

Minutes of Abolition 2000 Annual General Meeting
Saturday, May 8, 2010
Venue: Judson Memorial Church

Participants

Giorgio	Alba	Italy
Colin	Archer	Switzerland
Elizabeth	Baldwin	USA
Charlene	Barker	USA
Diane	Beeny	USA
Reiner	Braun	Germany
John	Burroughs	USA
Bob	Campbell	USA
Susan	Campbell	USA
Jackie	Cabasso	USA
Raphael	Chegeni	Tanzania
Christian	Ciobanu	USA
Lisa	Clark	Italy
Kate	Dewes	New Zealand
Anabel	Dwyer	USA
Nina	Eisenhardt	Germany
Judith	Evered	USA
George	Farebrother	England
Jonathan	Frerichs	Switzerland
Bruce	Gagnon	USA
Nathalie	Gauchet	France
Ursula	Gelis	Norway
Halie	Gerard	France
Joseph	Gerson	USA
Caroline	Gilbert	UK
Mayra	Gomez	New Zealand
Rob	Green	New Zealand
Cris	Gutierrez	USA
Lauren	Hunter	USA
Meri	Joyce	Japan
Kristine	Karch	Germany
Akira	Kawasaki	Japan
Maria	Kim	USA
Ole	Kopreitan	Norway
Marion	Kuepker	Germany
Margo	La Zaro	USA
Dominique	Lalanne	France
Judith	Le Blanc	USA
Steve	Leeper	Japan
Narae	Lee	USA
Bernadette	Lucet	France
Natalia	Mironova	Russia
Fumiko	Miyazaki	Japan
Dominic	Moran	Israel
Tamiko	Nishijima	Japan

Jim	Noonan	USA
Agneta	Norberg	Norway
Manuel	Padilla	USA
Bobbie	Paul	USA
Aviva	Pavlovsky	France
Diane	Perlman	USA
Montserrat	Prieto	Spain
German	Ramirez	USA
J. Narayana	Rao	India
Dave	Robinson	USA
Tony	Robinson	Poland
Eugene	Shapiro	USA
Satoshi	Shinden	Japan
Alice	Slater	USA
Steve	Staples	Canada
Susi	Snyder	Netherlands
Dagmar		
Karin	Soerboee	Norway
Takao	Takahara	Japan
Marie Claude	Thibaud	France
Mayumi	Togawa	USA
Aaron	Tovish	Austria
Yayoi	Tsuchida	Japan
Carol	Urner	USA
Welmoed	Verhagen	Netherlands
Pierre	Villard	France
Nicky	Wagner	New Zealand
Alyn	Ware	New Zealand
Rick	Wayman	USA
Dave	Webb	UK
Claire	Wery	France
Johnanne	Winchester	USA
Lucas	Wirl	Germany
Tim	Wright	Australia
Ichiro	Yuasa	Japan
Harvey	Zendt	USA
Randy	Ziglar	USA
Francine	Lindberg	USA
Stephanie	Fraser	USA
Jean Marie	Montagne	France

D. Opening Ceremony

We began the meeting by recognizing our interconnectedness to all that has life and one another. After having acknowledged the original peoples of the land (New York), Mayra Gomez and Kate Dewes assisted the process through a sacred sage smudging and a passing around of a Pounamu stone in remembrance of those who have now passed on but were part in this struggle including at the founding of Abolition 2000 Satomi Oba, Janet Bloomfield, Ian Prior, Ted Taylor, and Solange Fernex and others.

II). Introduction and Goals of the meeting

Jackie Cabasso asked the participants to identify themselves and state their goals for the meeting. Most participants identified the following goals: expanding the global network, brainstorming ideas about how to increase abolition efforts throughout the international community, gaining more information about abolition efforts, and learning about local abolition efforts.

III). Agenda Overview

Jackie Cabasso and Susi Snyder provided a general overview of the agenda to the members and offered to facilitate the meeting. The participants unanimously approved the agenda and the facilitators.

