



IPB

International Peace Bureau



Introduction

The International Peace Bureau is dedicated to the vision of a World Without War. Over the years we have worked on a wide range of peace promotion topics, including nuclear weapons, arms trade and other aspects of disarmament; peace education and culture of peace; women and peacemaking; peace history; as well as related themes such as international law and human rights.

Disarmament for Sustainable Development Program

Disarmament for Sustainable Development is the IPB's main program, whose main purposes are to press for an end to the over-funding of military establishments and for the creation of new funds to tackle human insecurity and common threats to the planet. In addition, we support all efforts to limit or eliminate weapons that impact negatively on communities in conflict zones.

IPB's view is that weapons and military preparations have devastating effects, not only on those who are caught up in war, but also on the process of sustainable development. They represent a massive distortion of the use of humanity's precious resources and talents.

Impacts on development include contamination and loss of agricultural lands; loss of employment after attacks with small arms or landmines/cluster munitions; increased health care costs for communities affected by war (including long-term support for the victims); increased prostitution and abuse; costs of reconstruction of buildings and infrastructure; and so on.

The aim of our program is to build an international civil society alliance bringing together disarmament, peace, anti-poverty, environmental and development aid organisations working on disarmament for development. This work builds on the positions taken by member states (sometimes unanimously) at the UN General Assembly and in other fora, in favour of a substantial transfer of resources from the military to the social sector.

We base our work on article 26 of the Charter of the United Nations: *In order to promote the establishment and maintenance of international peace and security with the least diversion for armaments of the world's human and economic resources, the Security Council shall be responsible for formulating, with the assistance of the Military Staff Committee referred to in Article 47, plans to be submitted to the Members of the United Nations for the establishment of a system for the regulation of armaments.*

We focus on three broad areas:

1. Military vs. social (development) spending

The world diverts huge amounts of resources to the defence sector, leaving basic needs such as food, health, education, employment and environmental challenges greatly under-funded. The imbalance between defence and social or development aid budgets is striking in most countries. Yet despite the global economic crisis and world public opinion opposed to military spending excesses, there are few real signs that governments are ready at this point to initiate a radical shift in spending priorities.

Global Campaign on Military Spending (GCOMS)

In collaboration with the Institute for Policy Research in Washington DC, IPB launched the annual **Global Day of Action on Military Spending** in 2011. Since then, IPB helps coordinate the different partner organizations, as well as organizing its own events on that day.

2. Weapons and their impacts on communities

Weapons have devastating impacts, especially in the developing world and in conflict zones. This area of work includes primarily small arms, landmines and cluster munitions, depleted uranium (DU), and other conventional weapons, plus the



international production of, and trade in, these weapons. IPB supports disarmament campaigns in their work, with studies on the economic dimensions of these weapons and by adding a development perspective.

3. A range of related issues

- Nuclear abolition
- Resource conflicts
- Foreign military bases
- Militarisation of aid
- Human security
- Military impact on climate change / environment
- Gender dimensions of all the above

In each case IPB seeks not only to analyse these phenomena but also to actively support and link together the various related civil society campaigns.

IPB's main activities

- Global Day of Action on Military Spending
- Input to the UN Post-2015 Development Agenda
- Input to the UN climate change talks
- Dialogue with a) governments, b) development agencies, c) environmental movement
- Seminars and conferences
- Participation in the NGO Committee for Disarmament
- Publications: books, reports

Membership

Our 300 member organisations in 70 countries, together with individual members, form a global network; bring together expertise and campaigning experience in a common cause. We try to link experts and advocates working on similar issues in order to create strong civil society movements. We invite organisations or individuals who sympathise with our aims to contact the IPB Secretariat or consult the website in order to make an application for membership.

Annual fee rates

Full members (peace organizations):

International Federations: 800 CHF (minimum 200)

National: 450 CHF (min. 100)

Local/area: 110 CHF (min. 55)

Associate members: 175 CHF (general organizations for whom peace is one of many issues)

Individual members: 50 CHF (min. 20)

Lifetime individual membership: 500 CHF

All fees are negotiable. The financial year runs from January to December.

