Cover photos: A selection of actions organised across the world on the 2015 Global Day of Action on Military Spending

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INTRODUCTION

This was yet another turbulent year – and one in which the military time and again played a destructive role.

Terrorism struck in many places but the attacks that opened and closed the year in Paris attracted the most western media attention and were in some way a wake-up call (as if one were still needed) as to the challenging and persistent nature of radical Islam. Syria, Iraq and Yemen saw appalling destruction and the engagement of many armies and armed bands. Among the most significant effects was a rapid increase in the tide of refugees – an issue that threatened to destabilise the whole European body politic, just as it was struggling to cope with the fallout from the Euro-crisis and the political conflict over the Greek economy.

Meanwhile the bloody fight for the soul of Ukraine brought Russia and the West close to direct confrontation and stirred fears of a new Cold War – albeit without the same global and ideological framework as the original one.

Developments within Russia mirrored a growing authoritarian and hyper-nationalist tendency in many important states: Egypt, China, India, Israel and even Japan. The latter was the scene of huge mobilisations through the year in the attempt to protect Article 9 of the constitution – but Prime Minister Abe’s militaristic reforms prevailed, at least for the time being.

Linked to this were the ongoing struggles over small islands in both the East China Sea and the South China Sea, in which several major powers are at loggerheads. Then there are the developments on the Korean peninsula. N Korea did not test nuclear weapons in 2015 but it was believed to have weapons capable of hitting the United States, and the whole western Pacific region remains tense and highly militarised.

The West’s growing tensions with Russia, China and radical Islam represent an unprecedented cocktail of potential mass violence, with the ever-present nuclear threat never far from the mind of the policy-maker, media commentator or activist.

What is often not pointed to is the backdrop: the enormous and growing gaps between the haves and the have-nots, and the worldwide competition for natural resources. In many of the regional theatres mentioned above it is the confrontational, militaristic approach of NATO and Western-allied states to “the others” that has provoked the cycle of nationalisms. ‘Making our country great again’ could soon be a slogan adopted by every candidate for high office in major states. The dangers for world peace of such a trend are hard to over-estimate.

Despite these dark clouds there were some important, mostly positive, developments on the diplomatic front in the course of 2015:

At the UN, a universal ‘Agenda 2030’ with 17 sustainable development goals was adopted by an overwhelming General Assembly vote; as was the COP 21 outcome on climate change at Paris in December.

However, the NPT Review failed to reach an agreed declaration. More encouraging was the decision of the UNGA to set up a second round of the Open-Ended Working Group on nuclear disarmament.
The interminable negotiations over Iran’s nuclear programme finally reached a successful result in July, a month which also saw the restoration of diplomatic relations between the US and Cuba. Proof, if it were needed, that patient diplomacy is more effective than bombs and bullets – and far cheaper.

What is IPB?

IPB is a global network of peace groups, with 300 member organisations in 70 countries, with an office base in Geneva. The organisation has a democratic structure, with an elected Council and Board. IPB was founded in 1891 to coordinate the work of the world’s national peace associations. It is a Nobel Peace laureate (1910), and thirteen of our officers and staff have won the Nobel Peace Prize over the years.

IPB’s long-term goal is a world without war. We see our work as a contribution to the development of a peace-building community, cultivating in all societies the seeds of a culture of peace. While the causes of armed conflict are complex, and the attempts to tackle them very varied, IPB has chosen to focus its efforts in a limited number of areas, of which the main one is Disarmament for Sustainable Development. This report offers a summary of the highlights of the year’s activities.

DISARMAMENT FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

IPB continues to develop its major programme, launched in 2005, entitled Disarmament for Sustainable Development. (D for D). This is designed to reflect widespread public concern at the continuing high levels of global military spending; and the evidence that all weapons -- both the devastating weapons of mass destruction and those used on a frequent basis (small arms, cluster bombs, landmines...) -- seriously impede sustainable development. Many years and several wars on from 9-11, the failure of military solutions should be obvious to all. IPB advocates reductions in defence budgets and the adoption of a ‘human security’ approach.

