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INTRODUCTION

As the pandemic continued in 2021, so the political challenges did. Amidst a troubled political environment, the International Peace Bureau launched its second World Peace Congress in Barcelona to foster synergies between organizations and individuals and between interconnected social movements fighting for global justice. Some of the participants included peace and disarmament advocates, feminist and LGBTQIA+ campaigners, ecologists and climate activists, antiracists and indigenous people, human rights defenders, and trade unionists. The goal of the World Peace Congress was to promote the inclusion of a peace perspective within these movements in order to better confront the global challenges of our time. The challenges in focus include climate change and the environmental collapse, gender, racial and economic inequality, the COVID-19 pandemic, mass migration, the refugee crisis, and the various humanitarian crises caused by war and repression. The Second World Peace Congress brought together a wide variety of experts and advocates from all around the world and was a great success.

Furthermore, in the face of climate change, unbalanced globalization, crumbling disarmament treaties, the consequences of the Covid-19 pandemic, and the decline of democracy, a new high-level global commission was formed to tackle the risks to the contemporary world using the framework of Common Security. The campaign started with a launch event in June and was followed by the Common Security 2022 series leading up to the publication of the report in 2022.

Starting in 2020, the IPB continued to be part of the German voluntary service (Bundesfreiwilligendienst). Over the course of the year 2021. Stephanie Verlaan, Lucas Maaser, Pauline Auer, and Jessica Pardo Nieto joined the Berlin headquarter and all did excellent work that helped us improve our workflow and broaden our networks. Their support and contribution to our work are highly appreciated and have shown measurable results in the past two years. We hope to continue the program in the upcoming years.
What is IPB?

IPB is a global network of peace groups, with 300 member organizations in 70 countries. The organization 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 in addition, 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 and with positive peace. 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. IPB has chosen to focus its efforts on a limited number of areas, of which the main one is Disarmament for Sustainable Development.
WORLD PEACE CONGRESS


The main goal of this event was to provide a space for the gathering and sharing of experiences for those involved in international peace and justice movements. We sought to promote the inclusion of a peace perspective within various movements in order to better confront the global challenges of our time. The Second World Peace Congress brought together a wide variety of experts and advocates from all around the world. Speakers came from various disciplines and backgrounds, including both high-level representatives and grassroots-level voices. The event was hosted at Centre de Cultura Contemporània de Barcelona (CCCB) and Blanquerna University.

Participants came from 127 countries, including 93 organizations. 900 individuals attended the event in person, and 1,700 attended online. Activists attended discussions relating to nuclear and conventional disarmament, peace-building, climate justice, racism, and the rights of indigenous peoples.

The World Peace Congress is comprised of plenaries, workshops, and side events covering a vast array of topics. On Friday, October 15th, greetings were provided by António Guterres, UN General Secretary; Duarte Pacheco, President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union; Guy Rider, Director-General of the International Labour Organization; Kazumi Matsui and Tomihisa Taue, Mayors of Hiroshima & Nagasaki. To view the opening session, click here.

Prominent activists covered a wide array of topics, including “Threats to the Future of Humankind” (Jeremy Corbyn), “Patriarchy and Gender-Based Violence” (Binalakshmi Nepram), and “Peace Education” (A-Young Moon). To view appeals presented at the World Peace Congress, click here.

Each day of the World Peace Congress was packed full of stimulating and engaging events that touched on various challenges faced by our world today. To view the full program, click here.

As IPB Executive Director Reiner Braun explains, the World Peace Congress was the largest international peace event of the year: “The congress was a great success. We got great support from the city of Barcelona and the president of the government of Catalonia... The IPB will definitely continue working on the way of more engagement for peace after the congress”.

Jordi Calvo, IPB Vice-President and member of the local committee affirms: "At the congress we have seen that the peace movement is not alone. The large participation of feminist, anti-racist, and global justice movements in the conferences and seminars shows that pacifism is more alive than ever, but that it needs to adapt to new narratives and generations. After this congress, the Catalan, Spanish, European, and global peace movement is stronger."
View the World Peace Congress YouTube playlist by clicking here.

**Presentation of the IPB Action Plan 2021-2023**

During the last day of the Second IPB World Peace Congress, IPB Co-President, Philip Jennings, presented the Action Plan 2021-2023 of the International Peace Bureau via Zoom. The Action Plan includes a wide range of advocacy activities around several topics such as Nuclear Weapons, Military expenditure, Common Security, and Sustainable Peace.

