**Basel Peace Office Annual Meeting - 2016**

Monday November 14

16:00 (Central European Time)

Basel Peace Office, Petersgraben 27

Participation by person or by skype

**Draft Minutes**

1. **Present**: Andreas Nidecker, Alyn Ware, Laurent Goetschel (by Skype), Tarja Cronberg (by Skype)
2. **Apologies**: Rob van Riet, Markus Ritter, Dr Schlettwein-Gsell
3. **Minutes of the 2015 Annual Meeting:** The minutes were approved
4. **Report of the President**: The report (attached) was presented and approved. Laurent enquired why the Basel Peace Office is located in Basel and not in Geneva, since not many activities happen here and the Director is mostly abroad. The Director explained the benefits to why the office to be located here: good track record of activities and cooperation with partner organisations. One of the partners, the Basel Canton, gives us support which is valuable when we look in organising events here. We also have a full-time staff based in Basel, the Program Director, and we’re also close to Geneva. The President explained that there is a new Mayor of Peace for Basel, and we could increase support from her. Relationship with IPPNW Switzerland (Andi President). Students doing the paper on role of NGOs from the Seminar for Sociology… The president asked Laurent not to question the location as we still have the possibility of having a free office at the University and make new contact with the new cantonal president, and also assured Laurent that we take his remarks seriously.
5. **Report of the Director:** The report (attached) was presented and approved. No questions were asked.
6. **Financial Report**: The report (attached) was presented and approved

Item financial fees: incorrect figure 🡪 9,200 are the director’s fees.

1. **Proposal for Swiss Association of Lawyers for Nuclear Disarmament to join Basel Peace Office**

Newly affiliated by IALANA (key part of MPI, who is already with us), Strasbourg Court of Strasbourg and University of Lausanne. Right to peace cooperation.

Daniel Rietiker would be a board member of the Basel Peace Office. Approved by all.

Amend the statute to bring the Swiss association as member of the BPO.

1. **Election of Officers, Board Members and Advisory Members**. The following were elected:
   1. *President* – Andreas Nidecker
   2. *Executive Committee* – Andreas Nidecker, Laurent Goetschel, Markus Ritter

Reappointment of the Executive Committee approved.

* 1. *Members of the Board* –
     1. Andreas Nidecker (IPPNW Switzerland)
     2. Laurent Goetschel (Swiss Peace)
     3. Markus Ritter (Basel-Stadt Canton)
     4. Open position to fill vacant (University of Basel Sociology Seminary)
     5. Jakob von Uexkull (World Future Council)
     6. Jonathan Granoff (Global Security Institute)
     7. Tarja Cronberg (Middle Powers Initiative)
     8. Daniel Rietiker (Swiss IALANA)
  2. *Advisory Members:* 
     1. Daniela Schlettwein-Gsell
     2. Ueli Madder
     3. Barbara Gysi (PNND Switzerland)
     4. Francine John-Calame (PNND Switzerland)
     5. Gunter Baitsch
     6. Claudia Knusli (IPPNW Switzerland)

Agreed that BPO will invite the people above to either continue or join us as advisory member.

1. **Draft program for 2016-2017**: The draft program was presented. There was discussion on a number of points.
   1. **European Nuclear Weapon Free Zone**. Side event at the IPU in October (ME, Europe and NE NWFZ). Swiss members are very interested on the European NWFZ. Agreed to a conference on this, possibly take place in May/June 2017 in Basel. Conference on the European NWFZ proposal. Concept piece done by PRIF led by Harold Muller. Follow recommendation by PRIF that follow up work is done in this sense.

Tarja encourages the NWFZ but not as in LatAm where all countries joined at once, in Europe would take more work. She is supportive of the conference.

Jonathan agrees with Tarja, and he calls attention to what is going to happen in the next two months in US politics and all the uncertainty around. People will be wondering how they should react, so doing such an event on a response of what we can atecipate is a good idea.

MPI in Kingldale event, sponsored by the Dutch on how to procede

EU non-proliferation consortium. Ban Treaty conference from NPI

New nuclear posture review – voices of allied countries will have an important position. Having an event in Kinglidale would help influence the review.

Ask Margareth to hold a meeting in Bern and attract new Swiss MPs to be interessed in this event.

**The work program for 2017 was adopted**.

1. **2017 budget**:

Draft budget adopted.

Any other business:

Alyn presented the draft budget (attached). Margareth and … are looking into raising funds for the European NWFZ. They are likely to get some funding for that.

Andi asked Laurent if he thinks it’s necessary to write a letter to the Swiss Foreign Ministry on funding for the European NWFZ, which Laurent advised against.

World Economic Forum (Davos) 15-16 January possibility of a side event during that in Basel, in conjunction with the day conference that Swisspeace is organising. To be discussed by Andi and Alyn.

1. **The meeting closed at 5pm**