Our Disarmament for Sustainable Development programme has three thematic areas: (1) military spending, (2) impacts of weapons on development, (3) justifications for investments in militarism. Since 2011 the central focus of the work is military and social spending. The various concepts are discussed in detail in our book Warfare or Welfare? A follow-up volume, Whose Priorities? provides examples of creative campaigning by NGOs and other civil society organisations who have taken up these issues. More recent publications focus on the links between military spending and the UN’s Development Agenda, and the challenge of climate change.

In 2015 the Global Campaign on Military Spending (GCOMS), launched at the end of 2014, consolidated the progress made during the 5 annual Global Days of Action (GDAMS) since 2011. New partnerships were formed and new issues addressed. This was, in particular, the year of the Climate Change agreement (COP 21) and the consecration of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by the UN General Assembly. IPB and its GCOMS partners consistently made the case that much of the money locked into the military sector should – and given political will – could be...
made available for such purposes. By the end of the year it was becoming clear that a third area would also be requiring major investments: the humanitarian crisis. This was due to be addressed by the upcoming World Humanitarian Summit (WHS) in May 2016 in Istanbul. We can add to this the crucial importance of redirecting money to the peace and disarmament sectors; and obvious needs apparent in public services such as health and education. IPB calls these the ‘five directions’ in which military resources could be channelled.

Every year IPB works with the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) to make known their annual military spending data. The figures for 2015 show that, although the drop in the oil price has meant for certain states a drop in available income, the general trend is once again upwards: an increase of 1% over the 2014 figures, to $1676 billion, equivalent to 2.3 per cent of global gross domestic product (GDP). The United States remained by far the world’s biggest spender in 2015, despite its expenditure falling by 2.4 per cent to $596 billion. The five biggest spenders were the USA, China, Saudi Arabia, Russia and the UK.

**GLOBAL DAY OF ACTION ON MILITARY SPENDING 2015**

The highlight of our campaigning year was once again the Global Day, which fell on 13 April, the day of publication of the SIPRI data. In all, 128 physical actions were organised in 21 countries, in addition to extensive social media campaigns. Details of the activities undertaken in each country can be found at the GDAMS website: [http://demilitarize.org/gdams-2015-events-reports-photos/](http://demilitarize.org/gdams-2015-events-reports-photos/)

This was the fifth edition of GDAMS, and the majority of the events were held on 13 April. The GDAMS U.S. was organised on 15 April, U.S. Tax Day, to highlight people's opinions on where they prefer their tax money to be spent. IPB served as the International Coordinator and Mary Zerkel of the American Friends Service Committee was the U.S. Coordinator.

Aside from actions like leafleting, penny polls, banners display, press releases, and demonstrations, the creative and resourceful GDAMS partners organised and conducted a kite-flying event, a street meditation, a night light action, a blockade of military establishments, writing a poem, rapping and a ‘video clip by a band which metamorphosed into a concert tour with disarmament as the theme’. There are also individuals who did their own GDAMS initiatives.

On social media, the Thunderclaps, the selfies, and online surveys brought to the fore local issues while linking them to global ones. It was the team’s conscious decision that this year, social media platforms will be optimized by utilizing them not only as ‘bulletin boards’ or as a ‘megaphone’ to broadcast and disseminate information. We invested in using social media primarily as a means to cultivate and deepen our engagement and networking on a common issue, which is in this case is military spending. Military spending as it relates to our partners’ advocacy concerns like climate change, nuclear disarmament, social development, etc.

**GENEVA:** As in previous years, the Geneva Secretariat organised two activities in Geneva: a seminar at the UN and a street-level photo-
opportunity, this time outside the Geneva Environment House, in order to make the link with the COP 21 conference.

At the end of the GDAMS season we published the following message: *To our colleagues in the faith-based, labour, peace and disarmament, academia, women, economic justice, decent housing, environment and climate change, human rights, conscientious objectors, artists and students communities: A million thanks to you for taking action and supporting the events on the ground and on social media. Thank you for organising so many actions. All of these add up to the GDAMS global movement’s efforts to persuade governments to reallocate the global military spending and move the money to urgent human needs.*

**OTHER EVENTS**

**Public presentations about the Campaign** made during the rest of the year (by Secretary-General Colin Archer, unless stated otherwise) included:

Feb: Kildare, Ireland. Event hosted by member organisation Afri.