This plan outlines not only IPB’s peace work, but also the important overlaps between our own work and that of diverse social movements, environmentalists, human and workers’ rights advocates, indigenous communities, anti-racists, and more. This plan does not claim to be complete, but rather a collection of activities and actions that have been established to follow up on the groundwork built at the World Peace Congress. Furthermore, these actions and ideas serve as guidance in IPB’s continuation of awarding the Seán MacBride Peace Prize, which will recognize actions by committed individuals in peace and social movements that contribute to a more peaceful world.

To view the IPB Action Plan, click here.

**Youth Activity Report**

The Second World Peace Congress in Barcelona was a space for hundreds of youth activists worldwide to speak, lead, discuss, and take action toward establishing sustainable peace.

The IPB has successfully reached its goal to have 40% of speakers under 40 years of age, with an entire youth congress led by the IPBNY and 13 workshops and side events organized by youth representatives. The congress would not have been possible without the contributions of so many bright, young minds. In this report, we attempted to encapsulate all of these big and small actions that went into forming bridges across continents for a truly international, young peace movement, ready to take on the challenges of our time.

To view the Youth Activity Report, click here.

**Internationalizing the IPB World Peace Congress Barcelona**

IPB launched a campaign to support the basic costs of young activists to travel to the World Peace Congress 2021 and to improve the technological capacities to include those who cannot afford to make the journey. While the IPB could not support travel costs for the entire IPB family, it ensured that the inspiring voices of youth peace activists were included.

Donations assisted with the payment of travel and lodging costs for global south youth representatives. Additional funds that were raised went to enhancing IPB’s technical capacities, including technological equipment and personnel to operate and optimize a hybrid event platform. Such a platform enabled Global South participation via plenary speeches, workshops, cultural events, and interactive platform features.
Pre-Congress Events

Democracy, Elections, Peace Building
June 2, 2021

This pre-Congress event connected peace activists from different civil society organizations, ministries, and agencies. The discussion centered on democracy, elections, and peacebuilding, in addition to the threat of elections to peacebuilding and national reconciliation in Liberia and Africa at large.

To view the full webinar, click here.

Preparatory Conference: Voices of the International Peace Movement
June 12, 2021

In preparation for the World Congress, a conference including the voices of the international peace movement was organized by the Campaign for Peace, Disarmament and Common Security, Peace Action of New York State, and the International Peace Bureau.

The speakers included Marc Batac (Initiatives for International Dialogue), Reiner Braun (Executive Director, International Peace Bureau, Berlin), Chloé Meulwaeter (Centre Delàs, Barcelona), Assal Rad (Senior Research Fellow, National Iranian American Council), Quique Sanchez (International Peace Bureau, Barcelona), Alicia Sanders-Zakre (International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons, Geneva), Yayoi Tsuchida (Japan Council against A & H-Bombs, Tokyo), and Tom Unterrainer (Bertrand Russell Peace Foundation London).

Preparatory Conference: Re-Queering Identity: Colonialism, Sexuality, and Gender
June 17, 2021

During this conference, an international panel of LGBTQ+ activists discussed ways in which we can redefine and reclaim gender, sexuality, and identity in the context of colonialism. This event was organized by IPBYN, PANYS, NAPF, ITUC, PEAC, and IPPNW.

To view the recording, click here.

Pre-Congress Webinar: Religion, Peace and Sanctuary
August 25, 2021

On August 25th, the Fellowship of Reconciliation (FOR) organized a webinar with seven radical visionaries and activists for peace. Inspired by their faith traditions, these activists pursue ending war, opening borders, and providing sanctuary.

To watch a recording of the full webinar, click here.

World Peace Congress: Barcelona Youth Meet’n’Greet
September 15 & October 4, 2021

To bring together young peace leaders from around the world, Youth Meet ‘n’ Greet events were held on September 15th and October 4th. These events allowed the young leaders to learn more about how to get involved and prepare for the World Peace Congress in mid-October.

