuclear-armed nations.

Arielle spoke on current opportunities that could be used to further develop our aim to reach a nuclear-free world. She started her presentation by putting into context the nuclear weapons debate. This included the constant failure of the NPT, in particular the 2015 Review Conference; and the lack of implementation of commitments by the P5 in the 2010 Action Plan and the 2000 13 points. The nuclear-armed countries have not reduced their reliance on such weapons as they had committed to, and are now also pouring millions of dollars into the modernisation of their arsenals. She also noted the current tensions surrounding DPRK's nuclear tests, President Trump not being an advocate of a nuclear-free world and the ongoing arms race.

New hope has emerged with the commencement of negotiations on a legal instrument to prohibit nuclear weapons, with over 130 countries participating along with 220 civil society organisations. The ongoing negotiations have given a leap of hope to a desperate scenario, as the goal of the elimination of nuclear weapons is the clear aim of such new legal instrument which aims to outlaw the development, acquisition, stockpiling, testing, production and financing of nuclear weapons.

Such prohibitions and obligations would clearly stigmatise nuclear weapons as well as nuclear deterrence doctrines, which are no longer legally, politically and socially sustainable. Supporters of the Ban Treaty have also articulated that this treaty is not an end in itself, but a tool to advance peace, justice and the prevention of humanitarian and environmental harm. It is a disarmament treaty – an instrument that should be crafted with the objective of being a useful mechanism to help achieve and maintain a nuclear weapon free world.

Arielle also called attention to the Women's March to Ban the Bomb planned for June 17 in New York City, and said that she would like to see it become a global movement.

VI. Interventions following up obstacles and opportunities

Mounir Zahran took the floor and commented on the voting pattern of the UNGA resolution to commence negotiations to establish a treaty to prohibit nuclear weapons (Resolution L.41). He declared as obstacles the delegations that had voted no, and the NATO nuclear sharing relation as well as the continuing cooperation between nuclear-weapon States, and denounced those nuclear States that had not acceded to the NPT as non-Nuclear weapon states. Regarding the NPT review process, he suggested that the conference should revisit its rules of procedure to allow taking decisions by two third majority in case it fails to reach consensus, and also called on States parties to allow a greater role for NGOs in the review process by allowing NGOs to make interventions in the review of all NPT articles and decisions of the previous review conferences.

John Hallam took the floor and reminisced that in 1983 there was widespread consciousness that the world could end due to nuclear miscalculation, intentional or unintentional nuclear weapons use. He also recalled the massive demonstrations that took place then around the world. However, he observed that unfortunately such consciousness has evaporated. The main symptom is the low level of social mobilisation even though the danger of catastrophic use of nuclear weapons is as great as it has ever been. Finally, he asked if we can use this reality to mobilise public opinion for risk reduction measures in the short term, and bridge this to the long-term goal of total elimination of nuclear weapons.

Michael Pulham spoke about opportunities and challenges that Brexit will bring to Europe in terms of an EU member country leaving the union and "loss" of a nuclear-weapon State in European nuclear sharing. He highlighted the challenges of authoritarian nationalism, Islamophobia, xenophobia and the refugee crisis. On the positive side, he has been invited several times to speak on the "Voice of Islam" (a radio station in the UK run by the Ahhmadyha Muslims). Michael & Patricia Pulham were part of an Interfaith Group that met with the Imams

who will/have met with Pope Francis. This group sent a congratulatory letter to Pope Francis on his statements on Peace.

Alyn Ware spoke on the opportunities provided by the Ban Treaty momentum, but then queried whether the ban treaty addressed any of the issues raised by Andy. Alyn was not convinced that, in light of the political dynamics outlined by Andy, a simple ban by non-nuclear States would have much, if any, impact on the militaristic policies of the nuclear armed States. However, he noted that one provision, if it is included, could indeed have a direct impact on the nuclear arms race – and particularly the modernisation of nuclear weapons, and that would be a prohibition on financing of nuclear weapons. He noted another very important opportunity that directly addresses the policies of the nuclear-armed States, and that is the 2018 UN High Level Conference (UNHLC) on Nuclear Disarmament. He briefly highlighted how civil society cooperation had triggered great results in previous UNHLCs on topics such as climate change and refugees, and that similar cooperation is required to ensure success of the 2018 UNHLC. He also noted the opportunity provided by the enhanced public attention to the UN Secretary General, as indicated in the first ever public and transparent election of the UNSG.

