Minutes

Meeting Format
The AGM was held in two sessions:

Session 1 included campaign updates and reports, a strategy discussion on challenges and opportunities to advance nuclear abolition in the post COVID-19 world, and Introduction of proposals.


Session 1 was held twice, 1a timed to suit participants from Asia/Pacific and early risers in Europe/Africa, 1b timed to suit participants in the Americas, Europe and Africa.

Session 1a: 8:00 – 9:30 CET.
Timed for Asia/Pacific and early risers in Europe/Africa

Chairs: Dave Webb and Jackie Cabasso

Note-takers: Chaimae Sebbani and Alyn Ware

Zoom technical/meeting support: Tony Robinson

Welcome & Opening; Overview of the meeting
Dave welcomed everyone, opened the meeting and gave an introductory message noting the changed circumstances for the world due to COVID-19 pandemic, yet the development, production, deployment and threat of use of nuclear weapons remain. Dave also noted the changed circumstances for Abolition 2000 and that this was the first time we had conducted an AGM by video conference. Dave invited everyone to indicate their country on their Zoom name plate, and to use the google form to introduce themselves, with name, organization, country and one word to describe the moment we’re in.

Words offered include: Excited, great, enthusiastic, concerned, thankful, good, labouring, outraged, willing, alright, encouraged, groovy, ready-to-roll, frazzled (among webinars), motivated, upset, pleased to meet everyone, strong, grateful, terrified, collective action

Agenda Review

Agenda: Campaign updates and reports. Strategy discussion on challenges and opportunities to advance nuclear abolition in the post COVID-19 world, and Introduction of proposals.
Jackie introduced the agenda. She noted that due to limited time for the AGM (instead of 1 – 2 days, we have two 90-minute sessions) we had to be very creative in organizing the meeting. This included having materials prepared and available prior to the AGM including written reports from the working groups and video food-for-thought statements on nuclear disarmament strategy in the emerging political climate post COVID-19. It also includes using the chat boxes and google forms for participants to share information during the AGM without having to take up time to verbally present these. Jackie invited participants to post information about upcoming events on the calendar Google form.

History of the Network
Dave presented a short history of Abolition 2000 noting that this is the 25th anniversary of our founding, and gave an introduction to what Abolition 2000 offers and how we are managed. Click here for basic information about Abolition 2000. Click here for a more detailed history.

Abolition 2000 Founding Statement
Jackie introduced the Abolition 2000 founding statement which outlines the general aims of the network to abolish nuclear weapons and phase out nuclear energy, and calls on governments to adopt and implement 11 practical measures to achieve this. We then showed a video of 11 activists each reading out one of these measures.

Abolition 2000 Operating Principles
Dave read out the Abolition 2000 Operating Principles, which were designed to ensure effective and inclusive management of Abolition 2000 and our meetings and decisions.

Reports from Affiliated and Allied Networks
Written and oral reports were received from:

- Global Network Against Weapons and Nuclear Power in Space, oral report given by Dave Webb
- Gensuikyo – Japan Council against A and H Bombs
- ICAN, oral report given by Tony Robinson
- Mayors for Peace, oral report given by Jackie Cabasso
- Middle East Treaty Organization (METO), oral report given by Sharon Dolev.
- Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-proliferation and Disarmament (PNND), oral report given by Alyn Ware
- Peace and Planet, oral report given by Reiko Asato
- UNFOLD ZERO, oral report given by Alyn Ware
- World Beyond War, oral report given by Joseph Essertier
- World without Wars, oral report given by Montserrat Prieto

Reports from working groups
Written and oral reports were received from the following working groups:
Participants were encouraged to check the Abolition 2000 working groups page to find out more information and to join working groups relevant to them.

Strategy discussion: Challenges and Opportunities in the emerging political environment:
Prior to the AGM we invited all people who had registered to view video statements that had been made by some Abolition 2000 analysts addressing the questions:

What do you think the world might be like by the time of the NPT Review Conference next year? In the longer term? How do you think this will affect our work? What will it mean for how we do our work? The analysts were:

- Oleg Bodrov (Russian Federation), Public Council of the South Coast of the Gulf of Finland
- Tarja Cronberg (Finland), SIPRI European Security Programme
- Maria Fernanda Espinosa (Ecuador), World Future Council and former President of the UN General Assembly
- Kate Hudson (United Kingdom), Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament
- Andrew Lichterman (United States), Western States Legal Foundation
- Vanda Proskova (Czech Republic), Abolition 2000 Youth Network and PNND
- Suvrat Raju (India), Coalition for Nuclear Disarmament and Peace.
- Elder Kathy Sanchez (United States), Environmental Health & Justice and Sayain Circle of Grandmothers Coordinator