IV). Brief overview/our story

Alice Slater discussed the history of Abolition 2000, established in 1995 at the NPT Review and Extension Conference. Abolition 2000 has a Global Council of nuclear abolition leaders, an International Coordinating Committee, and a Secretariat.

During the 1995 NPT Review and Extension Conference, NGOs from around the world drafted an Abolition Statement calling for immediate commencement of negotiations on a treaty to eliminate nuclear weapons, to be completed by the year 2000, as part of an 11 point plan.

Representatives from approximately 65 NGOs met in the UN cafeteria and adopted the statement by consensus. In addition to calling for the elimination of nuclear weapons by the year 2000, it recognized the “inextricable link” between nuclear weapons and nuclear power and called for the establishment of an International Renewable Energy Agency and the phase out of nuclear power.

The statement was faxed to hundreds of NGOs and 600 groups signed onto the statement before the close of the 1995 NPT Conference. In 1995, the Abolition 2000 Global Network to Eliminate Nuclear Weapons was founded at a meeting held in The Hague during the World Court hearings on the legality of nuclear weapons, and the first annual general meeting was held in Edinburgh, Scotland in 1996. The second annual general meeting was held in Tahiti/French-occupied Polynesia in 1997 to celebrate the victory of the Pacific indigenous people who successfully shut down the French nuclear test site in Moorea with the help of a global boycott on French wine and cheese. At that meeting, the Network adopted the Moorea Declaration to express its solidarity with the colonized and indigenous people of the world who bore the worst effects of all phases of the nuclear fuel cycle as well as nuclear testing. That year, an Abolition 2000 Working Group composed of lawyers, scientists and policy analysts drafted a model Nuclear Weapons Convention (NWC) which was submitted by Malaysia and Costa Rica to the UNGA and accepted by SG Kofi Annan as an official UN document.

In 1999, when it became apparent that there would no NWC by the year 2000, the Network launched a campaign to enroll 2,000 organizations, and maintained the name Abolition 2000 as a network of over 2,000 organizations in more than 90 countries.

Originally the Network Secretariat was housed at the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation, in Santa Barbara, California, then it was hosted by the Global Resource Action Center for the Environment in New York, and subsequently by the Rideau Institute in Ontario, Canada, which has housed it for five years.

V). Decision making process and Operating Rules

Cabasso informed members that we try to make all decisions by consensus. However, if the participants cannot reach an agreement, decisions will be made by a 2/3 supermajority, with one vote per member organization. Cabasso also explained that the operating principles has been distributed and can be found on the website at http://www.abolition2000.org/?page_id=1037

VI). Secretariat Report

The Rideau Institute, which Steve Staples founded after the Network first was hosted at the Polaris Institute where he was working at the time, has served as the Secretariat of Abolition 2000, under his leadership, from 2006-2010. During Steve's tenure, the Rideau Institute supported the Abolition 2000 website (www.abolition.org) and the campaign site, www.abolitionflame.org and provided coordination for Network activities.

Abolition 2000 Funding

Steve Staples announced that the Rideau Institute raised \$5800 in funds for the Network through a recent mailing to Abolition 2000 member groups. The mailing also enabled the Rideau Institute to update Abolition 2000's mailing list. Rideau was able to verify all but 200 member organizations on the list.

New Secretariat

Cabasso announced that Pax Christi USA has agreed to serve as the new Secretariat of the Network under the leadership of Dave Robinson and his associate Manuel Padilla. Dave spoke of his hopes for the success of the Network and how inspired he was by the diversity of our network and its concern for the indigenous and less fortunate who have suffered the effects of environmental racism from the toxic legacy of the nuclear age. Appreciation and gratitude was expressed to Steve Staples, Anthony Salloum and Lauren Hunter at Rideau who had given such devoted service to our work.

VII). What is the Network Doing?