Joseph Gerson began by describing the dangerous determination of the current US administration to leave “all options on the table”. He noted the urgency of nuclear threats including rising tensions between the US/NATO and Russia and the US and China over territorial disputes in the South China Sea. Arms races using new technologies, competition for natural resources, complex alliance structures and wild card actors add to growing nuclear dangers. Addressing these formidable challenges requires prioritizing the value of human life.

Joseph also offered hope by noting that we are in a fluid moment and that positive surprises are possible. Noting that nuclear weapons reflect a social structure, with growing resistance to nuclear apartheid, he drew parallels between the Ban Treaty process and the push to end colonial movements in the last century. The Ban Treaty process reflects a new coalition between governments and NGOs, reinvigorated diplomacy, and new momentum in the UN, which offers an opportunity to normalize talking about nuclear disarmament. But, he posited a question about what kinds of risks the countries supporting the Ban Treaty are willing to take to resist pressure from the nuclear-armed states.

He encouraged Abolition 2000 to work with the broadest range of organizations and networks, and to establish relationships based on mutual support. We need to link security with development, recognizing that multi issue work requires humility. We need a slogan to bridge Ban Treaty forces with a broad range of social forces in the US.

Tony Robinson spoke about the need for a convergence of movements working in different fields and the possibility of taking advantage of the current global uncertainty for the benefit of all. He called on the group to mutually support such movements, and consider the benefits that this outreach work could trigger.

Reiner Braun identified the Ban Treaty as a sign of hope that emerged from the accuracy of discussion, openness and the new role civil society had been playing. The Ban Treaty will create new norms and is the start of a new coalition between governments and NGOs. He hopes that this will converge with the next steps toward the total abolition of nuclear weapons. The Ban Treaty is the starting point, but it is crucial to reach for new and higher levels of achievement. He did not have expectations for the 2018 UNHLC saying it is merely an idea at this point, and that previous UNHLCs, especially on climate change, were farces.

Caroline Gilbert reported on a survey commissioned by Abolition 2000 UK on the topic of nuclear disarmament. The survey found that 75% of the British public is in favour of nuclear disarmament, however, since most are not politically active this gets lost in elections, and candidates who reflect this opinion do not reach office. Carolyn also mentioned the budget to upgrade the UK Trident and suggested that a campaign could be created for individuals to declare that they don't want any of their taxes spent on nuclear weapons.

Susi Snyder spoke on the importance of being active and using every opportunity to push for changes. She illustrated this when talking about the humanitarian initiative partnership between NGOs, IGOs and governments. She reflected that the [Don't Bank on the Bomb](#) project has put forward extensive working papers on how prohibiting assistance with making, having, getting or using nuclear weapons should be understood to also prohibit investment in private companies engaged in those activities. She proposed that the meeting could support the Women's March to Ban the Bomb happening in July in NY (this proposal would be discussed in greater detail later in the meeting). She also suggested that the group discuss the upcoming NATO summit and how to demand change from the Warsaw Communiqué, pushing NATO to look at their security policy.

Arielle Denis spoke about the collaboration between different networks and how the people who are outside of the movement lower the hopes of the movement itself. She suggested that recent UNIDIR research findings regarding elevated nuclear risks should be broadly circulated, especially in the nuclear-armed states, and posted on the Abolition 2000 website as a way of trying to convince those outside the movement to join us. She noted that complementary actions to the work of the Ban Treaty on delegitimising and stigmatising nuclear weapons are much needed.

Henrik Hvaal noted that the step-by-step approach hasn't been working and that there's a need to rethink national security. We need to reinvigorate diplomacy and normalize talking about nuclear disarmament. He presented the SCRAP (Strategic Concept for Removal of Arms and Proliferation) project, which aims to achieve general and complete disarmament (GCD), part of the NPT Article VI obligation. SCRAP examines what elements of GCD are already in place, what gaps there are and how best to fill them. He noted that this campaign is complementary to, and mutually reinforcing of, nuclear disarmament campaigns.

Peter Weish noted that the media is constantly trying to divide people on relevant issues. He suggested that we characterize peace and disarmament as an issue that unites all humanity and is relevant to all. He added that our disagreements are highlighted by the media, which can lead to some people not supporting our movement more strongly. We must put forward our common good.