A short compilation of excerpts from the videos was shown just prior to the discussion to remind participants of the videos and some key points from them

Key points from the discussion
This was a general sharing session without any intention to take decisions or achieve consensus. However, some key ideas that were discussed included:

- The value of working both within existing forums like the NPT and UN and with parliamentarians and like-minded governments, and also working outside of the forums with more progressive civil society actions and initiatives. There were a number of comments that these are complementary and mutually supporting approaches.
• The value of working on initiatives for the comprehensive prohibition of nuclear weapons like a nuclear weapons convention and the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons alongside work on incremental measures like de-alerting, NWFZs and no-first-use. The Abolition 2000 founding statement includes both comprehensive and incremental measures.

• With a separate process now running for the Middle East zone free from nuclear weapons and other WMD, this should remove this as an issue that could be used to prevent agreement at the NPT Review Conference.

• Given opposition by nuclear armed and allied States to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, it’s unlikely that much traction for this could occur at the NPT Review Conferences, whereas the Swedish-led grouping of 16 governments (some TPNW leaders and some nuclear allied countries) could provide a basis for progress on incremental measures at the NPT Review Conference;

• The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the irrelevance of militaries and military spending to meeting human security needs – yet governments keep spending huge budgets on militaries, including on nuclear weapons.

• Campaigns against nuclear weapons/military spending are necessary, but it could be useful to expand these to include shifting money from other bad things as well – such as investments/budgets/subsidies for the fossil fuel industry – and also on impact investment to support peace, health and sustainable development (it was noted that Move the Nuclear Weapons money campaign takes this broader approach).

• The US administration consideration of resumed nuclear testing is a very frightening and destabilizing development. Discussion on this issue led to agreement later on for an Abolition 2000 statement on nuclear testing – see below.

• The COVID-19 pandemic has elevated attention to human security versus military security and the need for a more values-based economic system as we emerge from the pandemic – and not a return to the former business-as-usual economic system which has been destroying the planet, stimulating armed conflict and failing to address poverty, human rights and environmental protection. Discussion on this issue led to the agreement later to establish a new working group – see Session 2, Consideration and Decisions on proposals, below).

A number of people noted the value of the video statements filmed in preparation for this discussion and recommended that they be promoted as a stand-alone resource for nuclear disarmament campaigners around the world to watch even if they could not attend the AGM.

Introduction of proposals/announcements
There were five proposals that were received prior to the AGM for consideration at the AGM. These were:

1. Katsumi Furitsu: Chernobyl-Hibakusha Support Kansai: Petition campaign against the discharge of radioactive water containing tritium into the ocean from the Fukushima Daichi Nuclear Power Station (announcement/request for support only; no decision needed) – Katsumi
2. Gensuikyo on the “Peace Wave” and the 2020 World Conference against A and H Bombs to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the atomic bombing

3. Dominique Lalanne (Abolition des Armes Nucléaires – Maison de Vigilance) and Marc Morgan (Trident Ploughshares and CND) on an International Fast from August 6 to August 9, 2020

4. Holger Gussefeld and Jörg Salamon, World Future Council – divestment campaign – Money be Good, introduced orally by Alyn Ware

5. Moving Beyond Missile Defense and Space Weapons (MBMDS) working group – request for $5,000 to finalize and publish report

The proposals were introduced and then referred to Session 2 for decision and/or action.

There were a couple of other campaign announcements including of the Call for the UN Secretary General: for a Universal Basic Income, the World Ceasefire and a Conference of the Peoples.

Funding:
Jackie explained that Abolition 2000 is no longer receiving funding from our traditional funder, and that we now rely on donations from individual and organizational members. She asked those on the call to make pledges to Abolition 2000 using the chat box. Jackie noted that if we had held the AGM in New York, as originally planned, many of us would have spent a lot on travel and accommodation etc. to participate, so think about that and consider donating a fraction of that money to Abolition 2000.

Pledges were received by a number of participants. Please make your donation at www.abolition2000.org/en/take-action/donate/.

Group photo.
A group photo (screen shot) was taken by Tony.