Workshop: Democracy Elections and Peacebuilding
Nov 24, 2021

Designed by Liberian youth peace activist, Tyson Smith-Berry Jr, this event discussed democracy elections and peacebuilding from an African context. The workshop provided participants with the knowledge and skills to understand the concepts of democracy and elections to ensure safe, inclusive, and participatory democracy in Liberia and Africa at large.
The workshop was also based on a comprehensive approach to community-building that integrates the core skills, knowledge, and attitudes that youth need to be positive agents of change in their respective communities or countries.
In the face of climate change, unbalanced globalization, crumbling disarmament treaties, the consequences of the Covid-19 pandemic, and the decline of democracy, no single country can address the challenges of the modern world. A new high-level global commission was formed to tackle the risks to the contemporary world using the framework of Common Security. It presented a far-reaching report for Common Security 2022 that formed a blueprint for survival in the face of extreme challenges: climate change, unbalanced globalization, crumbling disarmament treaties, the consequences of the Covid-19 pandemic, and the decline of democracy.

The project was coordinated by the Olof Palme International Center, the International Trade Union Confederation, and the International Peace Bureau.

To read more about Common Security, click here.

Launch Event
June 14, 2021

Sweden’s Prime Minister Stefan Löfven, and Hans Dahlgren, Minister for EU Affairs and active in the secretariat of the Palme Commission introduced the concept of Common Security and provided insights into the work of the previous Commission. Six members of the new global high-level advisory commission were present as well, including Sharan Burrow, Kumi Naidoo, Saber Chowdhury, Sean Conner, Anna Fendley, and Rosaline Marbinah.

To view a recording of the launch event, click here.

Webinars

Leading up to the launch of the Common Security Report in 2022, the IPB in cooperation with the ITUC and the Olof Palme International Center organized the Common Security 2022 series. To see an overview of the Common Security 2022 series, click here.

100 Seconds to Midnight: How to Handle the Nuclear Threat? Going from Arms Race to Disarmament and Universal Ban
July 27, 2021

The first summit in the Common Security 2022 series focused on one of the essential components needed for a 21st century reimagining of Common Security: the continued threat of nuclear weapons and the urgent need for disarmament and a universal ban on such weapons.

This webinar included an introduction from Dr. Helen Durham, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) International Law and Policy Director.

To view the recording of the webinar, click here.

There is a Need for a Common Agenda of Peace and Climate
October 19, 2021

The second webinar of the Common Security 2022 series focused on the needed transition to greener economies and the way in which they can contribute to more peaceful, sustainable societies.

Panelists included Helen Clark (Former Prime Minister of New Zealand and Patron of The Helen Clark Foundation. Member of the panel of the SIPRI initiative "Environment of Peace"), Ulrich Eberle (Fellow, Future of Conflict, International Crisis Group), Kumi Naidoo (Global ambassador, Africans Rising
for Justice, Peace, and Dignity), and Margot Wallström (Former Minister of Foreign Affairs Sweden, Chair of the panel of SIPRI initiative “Environment of Peace”).

To view the recording of the webinar, click here.

**Growing Inequality: a Threat to Peace and Security?**
*October 25, 2021*

The third webinar of the Common Security 2022 series focused on the rising income inequality in the most advanced economies worldwide. Such inequality has been blamed for increasingly polarised politics. Speakers encouraged participants to consider how greater equality is needed to attain peace.

This webinar included Adolfo Pérez Esquivel (Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, Architect, Artist, and Activist), Martha E. Newton (ILO Deputy Director-General for Policy), Gabriela Bucher (Executive Director Oxfam International), Agnès Callamard (Secretary General Amnesty), and Omar Faruk Osman (General Secretary, Federation of Somali Trade Unions).

To view the recording of the webinar, click here.

**Women, Peace, and Security**
*November 17, 2021*

Women's equal participation and leadership and the empowerment of women and girls are of critical importance to promoting peace, preventing conflicts, enabling recovery, and building resilience. The fourth webinar of the Common Security 2022 series covered the ways in which women continue to be underrepresented at all levels of decision-making worldwide; the lack of participation of women in peace negotiations and the spending on military action while underinvesting in gender equality.

This webinar included Ann Linde (Minister of Foreign Affairs, Sweden), Maritza Chan (Ambassador, Deputy Permanent Representative of Costa Rica to the United Nations), and Trisha Shetty (CEO, SheSays and President Steering Committee, Paris Peace Forum, India. Member of Common Security 2022 Advisory Commission).

To view a recording of the webinar, click here.

