

Abolition 2000 General Meeting New York 5-2-2015

Raw notes – first half of day, Andy Lichterman

Greeting: Lenape Center

Greeting— Matt Bolton and Pace U students

Benjamin Ferencz Nuremberg prosecutor, and one of the key figures in the formation of the trials, was a professor at the Pace University Law School—

Nuclear weapons don't prevent war

Our movements can play a key role in preventing nuclear war.

Student Peace Alliance provides welcome

Many Pace students hope to work for change for a better world when they graduate

Pace has provided a context where a group of students with a strong interest in nuclear disarmament

Programs like model UN give students an opportunity to explore these issues, and also to get a bit outside the US perspective.

Importance of understanding the role of systemic violence underlying particular manifestation

Student Peace Alliance brought BANG and Peace and Planet on to campus, has student participating in BANG group that is attending the NPT Review Conference.

Introductions

Some themes: Hope for a successful celebration of our 20th anniversary; note the contribution that this network and its interconnections has made to the formation of other networks and campaigns such as the recent Peace and Planet weekend; hopes that the spirit of Peace and Planet weekend lives on; Note the important of the Abolition 2000 working groups and campaigns, often have developed into projects that made useful contributions; focus on a better world for the future for young people; note the diverse background of many participants in peace work and other kinds of social change work as well—for non-violence, against war, for economic justice, for an ecologically sustainable way of life; “Weapons of Mass Education,” importance of work against NATO in the current context; working for nuclear disarmament is like running an ultra-marathon, so the mutual support and international context A2000 offers is important; Importance of building our relationships, and of understanding the connection of this work to broader work for peace and justice, and how we can live in harmony with nature; Connecting

global disarmament work with the very wide and vigorous variety of civil society groups working for disarmament in Japan; Importance of integrating the moral and moral imperatives of the peace movements, humanitarian considerations into the nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation discourse of states; Important to sustain communication among A2000 network members.

Summary of operating principles

[see operating principles]

Network membership requires endorsement of founding statement by an organization

Organized by region, project, and working groups. No one can speak in the name of the network as a whole. Regions, projects, and WG's can speak as regions projects, and WG's so long as their statements are consistent with the A2000 founding statement.

Decision-making: Strive for consensus. If absolutely not possible, supermajority of 2/3 decides, but the strong preference for consensus (we have only made one decision by supermajority in the history of the network).

History of network

1995 Review conference—there was an abolition caucus meeting. US arms controllers came to it with a statement for endorsement— it listed various incremental disarmament steps, but it had nothing in it about actual nuclear disarmament.

Jackie Cabasso, Pamela Meidell, and Alyn Ware did a first draft overnight; the caucus refined it into its current form over the next few days.

The idea was the different parts of the network could focus on various elements of disarmament work reflected in the network; there was no expectation that everyone work on everything; there was an understanding that work on the various elements is complementary.

Moorea meeting and declaration: emphasis on the entire nuclear weapons process from uranium mining to nuclear testing, noting and emphasizing its disproportionate impact on indigenous lands and peoples.

Drafting of Model Nuclear Weapons Convention— group came out of A2000, but became broader

The Convention has been highlighted in a number of UN and NPT resolutions and documents

Petition initiatives that have presented tens of millions of signatures to NPT review conferences

There have been a number of secretariats over the years—

Currently split between Western States Legal Foundation (financial) and Nuclear Age Peace Foundation (database); both in California, but no secretariat office or designated staff.

Peace and Planet—

Came out of 2014 A2000 general meeting—to form a planning committee for activities around/before the 2015 NPT Review Conference to create a broader, multi-issue, integrated movement.

SEE P&P NGO Statement, proposal for the P&P campaign.

Conference 4/24-25 was quite successful, plenaries with a wide range of speakers and issues; 44 workshops with an even wider variety

Interfaith Convocation

Rally at Union Square, march to Dag Hammarskold Plaza, Peace Festival. 7500-10,000 at rally and march.

Global Wave initiated from the Rally, proceeded around the world, over 100 actions.

8 million signatures presented to chair of Ambassador Ferouki Review Conference and High Representative Angela Kane at the Peace Festival.

Walks came from Oak Ridge, TN, New England, and California., plus a bicycle tour for disarmament from Washington, DC to New York.