Jackie Cabasso talked about the continuity of Cold War era policies up to the present day. The fact that every US president, Republican or Democrat, has reaffirmed the threatened use of nuclear weapons as the "cornerstone" of US national security policy is an illustration of this, and the power of the military industrial complex is reinforced by this interplay. She also described how nuclear disarmament negotiations have been subverted by nuclear-armed States in order to perpetuate the ongoing arms race. We nuclear abolitionists need to learn the lessons of the past in order to avoid their repetition.

Lisa Clark noted that the first day of the Ban Treaty negotiations, where the work of civil society was commended, reflected the success of the UN democratisation campaigns. She pointed out the need to change the five power veto system in the UN Security Council and the importance of continuing the UN democratisation campaign. Lisa also briefly reported on current nuclear disarmament campaigns in Italy.

Irene Cesati warned that if we talk only in terms of crisis it leads to fear. There is a lack of knowledge about nuclear weapons among young people. They have no idea about disarmament, no idea about what comprises real security and the sustainable development goals. We need to link security with development.

VII. Reports from Abolition 2000 projects

i) Peace and Planet

Joseph Gerson circulated a summary report which describes the main activities of Peace & Planet in the past year as well upcoming plans. The report can be found in **annex #2**

ii) Missile ban working group

Claus Montonen presented a written report sent by Dave Webb, who was not able to attend the AGM. The Moving Beyond Missile Defence and Space Weapons (MBMDS) report can be found in **annex #3**.

iii) Basel Peace office networking and management project

Caroline Leroy presented the report on the project “Maintaining and Servicing the Network of Abolition 2000”, which was scheduled to run from last July until the following AGM or until a new secretariat was established if that had not taken place by the AGM. She explained that the project was based on the questionnaire that had been sent to members and their user experience. The project focused mainly on communication to members (including campaigns), website upgrading and maintenance, and updating the extensive individual member’s list as well as putting in place a member organisation database. She noted that the project didn’t involve a lot of social media work, as the Coordinating Committee is still to adopt guidelines for this. However, the website has been used to share articles on the main developments in the field of nuclear abolition. The report can be found in **annex #4**.

VIII. Proposals

i) 2018 UN High Level Conference (Alyn Ware)

On behalf of UNFOLD ZERO, Alyn Ware proposed that Abolition 2000 release a global call in support of the 2018 UNHLC on Nuclear Disarmament. He circulated a draft statement to the group incorporating a number of proposed amendments to the text (**annex #5**).

Reiner Braun proposed an alternative draft Abolition 2000 call, focusing primarily on civil society action and support for the Ban treaty. A decision on the two proposals was held over until the afternoon, following the working group reports (see below).

ii) Women’s March to Ban the Bomb (Susi Snyder)

Susi Snyder proposed that the 2017 AGM of Abolition 2000 agree to send a message of support to the Women’s March to Ban the Bomb – recognising the importance of intersectionality in addressing key issues – and will encourage support from within our own organisations.

www.womenbanthebomb.org

iii) Support for nuclear risk reduction measures (John Hallam)

John Hallam proposed that the AGM issue the following statement:

Attendees at the 2017 AGM of the Abolition 2000 note with alarm the deteriorating situation with respect to risks of nuclear war and urge governments to take risk reduction measures as a matter of existential priority, including de-alerting, improved communication and the abolition of nuclear

weapons; as well as promoting measures in the UNGA, the European Parliament, national parliaments and elsewhere to encourage risk reduction.

IX. Reports from affiliated networks & working groups

i) Convention Step One: De-Alerting (John Hallam)

The risks of a nuclear weapons use by accident, miscalculation or intent have reached new levels recently. For this reason, it is urgent that nuclear-armed states take their nuclear weapons off high alert, making the world safer as well as dramatically reducing the utility of the weapons. In the past months this initiative has been buzzing more than ever before, as we are much closer to the danger of accidental use, with apocalyptic results. It is high time that nuclear-armed governments make pledges of no-first-use, reducing the importance of nuclear weapons in their military postures, as well as undertaking diplomatic approaches to de-escalate tensions between nuclear weapon states. The Bulletin of Atomic Scientists has moved the Doomsday Clock to 2.5 minutes to midnight, taking into account the possibility of cyber-attacks on command and control. Efforts by Global Zero, the Union of Concerned Scientists, and PNND were praised.