**Cyber Security and Tech Threats to Peace**
*December 15, 2021*

The fifth webinar focused on cyber and technological threats to peace. Continued and rapid technological developments enable new forms of computerized warfare, such as the use of unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs or drones), artificial intelligence, and the militarization of space, emphasizing the need for clarification of international laws and renewed disarmament work. Speakers in this webinar discussed the modern conceptualization of Common Security and how it requires reflection on how such technologies are already being used; considering steps to be taken to stop this new arms race and identifying the role of technology in fostering dialogue.

This webinar included Michael Klare (Five Colleges professor of Peace and World Security Studies), Tarja Cronberg (Associate Fellow with the SIPRI European Security Programme, and Chair of the Finnish Peace Union), Jürgen Altmann (Researcher and Lecturer, Department of Physics at Technische Universität Dortmund & Vice-Chair of the International Committee for Robot Arms Control), and Bruce Gagnon (Co-founder and coordinator of the Global Network Against Weapons and Nuclear Power in Space).

To view a recording of the webinar, click here.
NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT

IPB Celebration: The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons Entry into Force
January 22, 2021

On January 22nd, the world celebrated the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) entry into force, supported by over 120 states at the UN in July 2017.

On this historic day, we called on members of the IPB family, IPB friends, and all peace advocates to celebrate this historical step. During the event, IPB paid tribute to generations of activists that have tirelessly raised awareness about the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons, since the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in August 1945. The IPB further celebrated a new era: with the TPNW filling a gap in international law, we are closer than ever to the complete abolition of nuclear weapons.

To learn more about TPNW, click here.

Nuclear Weapons: Challenging This External Threat Together
January 24, 2021

After the TPNW entered into force on January 22nd, this session explored questions such as: can this momentum bring us to the total elimination of nuclear weapons? What is the situation in the USA, Russia, and European “nuclear weapons supporting states”, members of the NATO alliance? And what can we do now?

Speakers included Chuck Johnson (USA, International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War), Ludo de Brabander (Belgium, Vrede, No to NATO), Marion Küpker (Germany, Büchel is überall - Nuclear Weapons Free Germany), and Oleg Bodrov (Russia, Public Council of the Gulf of Finland, IPB Council). The event was moderated by Arielle Denis (France, IPB Board).

Month of Action: September 2021

The peace movements across Europe came together for a month of action in September 2021 to demand a safer and more peaceful future. A network of organizations, Nuke Free Europe, demands a nuclear-weapon-free Europe, an end to the stationing of US nuclear weapons in Europe, and that European states ratify the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

To learn more about Nuke Free Europe, click here.

To view the campaign leaflet, click here.

Nuke Free Europe: Human Chain against Nuclear Arms in Büchel, Germany
September 5, 2021

On Sunday, September 5th the European Month of Action against nuclear weapons in Europe was kicked off in Büchel, Germany. 800 peace activists formed a human chain to protest against the US nuclear bombs at the Fliegerhorst air base as part of NATO's nuclear sharing arrangements.
The action took place just weeks before the September 26th federal elections to call on Germany to join the UN nuclear weapons ban (TPNW), which has been in force since January 22, 2021. The peace movement has been campaigning against nuclear arms at the air base for 25 years. The human chain was organized by the campaign “Büchel is everywhere! Nuclear Weapon Free Now.”

At around 1 p.m., a mile-long human chain was formed. To respect corona distances, the protesters used peace ribbons and banners. The participants also included activists from other European countries. Several speeches were held afterward. To emphasize the European dimension, there were also speakers from Belgium, the Netherlands, and Italy.

**Webinars**

**European Roadmap to End the Policy of Nuclear Sharing**  
*March 29, 2021*

With the entry into force of the TPNW, European governments taking part in nuclear sharing (Belgium, Germany, Italy, and the Netherlands) realized that nuclear disarmament was at the forefront of the security politics agenda. This forced the European peace movement to consider a new strategy to effectively pressure European governments and NATO countries to rethink nuclear sharing.

Along with several other webinars on nuclear sharing in Europe, IPPNW Europe, ICAN-Europe, and the Nuke Free Europe Campaign aimed to create a dialogue among peace activists, youth movements, churches, and trade unions with scientists and parliamentarians.

Speakers included Tom Sauer (Universiteit Antwerpen), Peter Buijs (NVMP Netherlands), Lisa Clark (International Peace Bureau & Rete Italiana Pace e Disarmo), and Johannes David Oehler (ICAN Germany).