A. ICAN

Pierre Villard introduced ICAN's commitments to pressuring member-states to support a Nuclear Weapons Convention (NWC). Since 2008, ICAN has organized meetings with government leaders and diplomats. It has also been educating individuals by distributing documents and posters. ICAN is compiling a list of events organized around the world for the International Day of Action for Nuclear Abolition on June 5, 2010.

B. Mayors for Peace

Aaron Tovish informed members of Abolition 2000 that Mayors for Peace is working towards 2020 as the date when nuclear weapons will be eliminated. Mayors for Peace's 2020 Vision Campaign has experienced a transformation because of its rapid growth in the last five years, to nearly 4,000 mayors in 143 countries and regions. Mayors for Peace will be exploring with other NGOs the possibility of convening an "extraordinary Prep Com" next year, to keep up the momentum for a Nuclear Weapons Convention and the global elimination of nuclear weapons by 2020.

C. Parliamentary Network for Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament (PNND)

Addressing PNND's recent activities, Alyn Ware explained that PNND has seven amazing Vice Presidents. PNND's Leadership Council consists of representatives from the West, India, Israel, and Australia. PNND is focused on the NWC, the Secretary-General's Five Point Plan for Nuclear Disarmament, NWFZs, and helping states to end their reliance on nuclear weapons. Raphael Chegeni, a PNND Co-President from Tanzania, appealed to Abolition 2000 to work with PNND to help institute a ban on uranium mining.

D. Global Network Against Weapons and Nuclear Power in Space

Bruce Gagnon reported that the US has been deploying missiles in both Europe and Asia for several years. In the past, the US deployed nuclear weapons in both Japan and South Korea.

Last year, the US began to construct a naval base on Jeju Island in South Korea. US Aegis Destroyers will be stationed at this base. These destroyers will be used to encircle China and could be used to launch an attack against China if it attacks Taiwan.

Additionally, the Obama Administration is moving ahead with plans to develop a Prompt Global Strike capability. This program will allow US conventional arms to reach the other side of the world in one hour. Both Russia and China are highly concerned about this program.

NASA is expanding its outer space program. The Global Network is opposed to new plans for NASA to be privatized and rely on corporations for its funding. In addition, the US is moving aggressively to weaponize space, rejecting attempts by China and Russia to negotiate a treaty to prevent weapons in space, and sparking a new arms race with missiles and space weapons.

The Global Network will hold its Annual Meeting on May 9, 2010. There will be a Keep Space for Peace Week around the world, with conferences and demonstrations from October 9, 2010 to October 12, 2010.

E. BANg (Ban All Nukes Generation)

Nina Eisenhardt announced that BANg has established groups in Europe, New Zealand, and the US. In 2005, BANg convened a youth conference. She drew a chart to show how Abolition 2000 serves as a kind of super-network to link various other important international nuclear abolition networks. She explained that BANg strongly believes in disarmament education and inviting the youth to international conferences, such as the NPT RevCon, and the Security Summit in Munich, Germany. Kate Dewes who serves on the UN Secretary General's Committee for Disarmament Education asked that we send our input about disarmament education to unoda-web@un.org

F. International Association of Lawyers Against Nuclear Arms (IALANA)

IALANA had a Board meeting in New York during the first week of the NPT RevCon. John Burroughs described the recent legal settlements for Hibakusha (A-bomb) survivors in Japan. These settlements require the Japanese Government to provide compensation to more victims who suffered from the Hiroshima and Nagasaki attacks. IALANA is considering a campaign to return to the International Court of Justice for a follow up advisory opinion on the legal requirements of the “good faith” disarmament obligation.

Annabel Dwyer reported that she held an event with the Michigan State Bar Association where she persuaded the Association to support a resolution that affirms the illegality of nuclear weapons.