Best part was it felt like a broad mobilization with parts that worked together. Having the Global Wave, which gave people who did not come to NYC an opportunity to participate with local actions.

Comments from participants:

Provided a good opportunity to link the issues

Really good to have an opportunity to meet together, learn more about the connections between the issues, find new opportunities and ways to work together rather than focusing mainly on lobbying delegates at the NPT RevCon.

An organizing conundrum:

The conventional wisdom regarding reaching young people is to use social media, and generally to provide content in all media in very short bits. But most people (particularly in the US) have no context for understanding why disarmament issues are important.

The young people who DO show up to participate in events that give them a deeper, richer range of information they report that it is all new information, and eye-opening.

Importance of finding opportunities to go out to other constituencies where they are—this was the concept for many of the Global Wave events, which was quite successful in this.

Upcoming dates and network related initiatives

NPT RevCon

Until 22 May

Subsidiary bodies meeting—Nuclear Disarmament

70th Anniversary of US bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki

Ban Ki Moon invited, hope for a strong disarmament message

Peace Boat and MfP working on Peace Boat with Hibakusha going around the world

August events in Japan

Later events in the Fall--

Humanitarian Initiative

160 States supporting humanitarian joint statement

Reflected in statements at the 3 conferences

Austrian pledge 79 states

Nuclear Zero/TMI Case

Tony DeBrum spoke at P&P, NPT RevCon. The Marshall Islands is being asked if they are serious about this. They are. 3 briefs have been filed—UK, India Pakistan (the states still before the ICJ)

NGO;s can contribute many ways—see John Burroughs, Rick Wayman about this or join breakout group.

Fukushima, Uranium mining ban proposal, IRENA—A2000 had a WG on these issues

Continuing disaster--

Campaign in Japan to keep reactors closed

September 26 International Day for elimination of Nuclear weapons 2015

Hope to organize events again around this date

PNND Assembly in Prague, in October—hope Europe Groups will urge parliamentarians to participate

2018 High Level UN conference on nuclear disarmament

Still scheduled

Unfold Zero monitored/urged organizing around first phase of this—is continuing

How do we help make this a turning point/

UNGA/OEWG

Some interest by states in reopening Open Ended Working Group

Efforts to keep disarmament in the mix in the UNGA

Korea Peace Walk

30 women, incl 2 Nobel Prize winners will walk from North Korea throught the DMZ—reunify families, bring women into a peace process.

Tokyo Peace Group

“We are not strong but not weak.”

Proposals—to lead to cluster discussions

K Project

IPPNW project—initiative of African students to climb Mt. Kilimanjaro to demand both disarmament and an end to uranium mining

Interfaith networking for abolition

WPC Soka Gakkai and ? working together since 3rd humanitarian conference to reach out to as many religious traditions as possible

50 organizational sign-ons to a statement so far

Diane Perlman

Alliance for Peace building—related effort we might engage with

Summer camp programming—American Camping Association

Nuclear Attitude Survey

Replacing threats/deterrence with nonviolent conflict resolution

Peace and Planet

Continue campaign

Evaluation

Launch a Peace and Planet summer

Strategy consultation during conference on A&H bombs

[query: is this the right place for this conversation to happen—or for it to be the only place for it to happen?]

Disbanding NATO WG

Address new crisis in Europe, etc.

Missile Ban Treaty WG

US/NATO BMD expansion, resumption of nuclear confrontation brings a renewed focus on missile/counter-missile arms racing and related developments in military space technologies

Enrolling governments to support Austrian pledge

Article IX for Everyone!

Erosion of the peace article of Japan's constitution is a significant development, also affecting and affecting by the growing complex network of tensions in the Western Pacific

Disarmament referendums

tool to put pressure on nuclear-armed states to disarm

International campaign to have referendums in states where nuclear weapons are present.

