



Basel Peace Office Annual Meeting - 2019

Tuesday November 19

Draft minutes

1. **Participants:**

Andi Nidecker (chair of the meeting), Lukas Ott, Philip Huebner, Isabel Prinzing, Marianne Baitsch, Daniel Rietiker, Alyn Ware, Marzhan Nurzhan (by video conference) and Alexandra Wandel (by video conference).

2. **Apologies:**

Tarja Cronberg, Laurent Goetschel, Gunter Baitsch, Francine John-Calame, Rudolf Rechsteiner, Daniela Schlettwein-Gsell and Jonathan Granoff (who tried to join by video conference).

3. **Opening:**

Meeting was opened at 16:05 with a round of introductions as there were some new people.

4. **Minutes of the 2018 Annual Meeting.**

Alyn presented the minutes.

The minutes of the 2018 Annual Meeting were adopted (with a small correction).

Report of the President.

Andi presented the President's Report. He highlighted the BPO activities and events associated with the Basel Peace Forum 2019 and the International conference on fossil fuel and nuclear weapons divestment that BPO organised in April. Following presentation of his report there was some discussion on the nuclear weapons divestment campaign – including at Swiss universities. It was suggested that the University of Basel be contacted to check whether they are investing in nuclear weapons.

The report of the President was adopted (with a small correction) and the President was give a vote of thanks with acclamation, for his work for BPO.

5. **Report of the Director.**

Alyn presented the Director's Report. He noted the added value that the Basel Peace Office, as a coalition of range key organisations, brings to the peace and disarmament sector by bringing together key constituencies. These include cities, parliamentarians, lawyers, health professionals, academics, civil society activists and

youth from peace, disarmament, climate action, development and human rights communities. Alyn highlighted that BPO brings representatives of these constituencies to Basel for events. But just as important is BPO going to where these constituents meet – such as UN events in Geneva and New York, inter-parliamentary assemblies (especially of the Inter-Parliamentary Union and Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe) and other international events.

Alyn then reported on the key programs for 2019 including Abolition 2000, Move the Nuclear Weapons Money, Climate/Nuclear Nexus, Engaging Parliamentarians, Mayors for Peace, UNFOLD ZERO (United Nations initiatives for nuclear disarmament) and Nuclear Weapons and Law.

There was more discussion on the progress on the nuclear weapons divestment campaign. At federal level the number of countries divesting has not increased, but PNND members have drafted motions and legislation for a few parliaments on this. At city level, there has been an increase in policies adopted, especially in Germany, USA and Scotland. There has also been an increase in the number of pension funds adopting such policies, especially in Switzerland where they are also divesting from fossil fuels and nuclear energy. Andi reported on the difficulties in moving his bank to divest even with considerable lobbying of them.

There was also some discussion on the two main money counting actions, the first at the Basel Peace Forum counting €27 billion (the amount of weapons Europe exports), and the second in New York counting \$540 billion – the nuclear weapons budget for the next five years. It was acknowledged that these were both very successful actions.

The report of the Director was adopted and the Director thanked for his extensive and effective work for BPO.

6. Financial Report.

Alyn presented the financial report. He highlighted the main sources of funding as NZ Quakers (for general program work), Grassroots Germany (for Move the Nuclear Weapons Money campaign, World Future Council (for Count the Nuclear Weapons Money action) and Basel Stadt Kanton (for Basel events and Mayors for Peace program). Alyn noted that the 'surplus' was not an excess of income over expenses, but is money that has already been received for our program work in 2020.

The financial report was adopted.

Lukas proposed that the BPO financial year be from January 1 – December 31. Alyn noted that this would be feasible if the AGMs were held in December each year rather than November. This would enable financial reports and budgets to be adopted at the AGMs.

It was agreed that the BPO financial year shall be January 1 – December 31 and that AGMs be held in December.

7. Amendment of the Statutes

Alyn proposed an amendment to the Statutes to increase the number of Board members allowed to nine.

The amendment was adopted.

8. Election of officers

The following were elected unanimously:

President: Andreas Nidecker

Members of the Board

- Andreas Nidecker - *IPPNW/PSR Switzerland*
- Laurent Goetschel - *Swisspeace*
- Daniel Rietiker – *Association of Swiss Lawyers for Nuclear Disarmament*
- Lukas Ott – *Basel-Stadt Kanton, Department of the President*
- Philip Huebner - *Basel-Stadt Kanton, Health Department*
- Alexandra Wandel - *World Future Council*
- Jonathan Granoff - *Global Security Institute*
- Tarja Cronberg - *Middle Powers Initiative*
- Margareta Kiener Nellen – *Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-proliferation and Disarmament* (pending acceptance)
- Alyn Ware (ex officio)

Executive Committee

- Andreas Nidecker
- Laurent Goetschel
- Daniel Rietiker
- Lukas Ott

Advisory Members

- Marianne Baitsch
- Gunter Baitsch
- Claudio Knusli
- Francine John-Calame
- Rudolf Rechsteiner
- Daniela Schlettwein-Gsell

9. Work program for 2020

Alyn presented the draft work program for 2020.

There was discussion on some of the program elements, in particular the January 9 roundtable meeting of legislators and youth leaders in climate, peace and nuclear disarmament. Suggestions were made for invitees, such as from Fridays for Future Switzerland and the Swiss Youth Parliament. There was also planning of the

invitation letter from Basel-Stadt Kanton and Basel Peace Office, as well as the dinner and reception to be provided by Basel-Stadt Kanton. And there was discussion of youth actions and projects to highlight and take forward from the meeting. This included a proposal for a prize to be awarded by BPO and Basel-Stadt Kanton for an innovative and exciting youth project. It was agreed that the key youth involved in the program be consulted on this.

There was also discussion on the activities of Mayors for Peace and the role of Basel-Stadt Kanton. Alyn proposed that Basel-Stadt Kanton request to be an Executive City, with the possibility that this could be agreed by Mayors for Peace by the January 9 roundtable meeting. The President of Mayors for Peace Europe section will be participating at this event.

It was decided that Alyn prepare a memo for Lukas on the proposal and requirements of Basel-Stadt being a Mayors for Peace Executive City.

There was also discussion on a proposal not in the draft work program: for a ZERO Project exhibition at Art Basel. It was agreed that the ZERO Project would need to contact Art Basel directly on this.

The work program was adopted

10. Approval of the 2020 budget

Alyn presented the 2020 draft budget. He noted that the current budget has a deficit, but that this was expected to be met (and hopefully surpassed) by fundraising work by the two people who will be contracted to do part-time fundraising and organisational development (one in USA and one in Europe) if we receive the Grassroots Foundation grant for this purpose.

The budget for 2020 was adopted.

11. The meeting was closed at 17:40