

## Peace & Planet Report of A-2000 2020 AGM

***Prepared by Joseph Gerson – co-convener, May 18, 2020***

*World Conference accomplishments include:*

- Built intersectional & international coalition that will endure
- 2,000+ participants in 37 countries
- YouTube being widely circulated, especially in U.S., South Asia and Japan
- Online conference provided encouragement and model for online Japanese August 75<sup>th</sup> World Conference events.
- Japanese partners also wrote that the success of our intersectional model gave them confidence to integrate other issues into their nuclear disarmament organizing
- Spawned international youth network that held online conference of 300 people, with future online events planned
- Built strong relationship with U.N. Office for Disarmament Affairs, which has offered future cooperation
- The coalition is now planning future activities, including preparations for the rescheduled NPT Review Conference.

The Peace & Planet network was created to organize NGO actions on the eve of the 2015 NPT Review. It subsequently organized and/or co-sponsored events and side events during NPT PrepComs. Its co-convener are Jackie Cabasso of WSLF, Kevin Martin of Peace Action, and Joseph Gerson of the Campaign for Peace, Disarmament and Common Security. This past year, Peace & Planet's primary activity was organizing a "World Conference: Abolish Nuclear Weapons, Resist and Reverse the Climate Crisis, for Economic and Social Justice" on the eve of the NPT PrepCom. Primary partners included the International Peace Bureau, Gensuikyo, Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung (Foundation), International Trade Union Confederation, International Physicians for Prevention of Nuclear War, and Peace Action New York State. Many other organizations were co-sponsors, including Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament, Mouvement de la Paix, Gensuikin, WILPF, Pax Christi, Nuclear-Free Philippines Coalition, Veterans for Peace, Communications Workers of America. (complete list at [worldconference2020.org](http://worldconference2020.org).)

Activities for April 24-26 in New York included an international and intersectional World Conference at the Riverside Church in New York prior to the NPT RevCon. We planned a rally at Union Square, a march to Dag Hammarskjold Plaza across from the U.N., and the symbolic presentation of Hibakusha Signature Appel petition signatures to the U.N. High Representative for Disarmament and the President of the NPT Review Conference.

Our goals were to impact governmental nuclear weapons policies, build intersectional movement relationships and collaborations, and identify actions and strategies for the future. We assembled an extraordinary U.S., international and intersectional array of 30 speakers (see

worldconferene2020.org) and arranged 24 workshops & forums before the pandemic forced us to cancel the conference.

1,500 participants registered for the World Conference by March 9, when it was cancelled. A week later, confident that Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung's Zoom conferencing account could meet our needs, we decided to move forward with a 2 hour on-line conference, linking our issues to the pandemic, and with possible future activities. Were surprised by how quickly speakers agreed to address the conference and how quickly more than 1,000 people registered for the conference.

Conference speakers included: Reiner Braun (IPB), Sharron Burrow (ITUC Australia), Xiye Bastida (Fridays for Future, US), Joseph Gerson (AFSC/CPDCS/IPB, US), Emad Kiyaei (IDG Group, Iran), Izumi Nakamitsu (U.N. High Representative for Disarmament), Hiroshi Taka – (Gensuikyo, Japan), Terumi Tanaka (Nihon Hidankyo, Japan) Rev. Liz Theoharis (Poor People's Campaign, US), Dr. Carlos Umaña (IPPNW – Costa Rica), Masako Wada (Nihon Hidankyo).

The online conference was a major success. More than 2,000 people from 37 countries participated directly or simultaneously via YouTube. It provided analysis, vision, models for organizing and an important boost for our movements midst the pandemic. We engaged people from the Global South who could not have travelled New York. The conference was recorded( <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RKUYU6xefhQ>.) and is posted on U.S., European and Japanese web pages. The conference was featured on NHK, Japan's leading broadcaster, by other Japanese press, and with reports in U.S.-based progressive media, including the publication of Joseph Gerson's speech about the changing world disorder.

The Peace & Planet Network is now promoting 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary Hiroshima/Nagasaki commemoration activities, with an emphasis on building with Gensuikyo's Peace Wave. In the U.S. it is preparing a webinar to promote 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary activities and to build understanding that the A-bombings was not needed to end the Asia-Pacific War. P & P is also in a very early stage of preparing for the NPT Review Conference, now rescheduled for January 2021.