**TPNW Workshop: Understanding the Legal Implications**  
*March 31, 2021*

While so many groups, organizations, and states were celebrating the moment when the TPNW came into force, others tried to delegitimize it and minimize its success. The press often referred to it as a merely “symbolic” treaty, because neither the nuclear weapons states nor NATO participated in the negotiation process. They also did not join the treaty. Another argument, which often comes from the TPNW opponents is that it contradicts the NPT... but does it really?

This webinar aimed to give an overview of the applicable norms in terms of nuclear disarmament and strengthen arguments against nuclear weapons. After the presentation, the participants had the opportunity to discuss various questions in smaller groups and further develop their arguments.

Speakers included Amela Skiljan (IALANA and IPB) and Reiner Braun (IPB).

**A Roadmap to End Nuclear Sharing In Conversation with EU Parliamentarians**  
*June 28, 2021*

Building on the previous webinar “European Roadmap to End the Policy of Nuclear Sharing,” experts and activists from the nuclear sharing states and the Nuke Free Europe Campaign (NFE) took the next step...
towards developing a clear roadmap for a Nuclear Free Europe. An open conversation with four parliamentarians—Karl-Heinz Brunner (SPD Germany), Jasper van Dijk (Socialistische Partij, Netherlands), Kris Verduyckt (Vooruit, Belgium), Kathrin Vogler (Die Linke, Germany) — took place on the topic of nuclear sharing. The event was moderated by Angelika Claussen (IPPNW).
Global Campaign on Military Spending (GCOMS), April 10th – May 17th, 2021

Created on December 2014, The Global Campaign on Military Spending (GCOMS) is a permanent, global, year-round campaign to tackle the worldwide issue of excessive military spending. Mainly coordinated by IPB and reaching its 6th year, The campaign organizes the Global Day of Action on Military Spending (GDAMS) to bring public, media, and political attention to the costs of military spending and the need to invest in new priorities, taking place from April 10th to May 17th, 2021.

To learn more about the GCOMS campaign, including GDAMS, click here.

‘Defund The Military / Defend People and the Planet’ was the theme for this year’s Global Days of Action on Military Spending, which lasted from April 10 to May 17, 2021.

#GDAMS #DefundTheMilitary #HealthcareNotWarfare #MoveTheMoney

Current levels of military spending not only fail to provide true security, but they actually stand in the way of just and comprehensive solutions to the problems urgently demanding our attention. Now is the time for a reset of our priorities as societies, and a new defense and security paradigm that puts human and environmental needs at the centre of policies and budgets. We need to defund the military if we are to defend people and the planet.

Over 190 Civil Society Organizations from 33 different countries demand that governments around the world drastically reduce their military expenditures, which reached almost 2 trillion $ in 2020, a 2.6% increase over the previous year.

- World military expenditure amounted to $1981 billion in 2020, a 2.6% increase over the previous year.
- In 2020, the biggest spenders were the US, China, India, Russia, the UK, and Saudi Arabia. Except for Saudi Arabia, they all increased their expenditure in 2019.
- Military expenditure by the 29 NATO members reached $1103 billion, amounting to 56% of the total military spending in the world. This is an increase of 13.6% compared to 2019.

To download the full infographic, click here.

SIPRI Figures on Military Expenditure: Developments in Germany and Worldwide
April 28, 2021

To learn more about the SIPRI Military Database and to view the Database, click here.

In our German webinar “SIPRI Figures on Military Expenditure: Developments in Germany and Worldwide” on April 28th, Tarja Cronberg (Distinguished SIPRI Fellow), Thomas Würdinger (IG-Metall), Myriam Rapior (BUND Youth/Fridays for Future) and Reiner Braun (Executive Director IPB) discussed and analyzed the global and German armament in the first year of the COVID-19 pandemic together with our participants. The event was moderated by Julia Auf dem Brinke.

To watch a recording of the full webinar, click here.

IPB & PEACEMOMO Brochure: 11 Things We Should Consider about Global Military Spending

On the occasion of the 2021 Global Day of Action for Military Spending, the IPB and PEACEMOMO tackled several interesting questions and possible responses regarding Global Military Spending. The brochure "11 Things We Should Consider about Global Military Spending" is a guide for educators dedicated to peace in order to address questions around climate change and common security challenges. This booklet is a didactic tool for people who want to understand the implications of the military as a threat to peace.

To download the brochure, click here. To learn more about PEACEMOMO, click here.