History of the International Peace Bureau

IPB has a long and fascinating history that falls into three main phases, each reflecting stages in the development of the 20th century peace movement:

3. Dynamic early years (pre-1914)
4. Decline and rebirth (1918 - 1963)
5. Modern era (1963 -)



The IPB was founded in 1891-92, as a result of consultations at the Universal Peace Congress, large gatherings held annually to bring together the national peace societies that had gradually developed, mainly in Europe and North America, from the end of the Napoleonic Wars onwards.

Many significant peace movement personalities have been associated with the Bureau over the decades, either as senior staff, elected officials, consultants or as leaders of member organisations. Some of these have been awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in their own right.

For much of this long period IPB has acted as a generalist umbrella body/federation, working to harmonise positions and coordinate activities across a wide spectrum of geographical and thematic issues relating to peace.

To take one example, in 1999 it acted together with 3 other international federations to organise the broad-ranging Hague Appeal for Peace conference, held in the Dutch capital, with over 10,000 participants, and featuring input from Kofi Annan and a range of Nobel laureates and dignitaries. In more recent years the organisation has chosen to focus attention on one specific broad theme: Disarmament for Sustainable Development.

Structure, Officials and Staff

The IPB has a democratic structure that comprises an Assembly and a Council composed of elected representatives (one man + one woman from each of 11 regions), plus the Board (currently 19 persons) elected by the worldwide membership.

Co-Presidents:

Reiner Braun and Lisa Clark

Vice-Presidents: Jordi Calvo, Tarja

Cronberg, Corazon Fabros, Joseph

Gerson, Yayoi Tsuchida, Dave Webb

Treasurer: Lohes Rajeswaran

Finance Officer: Khang Huynh Dac

Geneva Office Consultant: Arielle Denis

Berlin Office Coordinator: Amela Skiljan

UN relations

IPB has had Consultative Status with the UN's Economic and Social Council since the 1970s. We also have Associate Status with the Department of Public Information.

IPB plays a central role in the Geneva-based Special NGO Committee for Disarmament, which is a committee of CONGO, the Conference of NGOs in Consultative Status with ECOSOC. We follow various disarmament negotiations, both within or outside the UN.

Nobel Peace Prize

IPB was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1910. In addition, over the last 100 years or so, 13 of our officers have been recipients of the Nobel Peace Prize. We participate in the annual Summit of Nobel Peace Laureates, founded by Mikhail

Gorbachev and the City of Rome. We also make an annual nomination for the Nobel Peace Prize.

MacBride Peace Prize

Every year the IPB awards a special prize to a person or organisation that has done outstanding work for peace, disarmament and/or human rights. These were the principal concerns of Sean MacBride, the



distinguished Irish statesman who was Chairman of IPB from 1968-74 and President from 1974-1985. MacBride launched the MacBride Appeal against Nuclear Weapons, which gathered the names of over 11,000 international lawyers. This paved the way for the World Court Project on nuclear weapons, in which IPB played a major role. The Project resulted in the historic 1996 Advisory Opinion of the International Court of Justice on the Use and Threat of Nuclear Weapons. MacBride died in 1988, but the Prize was not established until 1992, IPB's centenary year. The award is decided by the IPB Steering Committee. IPB members are welcome to make suggestions and provide background documentation on potential candidates. The Prize is a non-monetary one, consisting of a medal cast from metal formerly used in nuclear weapons.

Publications

IPB publishes a range of books, reports and studies. These can be ordered from the Secretariat or downloaded from the website. Our newsletter *IPB News* is published in electronic form once a month. Our three main sourcebooks for the Disarmament for Sustainable Development campaign are:

- **Warfare or Welfare? Disarmament for Development in the 21st Century**
- **Whose Priorities? A Guide for Campaigners on Military and Social Spending**
- **Opportunity Costs: Military Spending and the UN's Development Agenda**

(Some are available in French, German, Spanish, Catalan, and Arab)

Support

Your support -- which may come in many different forms -- helps us develop our work through public engagement, outreach to other actors, advocacy and networking. Financial contributions are welcome at any time; annual membership fees, regular banker's orders and legacies are especially appreciated.

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