Reiner Braun reported that German lawyers are developing legal briefs that address the illegality of US nuclear weapons deployed in Germany

G. IRENA

Alice Slater informed the group that 144 out of the 192 member-states of the UN have signed the IRENA Statute. Slater requested that Abolition 2000 continue to enroll the missing countries in IRENA in a campaign for 100% participation. See www.irena.org

H. Follow-up to the international conference at Riverside Church

Cabasso told the group that Abolition 2000 was part of the International Planning Committee that organized the conference, rally, march, peace festival and petition hand-over to the UN. Braun thought the events served as a constructive forum in which peace activists were able to focus on different abolition actions and broaden our perspective to issues concerning the environment, militarism, and social justice... The rally was the first significant peace rally in New York since the 2008 US Presidential election. The Abolition 2000 Annual Meeting participants unanimously endorsed the international conference declaration, Disarm Now! For Peace and Human Needs (www.peaceandjusticenow.org).

VII). Building a timeline

Upcoming important events for the nuclear abolition movements include the following:

1. Nuclear Abolition Day (June 5, 2010)
2. Protest against US ICBM and missile defense test launches at Vandenberg Air Force Base (California) base (5 June, 2010)
3. European Parliament in Brussels, Belgium (5 June, 2010)
4. US Social Forum in Detroit (22-26 June 2010)
5. European Social Forum In Istanbul, (July 1-4).
6. Mayors for Peace strategy conference in Hiroshima (27-28 July 2010)
6. Mayors for Peace Youth Campground (3-10 August, 2010)
7. Gensuikyo Conference in Hiroshima and Nagasaki (2-9 August 2010)
8. IPPNW Basel, Switzerland Event (24-28 August 2010)
9. International Day of Peace (21 September, 2010)
10. Global Protest Movement to Aviano NATO base, Italy (October 2010)
11. Keep Space for PeaceWeek (9 October 2010 to 12 October 2010);
12. Global Network Space Conference in India (9 – 12 October 2010)
13. Lisbon event ?? (19 – 21 November, 2010)
14. Coalition for Nuclear Disarmament and Peace in India, 10th Anniversary Gathering, Delhi (10 – 12 December 2010)

VIII). Regional Groups

The participants divided themselves into the following groups: Asian Group, European Group, North American Group, and the Southern Hemisphere Group and reported back.

Asian Group

The Asian Group reported that over 2,000 Japanese individuals were able to obtain 7 million signatories to urge delegates to support a NWC. Additionally, the Group explained that the new change in the Japanese government is a positive sign and could indicate a new shift in Japan's reliance on US nuclear weapons. The Asian Group welcomed the recent Japanese court ruling that requires the government to provide more compensation to Hibakusha (A-bomb) survivors. The Group also stated that the Japanese government recognized more illness associated with uranium radiation. They reported that PNND Japan and PNND South Korea hosted a joint workshop that called for a Nuclear Weapons Free Zone in North East Asia. A new movement has emerged against the establishment of bases to store US missiles in South Korea.

European Group

The European Group indicated that activists must convince parliamentarians in Europe to oppose NATO's nuclear sharing policy. They emphasized that Scandinavians must protest against their government's decision to grant permission to NATO to send drones and military nuclear capable aircraft through Scandinavia's air space. They explained that several of their members would appreciate it if activists could convince European countries to adopt an Alpine NWFZ. There was some discussion on whether Abolition 2000 could expand its activities throughout Europe.

They recommended that Abolition 2000 set up a new Working Group to persuade delegates to establish a nuclear weapons free zone in the Arctic.

The group agreed to re-establish their mailing list and work with the new Abolition 2000 secretariat in updating the website.

