

Peace & Planet

Abolition 2000 Report – June 15, 2021

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Beginning in 2009, the forerunner to the international Peace and Planet Network, has organized conferences and forums designed to impact the NPT process, review Conferences and prepcoms. In 2010 it organized a conference at the Riverside Church that brought together more than 1,000 activists and movement leaders from around the world and was addressed by, among others, U.S. Secretary General Ban Ki-moon. That year, a 25,000-person rally and march to the U.N. was organized for nuclear disarmament (abolition) and human needs. The network, which by 2014 had been formalized as a project of A-2000, on the eve of the NPT Review Conference held a major international conference and rally and march for about 10,000 people. In both 2010 and 2015, in cooperation with Hibakusha, other Japanese and other nuclear weapons abolition movements, Peace & Planet facilitated the presentation of million of nuclear weapons abolition petition signatures to the RevCon.

The pandemic seriously impacted Peace & Planet's educating and organizing this past year. With the NPT Review Conference initially postponed to August, our plan was to hold a hybrid conference on July 31, and if possible to explore organizing side events within or alongside the Review Conference. As part of our ongoing movement building/educational work and to prepare the way for the July conference, in February we held a well-attended international webinar featuring Oleg Bodrov (Russia), Jackie Cabasso (US), Sharon Dolev (Israel), Kate Hudson (UK), Daryl Kimball (US), Emad Kiyaei (Iran), Lee Jun-Kyu (South Korea), and Zhao Tong (China.)

The international planning committee, comprised of Rieko Asato (Japan), Oleg Bodrov (Russia), Sally Jones (US) Jackie Cabasso (US), Reiner Braun (IPB – Germany), Arielle Denis (IPB/ICAN – France), Mariana Fernandez (soon returning to RLS), Joseph Gerson (US), Jeff Hoey (U.S.), Chuck Johnson (IPPNW – U.S.), Roland Nivet (France), Alain Rouy (France) and others met several times during the late winter and spring of 2021. Confronted by another pandemic induced postponement of the NPT Review Conference to either January April/May 2022, it was decided that Peace and Planet next contribution should be a September 18 2 – 2 1/2-hour strategy session among movement leaders.

That meeting, with its participants to be limited in number and geographically diverse (including the Global South) will be goal oriented. It is being designed to advance nuclear abolition/peace movement building for the longer term, with near-term goals of impacting and using the NPT Review Conference and the TPNW States Parties First Meeting to build for the longer term. We envision using these two processes to advance our long-term nuclear weapons abolition and goals.

With the meeting designed to foster discussion, exchanges and strategy development, rather than the passing of truths down from on high several people will be invited to give BRIEF framing remarks that can help to launch discussions. Discussions will be structured to share information and analysis about where we are and what we face with the changing global political realities and threats (e.g., U.S.-Russian, and U.S.-Chinese relations/confrontations, nuclear arms races, etc.), the implications of this changing landscape for the TPNW and NPT events, and for our long-term work for peace, disarmament

and building the multi-issue movement needed to win the changes needed for human survival and real security.

To be productive, the number of participants will be limited to geographically diverse disarmament/peace movement leaders. We initially identified about 30 people & organizations that have been involved with the Peace & Planet network and its events and from diverse regions to whom we will look to have representatives. We want to include the perspectives of diverse social movements, but given the history of siloed movements and the limited time for our meeting, bringing labor/economic justice, environmental and other issues which we understand are essential to building an integrated and powerful movement, we will look to people within our network for their expertise.