Where a referendum mechanism is not available, to organize around theme that people have a right to assure their own survival

PNND initiative to follow up on parliamentary resolutions supporting disarmament/ a NWC

Korea—Support network for victims of atomic bombing

Later generations showing symptoms of effects from the atomic bombings

Rare inherited diseases

Korean government not recognizing Korean A bomb victims

Role of US govt in dropping the bombs

Would like to bring a lawsuit against US government

US and Japan should apologize for dropping the bomb, ad should compensate victims

Nuclear Risk John Hallam

Nuclear risk once again must be the topic of the day

As great or greater as it was in the Cold War

[note to AML: technical vs geopolitical/socioeconomic/ecological causes of conflict and war risk. Need for an informal group re: new internationalism, non IR realist approach to questions of great power war risk/causation, relationship to other issues and movements on the analytical level]

Nuclear Zero/TMI lawsuit

Amicus briefs needed for US TMI case

26th of September Day for elimination of nuclear weapons

Plans for the 70th anniversary

Closely related

Denuclearization of the Korean peninsula

A2000 AGM

Raw notes, second half of the day, Susi Snyder

Report back from small groups

Interfaith Networking- Kimiaki Kawai

- as interfaith community to give a joint statement to strengthen momentum about the ongoing disclosure on the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons.
- as based in faith based communities, will continue to reach out to more faith communities so they can know what is happening in this context, and raise awareness and call on them to action.
- will ensure the integration of the ethical and moral imperatives from the faith based communities into the discussion.
- will continue the joint efforts to have some kind of joint statement after this NPT.
- would like to raise our united voices at next HINW conference.
- two very major international days in September- int'l peace day and int'l day for total elimination of nuclear weapons. how do we reconcile this and have more effective collaboration.

Nuclear Risk- John Hallam

no one expressed interest in coming to talk about the nuclear risk, if we lose sight of the fundamental truth of the risk of thermonuclear war, why are we even here?

Unfold Zero- Jana

discussed actions for September 26th. would like to connect the different actions- like global wave or video actions. still space for ideas.

discussed the possibility of a parliamentary campaign to adopt resolutions on/ about this day honouring the day and reaffirming the political will for disarmament
the Man who Saved the World movie will be promoted on that day as well.

Denuclearising Korean Peninsula- Mark Harris

build a stronger network, and participate more in discussions with Asia Pacific network
utilise existing working groups more fully.

asking for support for the women's crossing of the DMZ.

call to end Korean War and preserve Japanese peace constitution.

have a web page with more information/ action.

This May 19-25, thirty international women peacemakers from a dozen countries will walk with Korean women, north and south, to call for an end to the Korean War. In peace symposia in

Pyongyang and Seoul, we will share our experiences and ideas of mobilizing women to end war. And on May 24, International Women's Day for Disarmament and Peace, as a symbolic act of peace, we will walk across the two-mile wide De-Militarized Zone (DMZ) separating the two Koreas.

Peace and Planet- Joseph Gerson

go forward with recommendations in the proposal
short term accelerated and within abolition focused, idea of moving forward with events on 70th anniversary, leading to activities around the GA and 21/26 September. and the Paris climate change conference.

maybe use 70th anniversary to launch new global wave.

how can global wave more integrate in the issues with peace and planet

second track- longer term, serious process and evaluation. what lessons, how to build on it.

possibility of reconstituting the core of the planning groups and build with other social movements, et and climate change in particular.

integrating the different websites, etc.

lots in terms of taking the time to both evaluate and think about longer term integrated

sense is that this is the outside game, not inside game.

National Referendums- Jonathan Frerichs

in some countries have the option for formal national referendums, including France, Italy, and Netherlands. all have nuclear sharing or weapons.

in France need 10% of MPs to agree, then they help launch a process, then you have to get 10% of voters. there is a mechanism behind it that is rarely used.

even if lost, would still generate a lot of attention and get something going.

additionally considered, would something like this be valuable in a simpler format, though for example, avaaz, to do a global poll.

Nuclear Zero- Rick Wayman

Nothing that the network as a whole needs to address. a number of people are interested in contributing amicus briefs to the US courts, and so there was some discussion on what topics they might address. talked about some general projects to humanise the story, taking it away from the purely legal- putting a face on the issue.

Ideas and the need to build publicity around this in some of the nuclear armed countries that are subjects of the lawsuits. considered coordinated action on September 26, along with all the other stuff happening then

maybe using the lawsuits as a platform for activists to talk about related things for what they can do about nuclear abolition and also climate change (given the Marshall Islands current issues around climate).