<http://www.abolition2000.org/en/about/working-groups/convention-step-one-de-alerting-working-group/>

ii) Don't Bank on the Bomb (Susi Snyder)

"Don't Bank on the Bomb" is an annual report which has devoted significant effort to research the "good, the bad and the ugly" banks which invest in companies that are involved in nuclear weapons production. According to the 2016 report, there are 54 institutions that have limited or completely prohibited any relationship with such companies. However, 395 institutions still do business with nuclear weapons makers. The report considers that financing is included under assistance with the production of nuclear weapons. <http://www.dontbankonthebomb.com/>

iii) Economic dimensions, move the nuclear weapons money, GDAMS (Alyn Ware)

This group was set up at the 2011 AGM. It has covered a range of issues and initiatives including the Global Campaign on Military Spending (GDAMs), nuclear divestment, direct action on nuclear weapons budgets, move the nuclear weapons money (to sustainable development, etc.) and supporting Don't Bank on the Bomb. In recent months the issue of the cost of nuclear weapons has become more salient in nuclear disarmament debates. This is at least in part due to the intensity of wider debates on the economic crisis, government austerity cuts and in general a sharper scrutiny of public budgets. Group members have highlighted the Kazakhstan proposal to shift 1% of military spending to fund the SDGs. And they been campaigning to get a prohibition of nuclear weapons financing into the Ban treaty currently being negotiated.

<http://www.abolition2000.org/en/about/working-groups/economic-dimensions-of-nuclearism-working-group/> & <http://demilitarize.org/> &

https://www.worldfuturecouncil.org/file/2016/10/IBP_PNND_WFC_2016_Move-the-nuclear-weapons-money.pdf

iv) Global Network Weapons & Nuclear Power in Space

A written report was received from Dave Webb, and can be found in **annex #6**.

v) ICAN (Susi Snyder)

The organisation is celebrating its 10-year anniversary this week. Susi reported on the successful first session of negotiations on the Ban Treaty at the United Nations in NY, where over 130 governments participated. She reported that the core prohibitions in the treaty have broad

agreement from delegations. While there are still some points under discussion, the treaty is most likely to be completed by July 7. <http://www.icanw.org/>

vi) ICAN Nuke U (Jackie Cabasso on behalf of Sharon Dolev)

This Abolition 2000 working group was established at the last AGM in Berlin, for those NGOs who work in nuclear-armed or nuclear-reliant states. It was initially convened by Sharon Dolev and Rebecca Sharkey. With the new momentum of the Ban Treaty, this group will serve as a forum for discussion on different kinds of thinking to stimulate new solutions on nuclear disarmament. The group had an initial conference call, but Rebecca Sharkey is no longer able to co-convene. The group is currently looking for a new co-convenor as well as people to join

vii) Interfaith Networking (Caroline Gilbert)

Christian CND held an Interfaith Conference in Oxford. Workshops on peace issues have been taken to schools in London. They are currently working on remembering the victims affected by nuclear weapons and nuclear weapons tests. During the NPT Prep Com 2017 cycle they are holding inter-faith prayers outside the UN. There has also been a very good response to A Nuclear-Weapon-Free World; Our Common Good: the joint statement endorsed by religious leaders, parliamentarians and mayors around the world. <http://www.abolition2000.org/en/interfaith-working-group/>

viii) International Law and Nuclear Weapons & Nuclear Zero (Daniel Rietiker)

This group works to raise the profile of International Humanitarian Law (IHL), laws of peace and security, environmental law, human rights law, rights of future generations and other sources of law applicable to nuclear weapons. Last summer they held an International People's Tribunal in Sydney. They are also working on a proposed amendment to the Rome Statue of the International Criminal Court (ICC) to include the use of nuclear weapons as a crime against humanity and future generations. Finally, they are going to organize a conference in Basel Switzerland in September 2017 on the topic of human rights, future generations and the rights of victims.

Members of the International Association of Lawyers Against Nuclear Arms (IALANA) worked on the Marshall Islands cases in the International Court of Justice, and commemorated the 20th anniversary of the ICJ advisory opinion.

