



Presidents Report

October 2013 – October 2014

This report is a summary of the activities of the Basel Peace office (BPO). For details please refer to the report of the Director, Alyn Ware.

2014 is the year of the Swiss presidency of the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and the Ministerial Meeting will take place in Basel in December 2014. Whereas the OSCE basically is focussed on cooperative security and conventional weapons, NATO in its doctrine still relies on Nuclear weapons. The Swiss president of the OSCE obviously was not intent to focus on the topic of nuclear abolition, as this could have antagonized the 4 nuclear powers within the OSCE (USA, France, GB and Russia). It was therefore decided to schedule a meeting in Basel, focussing –on nuclear weapons issues. The [Basel OSCE Forum](#) organized by the BPO took place on July 4 -5 and brought Parliamentarians, mayors, academics, OSCE officials, disarmament experts and civil society representatives to Basel. The discussions centered on the OSCE and *cooperative security and nuclear disarmament*.

In preparation for the Forum, BPO participated in the [OSCE Parliamentary Assemblies](#) in Istanbul (July 2013) and Montenegro (October 2013). BPO proposed text that was adopted in the Istanbul Declaration (OSCE Parliamentary Assembly final document, July 2013) supporting the new [UN Open Ended Working Group on Taking Forward Multilateral Nuclear Disarmament Negotiations](#).

BPO organised **Framework Forum events** in Geneva [Framework Forum roundtable, Geneva September 8](#) and New York City [Framework Forum event at the United Nations, NY, October 22](#). focussed on *Key proposals and new initiatives for nuclear disarmament*

The director of the BPO was commissioned to produce a [Resource Guide on Nuclear Disarmament for Religious Leaders and Communities](#) which was [released at United Nations](#) and officially [launched at Religions for Peace Assembly in Vienna](#); A Japanese version was launched later and German, Arabic, Spanish and French versions in preparation.

BPO and PNND sent a joint [letter to all national Red Cross Societies](#) in follow-up to the resolution on nuclear disarmament adopted in November 2013 by the Red Cross Council of delegates. The letter explored how to further develop the cooperation between PNND/BPO and the ICRC and IFRC. Representatives of these organisations have been invited to speak at, or participate in, many BPO organised events, including in Basel, Geneva, Prague and Washington.

BPO co-founded [UNFOLD ZERO](#), a new platform to advance UN initiatives for nuclear abolition. [UNFOLD ZERO was launched at the United Nations](#) during the NPT Prep Com and coordinated global activities for the first International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons including events at the UN in Geneva and New York City.

BPO is a member of **Abolition 2000**, the global network to eliminate nuclear weapons. The [Abolition 2000 global call for an end to uranium mining](#) was promoted. Also, Abolition 2000 endorses the Climb Mt Kilimanjaro Project to take place in July 2015.

BPO organised a [commemoration run for the inaugural International Day of Sport for Peace and Development](#). BPO and PNND were active in the [World Bike Ride for Peace](#) and organised a short peace bike ride following the OSCE Forum

BPO organised a **two-day field trip in November** 2013 for the Seminar fur Soziologie graduate program on conflict analysis. This included panels and discussions at the Geneva Centre for Security Policy, ICRC and United Nations.

BPO and Play for Rights organised a [concert on Imfluss Stage to commemorate World Humanitarian Day](#).

BPO and PNND cooperated with ICAN and BHRC on the initiative **Don't bank on the bomb – Swiss War Materials Act**. Swiss National Councillor Barbara Gysi MP and BHRC were invited to present on Swiss War Materials act and nuclear weapons investments at the PNND/IPU/WFC workshop in Geneva. BPO helped lead a [public action on Don't Bank on the Bomb](#) at the IFOR 100th Anniversary in Konstanz.

In the context of the BPO directors **representation of PNND**, further activities included: a successful campaign at the **Inter Parliamentary Union (IPU)** was launched which resulted in the adoption of a [resolution on nuclear disarmament](#). Follow-up **workshops in Geneva in March and October for parliamentarians** were offered and a [PNND Co-President elected to be President of IPU](#). At PNND Assembly in Washington DC an event in the US Senate with bi-partisan participation and the ATOM project exhibition were successful. Furthermore release of a [PNND Statement calling for a Nuclear Security Summit process for nuclear disarmament](#). [PNND Co-President Senator Markey submits SANE Act](#) (Smarter Approach to Nuclear Expenditures). PNND held national parliamentary events and successful conferences and parliamentary debates in the parliaments of the Czech Republic, France, Japan, Norway and Switzerland. Lastly [PNND leaders promote ICAN Parliamentary Appeal for a Nuclear Weapon Ban](#).

Inspite of these numerous activities and contributions, financing the BPO remains a serious problem, in fact the BPO is seriously underfunded. Inspite of this, the director of the BPO, Mr Alyn Ware, for the time being has decided to continue operating from out of Basel. Continued efforts to improve the funding situation must be made.

Basel Nov 12th 2014

Andreas Nidecker,
President BPO