



Centennial celebration of the 1910 Nobel Peace Prize awarded to the IPB

STATEMENT BY THE IPB COUNCIL

26 Sept. 2010, Oslo

Gathered in Oslo to celebrate the first centennial of its 1910 Prize, the International Peace Bureau reconfirms its dedication to the original vision of the Nobel Peace Prize: a deep reform of international relations.

Military power games, with the suspicion, fear and arms races that accompany them, must be replaced by a world ruled by the power of law, rather than the law of power. The world must reconnect with the now-forgotten concepts of “Common Security” and “General and Complete Disarmament”, which were alive up to only a few decades ago.

The Norwegian Minister of Research and Higher Education, Tora Aasland, greeting the IPB at the opening of its centennial conference, recalled the statement of the Nobel Committee chair, Jørgen Løvland, at the ceremony in 1910 when IPB received the Nobel Peace Prize: *“We are convinced that this award is entirely in the spirit of Alfred Nobel's plan; he wanted his money to be used to support, accelerate, and promote the peace movement.”*

This original purpose of the Nobel Peace Prize, and of the IPB, is just as valid today, only much more pressing. The idea of security through immense military expenditure is based on illusion and deception, since the potential use of modern weapons of mass destruction is the greatest of all threats to humankind. The IPB recommits its worldwide network of 320 member organizations to breaking the vicious circle of militarism, committing instead the money to development and human needs.

**Media contact: Tomas Magnusson, Co-President
+46 31 701 2081**