April: Paris. The OECD organised the 2015 Global Forum on Development. IPB participated, together with our partners the World Future Council. We distributed a 10pp joint position paper: 'Innovative Resources for the SDGs: Redirecting military spending towards finance the Sustainable Development Goals'.


May: Following his participation in the WILPF centenary conference, IPB Secretary-General Colin Archer was invited to join a wide-ranging audio discussion (35 mins) organised by the Guardian newspaper on conflict, the role of women, military spending and the SDGs.

Oct : Istres, France – Mouvement de la paix summer gathering: (Ingeborg Breines)

Nov: Padova, Italy: IPB annual conference, hosted by member organisation Beati i Costruttori di pace. SEE BELOW

Nov: Barcelona Prepcomm for Berlin congress 2016: hosted by IPB member organisation Centre Delàs. (Ingeborg Breines)

Nov: Monaco: Namira Salim (IPB life member) organised an unusual event in a top hotel in Monaco to honour the peaceful achievements of the Russian space programme.

Dec: Paris: COP 21 workshop on militarism and climate change – arranged by Bernard Dréano and colleagues in the Association Européenne des citoyens. This has led to the creation of a new international network.
IPB has a long history of work to promote the elimination of nuclear weapons, notably in the late 1980s and 1990s when we focused on the struggle to bring the issue to the International Court of Justice (World Court Project); and since 1995 in support of networks such as Abolition 2000, Mayors for Peace, ICAN, Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament, and the Middle Powers Initiative. Several of the awards we have made of the Sean MacBride Peace Prize, and of our annual Nobel Peace Prize nominations, have highlighted anti-nuclear figures.

In 2015 we continued on this path by participating in a number of key events and projects:

**NPT & PEACE AND PLANET/GLOBAL WAVE**

The NPT Review Conference was held in New York from 27 April to 22 May. IPB members participated in this conference in the traditional way, arranging side events and engaging with diplomats. However the activity which involved a larger number of participants was the **Peace and Planet** mobilisation which began a few days before the opening of the official conference. It included: a rally and march; an international Conference; an interfaith service; and the Global Wave.

Global Wave 2015, a series of creative actions to ‘wave goodbye to nuclear weapons’ swept around the world on April 26 and 27 as world leaders gathered at the United Nations. The waves were part of a global mobilisation of civil society organisations calling on governments to use the opportunity of the 2015 nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference to abolish nuclear weapons and redirect the $100 billion annual nuclear weapons budget to addressing climate change, support renewable energies and meet global human needs in health, education and welfare.

Our mobilization in New York and around the world was a great success. The press has reported, ”Peace and Planet showed the commitment of international civil society to peace and disarmament, as thousands of people from around the world gathered in New York on the eve of the NPT RevConF".
ANNIVERSARY OF THE BOMBINGS OF HIROSHIMA AND NAGASAKI

The 70th anniversary of the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki was commemorated in traditional style in the two cities, and several IPB members, plus the Secretary-General, took part. The programme included:

• 6-day World Conference Against A & H bombs, organised by Gensuikyo and others.

• Special meeting with Hibakusha

• Evening with Peace Boat in the port at Nagasaki

• Dinner with leaders of Gensuikin

• Visits to two unusual museums (in Nagasaki & Kyoto), both of which focus not only on the bombings by the allied side, but also about the atrocities committed by Japan around the Asia-Pacific region.

HIBAKUSHA EUROPEAN SPEAKING TOUR

In October 2015, some of the last surviving Hibakusha came to Europe, together with witnesses of the Fukushima disaster, to share with the European public their vision, knowledge and determination to leave behind them a peaceful and safe planet. The tour was organised on behalf of IPB by the Japan Council Against A & H Bombs (Gensuikyo), together with IPB Board members and
member organisations in various key cities. It was a great success! We are grateful for financial support for this project from the Elfi-Gmachl-Stiftung Atomfreie Zukunft, Austria.