Screen shot of participants in session 1a
Session 1 b. 6pm (CET).
Timed for Americas, Europe, Africa, and the Middle East

Note: Much of the first part of Session 1b was a repeat of Session 1a. New discussion in Session 1b occurred mostly in the Strategy Session discussion (See: Key points from the Strategy Session discussion) and the new proposal for an Abolition 2000 statement on the nuclear arms race and possible resumed nuclear testing (see Proposals)

Chairs: Alyn Ware and Jackie Cabasso

Welcome & Opening; Overview of the meeting
Alyn welcomed everyone, opened the meeting and gave an introductory message noting that: a) this session is a repeat of session 1a, but timed for people/organisations from a different time zone; b) the world has changed due to COVID-19 pandemic, yet the development, production, deployment and threat of use of nuclear weapons remain; c) the changed circumstances for Abolition 2000 mean that this was the first time we had conducted an AGM by video conference. Alyn invited everyone to indicate their country on their Zoom name plate, and to use the google form to introduce themselves, with name, organization, country and one word to describe the moment we’re in.

Words offered include: Anxious, interested, open, perplexed, energized, worn-out, curious, revolutionary, waiting, hopeful, pessimistic, historic time of crisis and opportunity, concerned, grateful, thankful, frustrated...

Agenda Review
Jackie introduced the agenda. She noted that due to limited time for the AGM (instead of 1 – 2 days, we have two 90-minute sessions) we had to be very creative in organizing the meeting. This included having materials prepared and available prior to the AGM including written reports from the working groups and video food-for-thought statements on nuclear disarmament strategy in the emerging political climate post COVID-19. It also includes using the chat boxes and google forms for participants to share information during the AGM without having to take up time to verbally present these. Jackie invited participants to post information about upcoming events on the calendar Google form.

History of the Network
Alyn presented a short history of Abolition 2000 noting that this is the 25th anniversary of our founding, and gave an introduction to what Abolition 2000 offers and how we are managed. Click here for basic information about Abolition 2000. Click here for a more detailed history.

Abolition 2000 Founding Statement
Jackie introduced the Abolition 2000 founding statement which outlines the general aims of the network to abolish nuclear weapons and phase out nuclear energy, and calls on governments to adopt and implement 11
practical measures to achieve this. We then showed a [video of 11 activists each reading out one of these measures](#).

**Abolition 2000 Operating Principles**

Alyn summarized the **Abolition 2000 Operating Principles**, which were designed to ensure effective and inclusive management of Abolition 2000 and our meetings and decisions.

**Reports from Affiliated and Allied Networks**

Written and oral reports were received from:

- **Global Network Against Weapons and Nuclear Power in Space**, oral report given by Bruce Gagnon
- **ICAN**, Oral report given by Carlos Umaña
- **Mayors for Peace**, Oral report given by Jackie Cabasso
- **Middle East Treaty Organization** (METO), oral report given by Emad Kiyai.
- **Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-proliferation and Disarmament (PNND)**, oral report given by Alyn Ware
- **Peace and Planet**, oral report given by Joseph Gerson
- **UNFOLD ZERO**, oral report given by Alyn Ware
- **World without Wars**, oral report given by Montserrat Prieto

**Reports from working groups**

Written and oral reports were received from the following working groups:

- **Abolition 2000 Youth Network**, oral report given by Vanda Proskova
- **Economic Dimensions of Nuclearism/Move the Nuclear Weapons Money**, Oral report given by Vanda Proskova
- **Moving Beyond Missile Defense and Space Weapons**, oral report given by Subrata Goshroy
- **International Law**, oral report given by John Burroughs
- **Nuclear Risk Reduction**, oral report given by Alyn Ware
- **Nukes in Europe**, oral report given by Reiner Braun

Participants were encouraged to check the **Abolition 2000 working groups page** to find out more information and to join working groups relevant to them.

**Strategy discussion: Challenges and Opportunities in the emerging political environment:**

Prior to the AGM we invited all people who had registered to view [video statements](#) that had been made by some Abolition 2000 analysts addressing the questions: *What do you think the world might be like by the time of the NPT Review Conference next year? In the longer term? How do you think this will affect our work? What will it mean for how we do our work?* The analysts were:

- Oleg Bodrov (Russian Federation), Public Council of the South Coast of the Gulf of Finland
A short compilation of excerpts from the videos was shown just prior to the discussion to remind participants of the videos and some key points from them.