<http://www.abolition2000.org/en/about/working-groups/international-humanitarian-law-working-group/>

ix) Mayors for Peace (Jackie Cabasso)

Jackie spoke in her capacity of North America Coordinator for Mayors for Peace. She reported that they have reached 7,295 member cities in 162 different countries. By comparison, there were only about 500 members in 2013 when Mayors for Peace launched its 2020 Vision Emergency Campaign to Eliminate Nuclear Weapons. She also explained that there has been some restructuring and decentralisation both nationally and regionally in order to give members more autonomy and foster cross-issue work. At the international level, Mayors for Peace has been strongly supportive of the Ban Treaty negotiations as well as continuing to call for a Nuclear Weapons Convention. In the US, Mayors for Peace members have worked with the US Conference of Mayors, the non-partisan national association of America's big cities, to adopt resolutions calling on the US to pursue diplomacy with other nuclear-armed countries, to support the Ban Treaty negotiations, and to drastically reduce nuclear weapons and military spending and redirect those funds to meet the needs of cities and protect the environment.

<http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/>

x) No to NATO/Nukes out of Europe (Kristine Karch)

The group has focused, among other issues, on the fight against NATO's imposition of a percentage of member states' GDP to be used for military expenditure, which drives the militarisation of societies. They are having ongoing discussions on the planned modernisation of nuclear weapons as well as actions for the upcoming NATO meeting in Brussels this year.

<http://www.no-to-nato.org/en/>

xi) Nuclear Weapons Convention (Jackie Cabasso)

This goes back to the first call of Abolition 2000 on governments: to initiate immediately and conclude negotiations on a Nuclear Weapons Convention. However, as this requires the participation of nuclear-armed states, it has been difficult to make progress. In its 1996 advisory opinion, the ICJ unanimously found that there is an obligation by all states to conclude negotiations leading to nuclear disarmament in all its aspects. Every year since 1996, the UN General Assembly has adopted resolutions calling for such negotiations. Support for negotiations on a NWC has come from a variety of sources including Mayors for Peace, the US Conference of Mayors, last year's OEWG and the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly. It could be a topic for the 2018 UNHLC to take up.

xii) Nuclear-weapon-free Zones (Alyn Ware)

On a positive note, there has been promotion for full ratification and support of existing NWFZs as well as the promotion of cooperative security where there have been nuclear weapons activities. NWFZs now cover virtually all the southern hemisphere and there have been new proposals for NWFZs, in Asia and more recently Europe through a study commissioned by the governments of Austria and Switzerland. There is also recognition that the Middle East NWFZ is vital for the NPT. Recent dialogues with parliamentary delegations from DPRK have been productive and this delegation has showed interest in the issue. The group is also engaged in the proposal for a European NWFZ.

xiii) Parliamentary outreach: PNND (Julia Berghofer)

There have been consultations on ongoing UN initiatives and possible parliamentary actions with NGOs and parliaments. Consultations were done in partnership with Global Zero. They took place from January to March in Vienna, Geneva, Washington, NYC, London and Berlin. They focused on informing people and discussing with them the Ban Treaty negotiations, the UNHLC in 2018 and the upcoming Review Cycle of the NPT.

The OSCE Tbilisi Declaration, passed in July 2016, recognised the deep tensions between the Russian Federation and NATO, and called on all OSCE member States who have nuclear weapons or are under extended nuclear deterrence to move towards de-alerting and no-first-use policies (54 countries supported the Declaration). A Parliamentary Action Plan for a Nuclear-Weapon-Free World is being developed in partnership with the Inter Parliamentary Union (IPU). This initiative builds upon a nuclear disarmament resolution that was adopted at the 2014 IPU Parliamentary Assembly. PNND is engaged in its discussion leading to the final document.

xiv) UNFOLD ZERO (Caroline Leroy)

Last summer UNFOLD ZERO successfully carried out a campaign entitled 'Chain Reaction' – a series of over 100 events on nuclear abolition. In September a "Chain Reaction" video was presented at the UN in Geneva to commemorate the International Day for Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons. Early in 2017, UNFOLD ZERO held a series of consultations in NY, Washington D.C., Vienna, Berlin and Geneva on the ongoing Ban Treaty Negotiations as well as on the UNHLC on

Nuclear Disarmament taking place in 2018. UNFOLD ZERO is also considering how best to commemorate this year's International Day for Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons.

xv) Youth and disarmament (Lucas Wirl)

During last year's IPB Congress 80 participants took part in the Youth Conference. They passed a youth declaration and have joined the IPB youth network which is currently organising a world congress for youth to take place in 2018, likely in September.