**NGO COMMITTEE FOR DISARMAMENT, GENEVA**

Work continued within the NGO Committee for Disarmament, Geneva, of which IPB is the Secretary. The Committee acts as a liaison body for a range of international organisations working for disarmament. Its activities in 2015 included monitoring the Conference on Disarmament, and preparing actions related to the NPT PrepComm and forums such as the humanitarian consequences conferences.

**NOBEL PEACE PRIZE NOMINATION**

IPB once again nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize the Hibakusha, those who personally suffered from the atomic bombings of the two cities.

“They are quite simply extraordinary human beings; not giving in to despair, they became convinced, through their struggle to survive the attacks and the subsequent long years of suffering, that their agonies must never be repeated anywhere. Over these 70 years they have made the choice of activism, unceasingly recounting their experiences and struggles, and working constantly for a total ban and the elimination of nuclear weapons, appealing to governments and peoples all over the world.

We nominate: (1) the Japan Confederation of A and H Bomb Sufferers Organizations (Nihon Hidankyo), a nationwide independent organization of the Hibakusha. Since its founding in August 1956, it has been working in unity, beyond the difference of beliefs and opinions, encouraging its members to help each other to promote the cause of a ban on atomic and hydrogen bombs, by making known their sufferings and struggles. Their activities are fully worthy of the name, “champion of peace”, in the light of the ideal of disarmament, for which Alfred Nobel established the Nobel Peace Prize.

(2) Mr. Sumiteru Taniguchi and (3) Ms. Setsuko Thurlow, outstanding representatives of the Hibakusha movement, who have been at the forefront of the efforts of the Hibakusha throughout their lives, calling for a ban and for the abolition of nuclear weapons, based on their own painful experiences.” (extract from IPB’s nomination letter to the Norwegian Nobel Committee, January 2015).

IPB’s Board members are also entitled to submit official nominations. In 2015, Co-President Ingeborg Breines nominated the former UNESCO Director-General Federico Mayor.
MAKING PEACE

Making Peace is a major photo-exhibition that pays tribute to the people who — all over the planet — have devoted their time, energy and resources to the cause of peace. It was created by IPB and first shown in Geneva in 2010, the centenary of the Nobel Peace Prize awarded to the IPB. It aims to teach the public, especially young people, the key elements necessary to create a 'sustainable peace'; providing a stimulus for people of all ages to get involved in bringing about positive change. It consists of 100 panels with images by major photographers, plus text in English and local languages. It is curated and organised by Ashley Woods of REAL Exhibition Development. Related activities include a teachers’ guide and interactive on-site workshops and presentations. In 2015 it was shown in Ypres (Belgium) and Linkjoping (Sweden), bringing to the total number of venues so far to nine. Much of the year was devoted to negotiating further shows in North America and Western Europe. An exciting programme is being prepared for 2016 and beyond, including in the cities of Tunis and Rio de Janeiro.

NOBEL PEACE LAUREATES SUMMIT

Every year Nobel Peace Laureates meet to discuss the state of the world and to work together to present a collective peace message. The 2015 World Summit of Nobel Peace Laureates, was held in Barcelona. IPB was represented by Co-President Ingeborg Breines, Vice-President Alicia Cabezudo, Board member Jordi Calvo Rufanges and 3 interns from the IPB Secretariat. The laureates issued an important statement which is available at the website of the Summit. Ingeborg Breines’ presentation in plenary was very well received and IPB’s workshop, entitled ‘Cut Military Spending to Promote a Culture of Peace’ was well attended, especially by young people.
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE, MOSCOW, 21-22 APRIL

Forty years after the signing in Helsinki of the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, the Rosa Luxembourg Foundation, the Europe Institute of the Russian Academy of Sciences and the IPB organized a two-day conference in Moscow on the theme: How to live in Europe? The initiative came out of a discussion between IPB Co-President Reiner Braun and the Moscow office of the Rosa Luxemburg Foundation. The majority of the 70+ participants at the conference came from Russia and Germany. IPB was actively represented by board member Laura Lodenius (Helsinki), and Co-Presidents Reiner Braun and Ingeborg Breines.