Could think about a slideshow that would feature the Marshall Islands on both nuclear abolition and climate protection. think about ways about enabling speakers, to go out and talk about this story.

Austria Pledge- Susi Snyder

Good discussion on the pledge and ways forward. Ask those participants at the meeting who are also taking part in the NPT to ask governments to endorse the pledge. Ask the network to examine ways that the ban treaty discussion can be incorporated as one of the things coming in advance of the 2018 HLM on nuclear disarmament. Consider advocating for a combination 1st and 3rd committee meeting at GA, linking the humanitarian and disarmament folks for action.

Article 9- Akira Kawasaki

related to Korean peninsula denuclearisation. need to make it more than a Japanese issue. for example, nominations about both Costa Rican and Japanese constitution for Nobel Peace Prize. the changing of article 9 is very much linked to strengthening US cooperation with Japan and engaging South Korea. the issue is presented in Okinawa and Jeju Island, and linking those base movements is important.

No To Nato-

Flier is distributed and information on the paper on the list.

sign up to the newsletter and get more information: www.no-to-nato.org or info@no-to-nato.org

Breakout groups - report backs

systems analysis-

A range of ideas were presented from cause and effect on global scale, to political economy linkages to conflict drivers, to change needed to originate from within ourselves. opinions to build broad movements, to we have to focus almost completely in the moment on the very threatening nature of nuclear postures where weapons remain on alert. A very broad discussion.

inside strategies- inside UN, working with governments

looking at different opportunities for negotiations between countries on new steps, new treaties. talked about HLM, about ban treaty process, about OEWG, about attempts in Europe to influence NATO states to lower role of nuclear weapons. tried to see how these could fit together as puzzle blocks, and had a good exchange, with a conclusion that there is no shared conclusion. good to hear how we all stand, and a willingness to see in the future how we can reinforce one another, and to keep assessing things as we go along.

outside strategies- building street heat

many strategies as there were people in the group. reflected on the WILPF 100th anniversary, the WILPF manifesto (available online). national referendums in Italy and France, and getting leverage through polling. suggestion to do protest letter to John Kerry, about stopping arm twisting against Austrian pledge. SGI youth summit in August. maybe expand global wave to youth, school children.

strengthening the Abolition 2000 network-

At this point there is no single secretariat for the network. The tasks are divided among organisations of the coordinating committee. There is sporadic attendance on the coordinating committee calls, matching sporadic global council participation. Would be good to find new folks

to join the coordinating committee. there isn't much broad communications with the 2000 member organisations, which is missing a piece. important to give member organisations, especially those not regularly involved, ideas on when, where and how they can plug in and contribute.

would be good to consider that there might be some money on hand to hire someone do some unspecified part time work. The discussion will be brought to the coordinating committee for further discussion.

Decision:A working group for liaison with Peace and Planet.

a one year project of Abolition 2000 to complete the following tasks and report back to the 2016 Abolition 2000 AGM. The tasks indicated are:

1. Collecting and posting documentation of the Peace and planet mobilisation events, including media report, texts of speeches, photos and videos, and archiving them on the Peace and Planet website
2. Conducting an evaluation of the 2015 Peace and Planet mobilisation
3. Launching the "Peace and Planet Summer" covering the period from the end of the NPT Review Conference to the 70th anniversaries of the US atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.
4. Organising a Peace & Planet workshop at the US Social Forum
5. Continuation of the Peace and Planet social media campaign
6. Continued development of relationships across issue areas, including encouraging reciprocity among our movements.
7. Convening a strategy consultation with international partners during the World Conference against A&H Bombs in Hiroshima or Nagasaki
8. Organising a strategy development meeting with coordinating and advisory committee members and key allies in the Fall of 2015
9. Implementation of strategy developed in the Fall of 2015.

Reports from affiliated networks

1. Mayors for Peace- M4P president/ Sec gen (name?)

Memberships of almost 7000. Every month increases. Working as a nonpartisan mayors organisation with the responsibility to protect citizen safety and welfare. Basing activities on the Hibakusha testimonies, together with their appeal that no one ever again suffer the way that they have.

Two main efforts: Abolition of nuclear weapons and supporting this movement by creating international environment that supports the more humane basis of security and protecting people. trying to create a sensible community on the basis that we all belong to the same human family.