xvi) Report on Germany (Reiner Braun)

100 days of continuous action will be taking place in Büchel, where NATO nuclear weapons are hosted in Germany. Talks are underway on modernisation and what this could trigger in NATO countries hosting nuclear weapons. For example, what financial burden will be placed on the host countries if the US passes modernization costs on, as it has indicated it will? The debate on the B61-12 tactical weapons has been heated, as the modernized version of the B61 will have increased power and precision guidance, increasing tension with Russia. Successful Ban Treaty negotiations could help bring clarity to this debate.

xvii) Women's March to Ban the Bomb (Jackie Cabasso)

Donald Trump's Presidency has triggered a number of protest marches, in particular, the huge women's marches in January. Reaching Critical Will proposed a Women's March to Ban the Bomb on June 17 in New York City, to build on this momentum of women's activism in the US. This June also will mark the 35th anniversary of the 1982 demonstration in New York City's Central Park at the end of the UN special session on disarmament, which brought a million people into the streets. Abolition 2000 is a sponsor of the Women's March to Ban the Bomb, having contributed USD 1,500 to help the march to get more supporters and bring more attention in the media.

<https://www.womenbanthebomb.org/>

xviii) Indigenous people's working group (Jackie Cabasso)

Abolition 2000 has historically worked with and supported indigenous people who have borne the brunt of health and environmental impacts of the nuclear chain, from uranium mining to nuclear testing. We need to maintain a focus on these critical issues.

<http://www.abolition2000.org/en/about/working-groups/indigenous-peoples-working-group/>

X. Report back on proposals/decisions

- Those living in nuclear-armed and nuclear dependant states are encouraged to join the ICAN Nuke U working group.
- Support and gratitude was expressed to Tony Robinson for his offer to help translate the Abolition 2000 website into other languages.
- A decision was also taken to support the Women's March, as proposed by Susi Snyder.
- John Hallam's proposed statement on de-alerting was accepted.
- It was decided to establish a working group on the 2018 UN High Level Conference on Nuclear Disarmament in order to build support and cooperation from civil society, parliamentarians and like-minded governments to ensure a successful conference. The draft statement supporting the UNHLC was referred to this group for further consideration (*see annex #5*).

XI. Abolition 2000 Finances and Fundraising

Jackie Cabasso reported on the financial situation of the network. Her organization, Western States Legal Foundation, is the fiscal sponsor for Abolition 2000. For the past three years, Abolition

2000 has received generous annual grants of USD 10,000 from the Craigslist Charitable Fund. Abolition 2000 had USD 19,500 at the beginning of 2017. Since then, as approved by the Coordinating Committee, we have spent USD 1,500 supporting the Women's March, USD 1,000 on the AGM and USD 1,000 to Peace & Planet for their conference this summer. The Coordinating Committee will be considering additional requests for funding, including from the Missile Defence Working Group and for the new Secretariat. Jackie reminded the AGM that the primary purpose of funding that comes into the network is for networking tasks to manage Abolition 2000, such as for the Secretariat. We are not a grant-making organisation.

XII. Secretariat

Steve Staples reported that for the last couple of years Abolition 2000 has not had a Secretariat. Management functions have been divided between Western States Legal Foundation (fiscal sponsor), Nuclear Age Peace Foundation (database management) and more recently the Basel Peace Office (network maintenance and service). Abolition 2000 is now seeking a new Secretariat and welcomes proposals from member organisations to host it. There were two proposals presented: one from the Basel Peace Office and another from the International Peace Bureau (IPB). The Coordinating Committee has a mandate to decide, following adequate consultation with the network.

Arielle Denis spoke on behalf of IPB. She noted that an international conference hosted by the organization in Berlin in October 2016 drew 1,000 participants. The IPB Board has decided that the organization should engage more intensely in nuclear weapons disarmament work. Since IPB is a founding member of Abolition 2000, hosting the Abolition 2000 Secretariat would be a great fit. IPB has the resources and means to undertake such responsibilities. They are not sure yet where the Secretariat would be based as IPB now has offices in three cities, Berlin, Geneva and Barcelona.

Alyn Ware spoke on behalf of the Basel Peace Office (BPO). He said that the BPO has great experience working closely with the Coordinating Committee and with the Oversight Committee (Jackie Cabasso, Rick Wayman and Andreas Nidecker) that was established to oversee implementation of the project to maintain and service the network.