FROM THE OFFICE DIARY

In order to provide a sense of the breadth of IPB’s concerns and partnerships, here is a selection of highlights taken from the wide range of outreach activities undertaken by staff and Board members:

For details of these and many other activities please consult the Archive section of the IPB website.

April: Ypres. 100 years of Chemical Weapons. Conference organised by the City of Ypres and Mayors for Peace.

April: The Hague. Presentation of a special IPB gift, an art work by the Norwegian artist, Harald Oredam, to the WILPF International Secretariat on the occasion of their centenary.

May: Message sent on the occasion of the 70th anniversary of Pax Christi International.

Sept: Geneva. Framework Forum Roundtable organised by the Middle Powers Initiative, the Ebert Foundation, PNND and the Basel Peace Office: ‘From the NPT to the UN General Assembly: Filling the legal gap to prohibit and eliminate nuclear weapons’.

Sept: Helsinki. Meeting of the ‘No to War, No to NATO’ network. Speeches by both Reiner Braun and Ingeborg Breines.

Sept: Malmö. IPB Consultant Muhsin Shraidah (Iraq/Sweden) gave a public presentation ‘My journey with IPB, its goals and work in the Middle East’.

Sept: Alternatiba Genève: a popular festival to present, debate and celebrate a wide range of social alternatives with which to combat climate change.


Oct: Cora Weiss (IPB UN Representative) co-hosted a commemoration of the 15th anniversary of UNSCR 1325 in New York, which included a peace fair, a reception and a forum.

Dec: Athens- Cyprus. Colin Archer was invited by our friends at PADOP in Athens to join Panos Trigazis on a short mission to Cyprus in support of the rather promising peace process there. “We managed to attend 14 meetings of different types in 48 hours…”

Dec. Interview with IPB by Thalif Deen of Inter Press Service resulting in an article on military spending and development funding.

Dec. Geneva. Colin Archer spoke at a meeting organised by the UN Library on the history of the United Nations. Since the early IPB pioneers were strong supporters of the idea of establishing a ‘League of Nations’, the session focussed on them and in particular the baroness Bertha von Suttner. The meeting also served as a tribute to Vladimir Petrovsky, former Director-General of UNOG, who died in 2014.
The IPB BOARD met several times by skype, and held physical meetings in Geneva and Berlin.

The annual COUNCIL meeting was held in Padova, Italy, following a conference entitled ‘Peace Paths’ hosted by Beati i costruttori di pace (an IPB member organisation working both on peace issues and social justice projects), together with several local university institutions. The keynote speaker was former Director-General of UNESCO, Federico Mayor.

“It is many years since IPB organised a conference in Italy, and this year's event, orchestrated by our Board member Lisa Clark, marked a happy return. The stunning blue skies matched those in the famous Giotto frescoes that some of us had a chance to view. The Italian hospitality was very generous and the group atmosphere was warm and cheerful. The two main highlights were the formal session in the Aula Magna of the ancient University of Padova, attended by a large group of local students; and the public ceremony of the 2015 Sean MacBride Peace Prize.

SEAN MACBRIDE PEACE PRIZE

Each year IPB awards its own Peace Prize, in memory of our former President Sean MacBride. In 2015 we decided to award the Prize to two island communities who, in different circumstances, have shown proof of a profound commitment to peace and social justice: Lampedusa (Italy) and Gangjeon Village, Jeju Island (S. Korea).

“The people of the island of Lampedusa have given the world an extraordinary example of human solidarity, offering clothing, shelter and food to those who have arrived, in distress, on their shores. The response of the Lampedusans stands out in stark contrast to the behaviour and official policies of the European Union, apparently intent only on
reinforcing their borders in the attempt to keep these migrants out. This 'Fortress Europe' policy is becoming more and more militarised.

**Gangjeon Village** is the site of the controversial 50-hectare Jeju Naval Base being constructed by the South Korean government on the southern coast of Jeju Island, at a projected cost of nearly $1 billion. The people of the village have been protesting non-violently for over 8 years against the naval base. The energy and commitment shown by the villagers has attracted the support and participation of activists from around the world.