Have arranged courses at universities around the world. Also, cooperating with Peace Boat on the "I was her age" project, to provide opportunities for Hibakusha to communicate with the people.

2. PNND - alyn & phill goff

Lots of activities on the website. Joint briefings. Will have next assembly in Prague, hosted by Czech senate in conjunction with the Czech foreign Ministry and the Prague Agenda conference, called "Prague Agenda and Eliminating Nuclear Risk".

Recent resolution passed through New Zealand parliament, calling on the nuclear weapons states to fulfil their NPT obligations. Then summoned the ambassadors of the nuclear weapons states to remind them of their obligations at the NPT.

Outreach on the consequences, including using the film "The Man Who Saved the World".

3. Global Network Against Weapons and Nuclear Power in Space- alicia

Annual meeting will take place in Kyoto, at end July/ early August. Have done a lot to publicise what happens at Jeju Island and Okinawa.

4. ICAN- akira

ICAN focus at this moment is to work with the governments, like Austria, to increase the number of supporters for the Austrian pledge as a tool for the early commencement of a process for a nuclear ban treaty.

New pamphlet published by ICAN, which might be of interest, with the draft principles of a ban treaty.

early July campaigners meeting in London, with opportunities for strategic discussion- open to all ICAN partners.

5. De-Alerting- john hallam

The working group has been rather dormant. John continues working on the issue, it is now taken up by a number of groups in Washington.

Might be a case for changing the name of the working group to Nuclear Risks working group, to reflect a wider focus on the risks of nuclear war, not simply the narrow focus of taking nuclear weapons off high-alert. Offers the opportunity for other nuclear risk reduction measures that can be taken on board, and also public education about nuclear risks.

6. Don't Bank on the Bomb- Wilbert van der Zeijden

PAX published the third report in October. In several countries, numerous campaigners were successful in getting banks to announce changes in their policies. There are also numerous stories of how the report empowers action on nuclear weapons, and offers opportunities.

PAX is seeking to expand the scope a bit more to build the campaign. Will launch the 2015 report in London, in early November.

7. Nuclear Weapons Convention- Alyn Ware

Most significant development has been the Inter Parliamentary Union resolution supporting a nuclear weapons convention or a package of agreements. Was fierce opposition from Russia and France, but in the end many came along and it was adopted.

8. Sustainable Energy- Alice Slater

Right now its an email list for Abolition 2000, trading information. Information circulation about IRENA - International Renewable Energy Agency, and others. Need to keep track of the issues and trades offs being made- in selling nuclear energy.

Abolition 2000 Business

Report from Secretariat/ Division of labour- Jackie Cabasso

There currently is no secretariat for the network, however the responsibilities are divided up among the coordinating committee members.

Western States Legal Foundation is the fiscal sponsors, and maintains financial records. There is about \$14,000 in the bank (not including expenses from this meeting).

Nuclear Age Peace Foundation maintains the database.

Basel Peace Office, PAX, Nuclear Age Peace Foundation update the website.

Call for Volunteers

Would like to establish a social media working group, notably to support the creation of guidelines/ principles for discussion.

Ros Cook interested in joining social media group

Matt Bolton suggests reaching out to students who might be interested

Affirmation of Coordinating Committee and Global Council

CC Affirmed

Susi Snyder

Jackie Cabasso

Steve Staples

Sharon Dolev

Alyn Ware

Alice Sater

Dominique Lalanne/ Sophie Morel

Akira Kawasaki

Rick Wayman

Kathleen Walsh

Dave Webb

Lars Pohlmeier

evaluation-

in soliciting proposals- good idea to be more explicit in asking, and then circulate a compilation.

more focused set of discussion topics that connect with activities, and also try to connect with big picture analysis of the world out there- what's going on out there, what is our practical response.

good to have working groups/ affiliated at the end of the day, not to overload so much at the beginning.

both cluster discussion and breakout discussions were substantive.

Important to reinforce invitations to go to Hiroshima and nagasaki.

next year G7 summit in Japan, discussions about what leaders might visit Hiroshima.

good to see so much participation from NE Asia in the NPT, but not so much at the AGM- maybe should reach out and think how to include.

constructive spirit and discussions.