Key points from the Strategy Session discussion

This was a general sharing session without any intention to take decisions or achieve consensus.

- Importance of action of cities in peace and disarmament campaigns.
- Resumed nuclear testing by the US would be extremely destabilizing and give an excuse to all other nuclear-armed States to undertake nuclear tests and/or expand their nuclear weapons programs. Preventing a resumption of US testing should be a priority at this time.
- We need to focus more on the nuclear weapons industry. They are an incredibly powerful lobby that keeps nuclear weapons budgets high and the arms race running.
- We also need to emphasise that nuclear weapons do not provide security and are immoral. These arguments should be part of the arguments on nuclear weapons spending.
- Education and engagement of youth on this issue is vital.
- Nuclear abolition is still not engaging global civil society at the same level as climate change and other key issues. We could do with a hard-hitting, high-level, film like Al Gore’s documentary An Inconvenient Truth but on nuclear disarmament. We need to outreach to well-known film-makers to encourage something similar for nuclear abolition.
- There are new military technologies that we need to also consider such as military use of artificial intelligence, including the connections between artificial intelligence and nuclear weapons.

Introduction of proposals/announcements

There were five proposals that were received prior to the AGM for consideration at the AGM. These were:

1. Katsumi Furitsu: Chernobyl-Hibakusha Support Kansai: Petition campaign against the discharge of radioactive water containing tritium into the ocean from the Fukushima Daichi Nuclear Power Station (announcement/request for support only; no decision needed) – Katsumi
2. Gensuikyo on the “Peace Wave” and the 2020 World Conference against A and H Bombs to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the atomic bombing
3. Dominique Lalanne (Abolition des Armes Nucléaires – Maison de Vigilance) and Marc Morgan (Trident Ploughshares and CND) on an International Fast from August 6 to August 9, 2020


5. Moving Beyond Missile Defense and Space Weapons (MBMDS) working group – request for $5,000 to finalize and publish report

The proposals were re-introduced and then referred to session 2 for decision and/or action.

Additional proposals and announcements:

1. Odile Hugonot Haber proposed the establishment of a working group for a Middle East Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone.

2. John Burroughs, David Lowry and Daniel Ellsberg proposed that there be an Abolition 2000 statement on nuclear testing and the nuclear arms race. John offered to prepare a text for review in session 2, when action on proposals will be decided.

3. Roger Eaton. Proposal from the strategy session to establish a global network of cities supporting the UN broader agenda – peace, disarmament, sustainable development etc...

4. Louis Zeller announced a campaign by the Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League to oppose the resumption of production of plutonium ‘pits’ at Savannah River nuclear facility.

Events:

Tony reminded participants to post upcoming events in the google doc events calendar.

Screen shot of participants in session 1b.
Session 2. 21:00 – 22:30 CET

Agenda:

Chairs: Tony Robinson and Jackie Cabasso

Zoom technical/meeting support: Alyn Ware

Opening; Overview of the meeting
Tony reported briefly on Session 1 and then introduced session 2 and the agenda.

Review Operating Principles and Decision-Making Process
As Session 2 involved decision-making, Jackie outlined again the operating principles and explained the decision-making process. (Decisions if possible by consensus. If consensus not possible, then voting can take place with a super-majority (75%) required for adoption. Voting is restricted to one vote per participating member organization.

Consideration and decisions on proposals from Session 1
1. Chernobyl-Hibakusha Support Kansai: Petition
   Jackie noted that as this is an action by an Abolition 2000 member on an issue within the mandate of the founding statement, Abolition 2000 is able to promote this without formal decision required at the AGM. Tony agreed and indicated that the campaign will be posted on the Abolition 2000 blog immediately after the AGM. (Click here for the blog promotion).

2. Gensuikyo – Peace Wave and the International Fast
   Jackie noted that, similar to the Kansai Petition, these are actions by Abolition 2000 members on issues within the mandate of the founding statement, so Abolition 2000 is able to promote these without formal decision required at the AGM. It was agreed that Abolition 2000 would do a special promotion of the 75th anniversary of Hiroshima and Nagasaki Days, and promote commemoration actions and events, with a special focus on the Peace Wave and the International Fast.

3. Money be Good
   The proposal received considerable interest. It was agreed that the Working Group on Economic Dimensions become active in the development and implementation of the proposal in cooperation with the World Future Council, which had made the proposal.