If we continue devoting the world’s resources to military rather than humanistic purposes, it is inevitable that we will continue to witness these inhuman situations with desperate people, refugees and migrants, at risk while crossing the seas and at the prey of unscrupulous gangs.” (from IPB press release)

**NEWSLETTER:** Our main networking tool: *IPB News* (monthly) carries vital information and opinion on all aspects of Disarmament for Sustainable Development work, plus nuclear and other topics. Persons wishing to subscribe should contact the Secretariat.

**WEBSITES:** Maintaining our 3 Websites (plus a 4th added in 2016 to present the Berlin Congress 2016) as well as their corresponding Facebook and Twitter pages is time-consuming but vitally-important work. Readers are encouraged to consult them on a regular basis:

- www.ipb.org
- www.gcoms.org
- www.makingpeace.org
- www.ipb2016.berlin

**FUNDING ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

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**IN MEMORIAM**

During the year we lost a number of close friends, including:

**Bruce Abramson (USA/Switzerland).** Bruce was a long term volunteer with the Geneva Secretariat since the early 1990s, helping in numerous ways with both staff and interns. He was a professional lawyer who had held important positions in Alaska and the Pacific before coming to Geneva to concentrate on human rights and especially the issue of children’s rights and juvenile justice. Bruce secured a long series of temporary contracts with various UN agencies and NGOs in Geneva. He had only recently retired to his home state of California before he passed away.
## BOARD MEMBERS (18)

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<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
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<tr>
<td>Reiner BRAUN</td>
<td>Co-President</td>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>IALANA</td>
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<td>Ingeborg BREINES</td>
<td>Co-President</td>
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<tr>
<td>Victor DE LA BARRERA</td>
<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>France</td>
<td>Fundacio per la Pau, Barcelona</td>
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<tr>
<td>Alicia CABEZUDO</td>
<td>Vice President</td>
<td>Argentina</td>
<td>Movement for Life &amp; Peace</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mayra GOMEZ</td>
<td>Vice-President</td>
<td>New Zealand</td>
<td>Disarm &amp; Security Centre</td>
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<td>Paul LANSU</td>
<td>Vice-President</td>
<td>Intl (Belgium)</td>
<td>Pax Christi Intl</td>
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<td>Laura LODENIUS</td>
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<td>Finland</td>
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<td>Yayoi TSUCHIDA</td>
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<td>Japan</td>
<td>Gensuikyo</td>
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<td>Ali AL-RUFAIE</td>
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<td>Janis ALTON</td>
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<td>Joseph GERSON</td>
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<td>Alexander HARANG</td>
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<td>Aurelie ROYON</td>
<td>Member</td>
<td>France</td>
<td>Mvt de la paix</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dave WEBB</td>
<td>Member</td>
<td>UK</td>
<td>Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lisa CLARK (co-opted)</td>
<td>Member</td>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>Beati i costruttore di Pace</td>
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## REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES (13)

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<tr>
<td>Abjata Khalif</td>
<td>AFRICA/Kenya</td>
<td>Kenya Pastoralist Journalist Network</td>
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<td>Hannah Hadikin</td>
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<td>Susana Pimiento</td>
<td>AMERICA SOUTH+NORTH/USA</td>
<td>Intl Fellowship of Reconciliation</td>
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<td>Corazon Fabros</td>
<td>ASIA-PACIFIC /Philippines</td>
<td>Stop the War Campaign</td>
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TOTAL COUNCIL: 13 Reg. Reps. + 18 Board = 31 persons

UN Representative: Cora Weiss (New York)

STAFF AND OFFICE VOLUNTEERS

- Younis Ahmed – Information technology
- Colin Archer – Secretary-General
- Tim Clennon – Database
- Khang Huynh Dac – Finance and accounting
- Mylene Soto – Programme and Communications

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- Dounia Ben Allal
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- Anna Labadze
- Sarah Velontahiana Lucek
- Caroline Mountfield
- Lea Perekrests
- Alicia Sanders-Zakre
- Mohamed Shardow

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WORLD CONGRESS

Disarm! For a Climate of Peace
Creating an Action Agenda

30 Sept - 03 Oct 2016
Berlin, Germany

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