Alyn reported that BPO has had a positive experience building the new website, updating the database (which was very out-of-date) and improving communications systems. This work involved contacting all Abolition 2000 members. It has also led to working groups being revived and new members joining Abolition 2000. Hosting the Secretariat would build upon these relationships to ensure a re-energised and stronger network. BPO would like to be able to dedicate more time into this, as they see the working groups as a backbone of Abolition 2000 actions. Working groups are of vital importance, and having a great number of people debating and producing materials on such a variety of topics can only help foster positive future endeavours for the network. Alyn also explained briefly the background of the BPO, and the fact that it has a strong academic and interfaith relationships.

Tony Robinson, on behalf of Pressenza, affirmed his commitment to working on new language versions of the website, and BPO would like to continue to work on the publication of the Spanish version of the website.

Finally, BPO has also put a great amount of time into updating both the individual members' database and the member organisations database. BPO has included in its proposal plans to do a follow-up in the coming year in order to avoid the contact details becoming outdated.

i) Secretariat update

On its 12 July conference call, the Abolition 2000 Coordinating Committee approved transition of the Abolition 2000 Secretariat to IPB. They also expressed appreciation to Alyn Ware and the Basel Peace Office for the excellent work they have done to ensure that Abolition 2000 data and materials are in good shape for the turnover to the new Secretariat. IPB officially began its service as Secretariat on 1 October, with a designated staff person, Malte Albrecht, working in IPB's Berlin office.

XIII. Questions/clarifications on Secretariat proposals

Jackie Cabasso noted the unprecedented expression of interest from the two organisations putting forward proposals to host the Abolition 2000 secretariat. She invited both organisations to present more details.

Alyn Ware noted that Caroline Leroy, the staff person who was managing the servicing of the network, is leaving the organisation at the end of the month but would be able to help the cross-over of information to another Basel Peace Office staff person who would be carrying on the tasks related to the Secretariat.

Reiner Braun informed the group that IPB can offer a part-time person working together with International Association of Lawyers Against Nuclear Arms (IALANA) and International Network of Engineers and Scientists (INES) to carry on the main tasks related to hosting the Secretariat. This person would have support from others in the office.

Joseph Gerson expressed concern about how the Coordinating Committee would make such decision, as well as how exactly the hand-over of information from the BPO to IPB would be done. He supported the idea of a well-established organisation hosting the Secretariat.

XIV. Affirmation of the Global Council and Coordinating Committee for 2017-2018

Basel Peace Office circulated a list with the names of those in both the GC and CC. The list noted a) current members who wish to remain, b) current members who have passed away, retired or resigned, c) current members who did not reply to the Basel Peace Office email regarding Council Membership, and d) nominations for new members.

Current members of the Coordinating Committee were affirmed by the meeting: Rick Wayman, Steven Staples, Susi Snyder, Alice Slater, Jackie Cabasso, Alyn Ware, Sharon Dolev and Dave Webb. Additional people were nominated to the Coordinating Committee: Montserrat Prieto, Tony Robinson, Arielle Denis and Daisuke Yamagushi, and the Global Council: Mounir Zahran (Alyn Ware), Tarja Cronberg (Jackie Cabasso) and Lucas Whirl (Reiner Braun). All were affirmed by the meeting.

It was proposed, and agreed, that the Council Members from 2016-2017 who did not reply to the Basel Peace Office email should be sent a follow-up email asking again if they wish to stay on the Council and giving them 3 months to reply. Basel Peace Office offered to send the message. This decision was affirmed by the meeting along with the amended list.

XV. Evaluation and feedback

The feeling that this had been the best Abolition 2000 AGM in years was expressed by many of those present. The facilitators were able to get through a vast amount of information, and the Obstacles and Opportunities presenters sparked a stimulating conversation, with more people taking the floor with proactive comments and suggestions.

Susi Snyder encouraged people to give feedback to the CC on the meeting, so that we can guarantee that the next AGM is as successful as this one.

Pete Hämerles invited participants to join the Vienna NGO Committee on Disarmament at 6pm to exchange ideas more specifically on the NPT Prep Com.

EUR 210 was collected from the meeting participants.

Jackie Cabasso, the last person to take the floor, noted the new energy in the working groups and the terrific spirit in the room.