4. Moving Beyond Missile Defence
Jackie commended the project, but reported that Abolition 2000 has no funds to distribute to projects like this. However, it was agreed that the Coordinating Committee would consider ways to support, including the possibility of a Go-Fund-Me appeal for the project.

5. Middle East NWFZ working group

It was agreed that rather than setting up an Abolition 2000 working group on this topic, the Coordinating Committee establish a stronger relationship between Abolition 2000 and the Middle East Treaty Organization, including the possibility of Abolition 2000 members joining the organization and having more frequent dialogue and events (such as webinars) with the organization.


It was agreed to establish an Abolition 2000 working group on this. Tony volunteered to act as interim coordinator. It was agreed that the working group would liaise with the working group established at the 2019 AGM on the Global Week of Action on Peace, Climate, Sustainable Development and Nuclear Abolition. The following volunteered to join the working group: Dominikus Vogl, James Lerager, Jim Anderson, Jackie Cabasso, Roger Easton, Peter Bergel, Karen (from Texas).

7. Establishing a network of cities in support of broader UN agenda

No action was taken on this proposal. However, it relates very much to the working group established to advance the broader human values and human security agenda (point 6 above), and so could possibly be taken up by this working group. It also relates to the work of the affiliated networks - Mayors for Peace and UNFOLD ZERO.

8. Abolition 2000 statement on nuclear testing and the nuclear arms race

John Burroughs presented a draft statement prepared by himself, Andrew Lichterman and Daniel Ellsberg following the comments from the strategy discussions in session 1. The statement was adopted and circulated following the AGM. Click here for the press release. Click here for the statement.

Coordinating Committee Report

Jackie referred participants to the Abolition 2000 Report of Activities for 2019 which gives an overview of the network. She reported that the Coordinating Committee is responsible for keeping the network running, organizing the series of webinars, organizing the Annual Meeting and posting blogs, events and other materials on the website and Facebook page. She also noted that the coordinating committee currently serves as the secretariat as there is insufficient funding for a staff person or central office. Previously, when there was funding, the secretariat was hosted by member organisations, most recently the International Peace Bureau in Berlin.
Funding:
Jackie explained that Abolition 2000 is no longer receiving funding from our traditional funder, and that we now rely on donations from individual and organizational members. She asked those on the call to make pledges to Abolition 2000 using the chat box. Regina noted that if we had held the AGM in New York, as originally planned, many of us would have spent a lot on travel and accommodation etc to participate, so think about that and consider donating a fraction of that money to Abolition 2000.

Pledges were received by a number of participants. Please make your donation at www.abolition2000.org/en/take-action/donate/.

Building, serving and strengthening the network—website, newsletter, webinars
Tony gave a short update on the A2000 website, webinar, newsletter and social media. He encouraged members to use these resources and make suggestions for improvement. He also encouraged groups that are not already members to join A2000.

Affirmation of Coordinating Committee and Global Council
Jackie noted that usually the Global Council (GC) and Coordinating Committee (CC) are confirmed at the AGM by consensus. This is possible at a physical day-long meeting as there is time for informal discussion on nominations during coffee and lunch breaks. As this was not possible for a shorter, online AGM, it was agreed that the CC could affirm the new GC and CC based on the current members plus additions/removals in light of feedback from meeting participants.

Jackie described the roles of these groups (see below) and informed participants to contact the CC if they are interested in joining the CC or GC or if they are already a member and wish to step down. Reiko reported that sadly one of the GC members, Mr. OKAMOTO Mitsuo passed away since the last AGM.

Responsibilities of GC members (adopted at the 2011 Abolition 2000 AGM):
- The GC is made up of individuals, not representatives of organizations
- GC members are expected to be active with Abolition 2000
- GC members are encouraged to serve as advisors and ambassadors for Abolition 2000, and work with Abolition 2000 groups in their regions and thematic areas
- We need to hear from GC members at least annually. GC members are expected to check in with or respond to the CC at least once a year (respond to a draft statement, contribute to the e-newsletter or some other way)
- GC members are expected to abide by the Abolition 2000 Operating Principles

Evaluation and follow up
Tony announced that the CC will be sending to all participants a form for evaluating the AGM and that the CC welcomes constructive feedback. He added that the CC will also be sending other follow-up material including the calendar of events that has been compiled during the AGM.
Group photo
Tony took a screen shot of everyone waving as a group photo for the AGM.

Closing
Kathy Wan Povi Sanchez, from the Sayain Circle of Grandmothers, New Mexico, USA provided a closing.