North American Group

The group talked about the social implications of military spending and the need to bring our war dollars home – to disable the war economy. They discussed the need for bottom-up, locally coordinated campaigns, using tools like city council resolutions. They recognized the power of the entrenched military-industrial-Congressional-academic complex in perpetuating U.S. nuclear weapons and militarism, and identified the need for a new assessment of the complex: how big is it? who is involved? etc. The group talked about the importance of international skills sharing and the use of language in our outreach. Some participants expressed their desire to become better local activists, and asked how to build a consensus around the elements of local campaigns. The group identified the following community organizing needs: figuring out what groups around the US are doing; pulling together creative ideas; using the media more effectively; and building on recent international work, stressing the importance of more engagement with groups in Asia and more work with European groups regarding NATO. Participants lamented the impacts of uranium mining on indigenous people and the dangers of a nuclear energy “renaissance.” They talked about the importance of working with Mayors for Peace, Parliamentarians Network for Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament, and ICAN in the US, and identified upcoming opportunities for action including expected ICBM test launches from Vandenberg Air Force Base in June, August 6 – 9, Nuclear Free Future Month (August), and Keep Space for Peace week in October. Participants were encouraged to attend the US Social Forum in Detroit, June 22 – 26, and to contact their local media to cover their disarmament activities.

Southern Hemisphere Group

The Group specified that indigenous individuals, who are suffering from the effects of uranium, are not well represented in the network. Thus, it would be ideal if Abolition 2000 reaches out to them, by going where they are.

The Group urged that we should support a Nuclear Weapons Convention in the immediate future and emphasized its support for the Middle Powers Initiative.

IX). Proposals adopted by the Network

A. Creation of a Working Group on an Arctic Nuclear Weapons Free Zone

The group will monitor the recent activities of NATO in the Arctic and will work for the creation of a NWFZ in the Arctic.

Interested members: *Dagmar Karin Soerboe (Convener), Alyn Ware, Steve Leeper, Carol Urner, Agneta Norberg, and Natalia Mironova

B. Creation of a Nuclear Energy Working Group

This group will focus on stopping new nuclear reactors and banning uranium mining.

Interested Members: *Reiner Braun and Lucas Wirl (Conveners), Raphael Chegeni, Caroline Gilbert, , Alice Slater, Anabel Dwyer, Judith Evered, Jackie Cabasso, Joseph Gerson, Margo La Zaro, Christian Ciobanu, Marie-Claude Thibaud, and Dominic Moran.

C. Establishment of a Translation Team

*Tony Robinson suggested that we do outreach to be able to translate more of our material. He volunteered to Chair the Team. Giorgio offered to help. (Here it was also noted that some NGOs had had trouble getting visas and we might be able to help in the future.)

D. Establishment of a New Media Team

*Welmoed Verhagen volunteered to work with the New Media Team to focus on using new social networking media Stephanie Fraser, Margo LaZaro and Tony Robinson expressed interest in working with her

E. De-alerting campaign

*Dominique Lalanne will organize this campaign as the first step to be taken in the framework of the Nuclear Weapons Convention. He will enroll a group to prepare a proposal to the Global Council for adoption.

It was agreed that more accountability should be built in to the Network Working Groups and that the Coordinating Committee would set up new procedures including reporting requirements for the Working Groups.

X). ICAN (additional notes)

Tim Wright briefly explained that there is need for members to continue to push delegates to support a NWC. Moreover, he informed Abolition 2000 that there have been several discussions among delegates at the NPT Review Conference's General Debate about the need for the international community to support a NWC.

There was a brief discussion among participants about ICAN and how Abolition 2000 could contact delegates and support global participation in Nuclear Abolition Day on June 5, 2010.

XI). Affirmation of Service

Alice Slater reported that new members were nominated by the Global Council to serve on the International Coordinating Committee and the Global Council:

- 1). Nina Eisenhardt-Coordinating Committee & Global Council
- 2). Raphael Chengeni-Global Council

3). Dagmar Karin Soerboee-Global Council

The participants unanimously approved the nominees.

Jean-Marie Montagne nominated Tony Robinson to serve on the Global Council. This was unanimously approved by the participants.

Abolition 2000 expresses its appreciation to Christian Cobianu, an intern with the NGO Committee on Peace and Disarmament, who assisted with the Annual Meeting and took the minutes of the meeting.