IPB Brochure: Move the Money from Military to Social Purposes

Based on different reports (e.g. ICAN’s 2021 report, SIPRI Yearbook 2021, the research of the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists, etc.), the IPB launched a brochure, "Move The Money From Military To Social Purposes," to provide an overview of the use of nuclear weapons by the World Nuclear Forces. Although the brochure is intended to be informative, the data is presented to emphasize the need of reallocating economic resources spent on nuclear weapons development and military to invest them in social purposes.

To view and download the brochure, click here.
A brief message on the IPB Africa Network in 2021 by Ernest Gibson Kpordotsi, co-founder of the Bureau of African Peace:

"The Africa Network of IPB is the greatest opportunity I see to curb the hindrances of peace in Africa, if not to alleviate it totally. Africa is rich, however, Africans are poor. Why is that? The majority of Africans have a different way of thinking, which makes them feel comfortable in their own zone.

The IPB African Working Group aims to manage, mitigate, resolve, and transform central aspects of war, conflicts, and armament in Africa through official diplomacy, as well as through civil society peace networks, formal and informal dialogue, negotiation, and mediation to create a conducive atmosphere in Africa.

The IPB stands for world peace. The world as it is today lacks peace in the north, south, east, and west. This has set the clock back in terms of progress in the African war-torn countries and the world as a whole."

The Impacts of Covid-19 on Peace Processes in Africa
March 31, 2021

Eight individuals working in peace-related organizations from five African countries came together to discuss the challenges of peace work amidst the Covid-19 pandemic. Drawing on their experiences, their contributions brought a unique understanding of what professional life in the African peacebuilding sector had been like during the pandemic.

Speakers included
- Ghana: Mrs. Faustina Dery Amaning-Kwarteng (Global Peace Association of Ghana [GloPAG]); Joseph Donkoh, (Global Peace Association of Ghana [GloPAG])
- Kenya: Elizabeth “Shiro max” Wanjiru (Celestial Music and arts Network)
- Liberia: Tyson Smith Berry Jr (4kids International)
- Rwanda: Mrs. Laurence Mukayiranga (National Unity and Reconciliation Commission)

To view the recording of the full webinar, click here.

Webinar Report: Excessive Military Spending in Africa
May 26, 2021

IPB's Africa working group held a webinar to examine the trends and implications of expanding military budgets in Africa. The panel consisted of three speakers with each providing in-depth context to how the military's presence in their countries is impacting the potential for peace. The event was moderated by IPB member and Director of 4Kids International, Tyson Smith Berry Jr.

Panelists included Major General Prince Charles Johnson III (Chief of Staff, Armed
Forces of Liberia), Cyrille Rolande Bechon (Executive Director of Nouveaux Droits de l'Homme in Cameroon), and Michael Amoadjah (Chief Assistant Registrar of the Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice in Ghana).

To view the recording of the full webinar, [click here](#).

### The Rise of Military Spending and Weaponization of the Global South under the Pandemic: What must be done to stop this?

*September 28, 2021*

This webinar focused on the various reasons for the rise of military spending and elaborated on the current state of the world we live in, as well as the world we want to live in.

World military spending has been on the rise in recent years, reaching almost 2 trillion US dollars in 2020 with China, India, Japan, South Korea, and Australia registering as some of the highest military spenders in the Asia Pacific. This has been the trend between 2019 to 2020 and over the decade of 2011-2020. As capacities for war continue to grow, so does the collateral damage to people and infrastructure. The proportion of funds going to humanitarian and development aid initiatives focused on the ‘clean up’ in the aftermath of conflict is growing. When put into a tangible context, one year of the global military budget equates to 700 years of the UN’s standard budget (RCW).

Panelists included Ravinder Pal Singh, India (Senior Advisor, Control Arms Foundation India), Lisa Linda Natividad, Guam/Palau (Primary Convener, Guahan Coalition for Peace and Justice), Alfredo ‘Fred’ Lubang, Philippines (Regional Representative, Nonviolence International Southeast Asia and National Coordinator, Philippine Campaign to Ban Landmines), and Mohammad Shoaib Ahmadzai, Afghanistan (Managing Director, Community Development, Rehabilitation and Education Organization).

### Webinar Report: “The Proliferation of Small Arms and its Impact on Ghanaian Youth”

*November 10, 2021*

The webinar tackled the proliferation of small arms and its impact on Ghanaian youth. The event opened with a dance performance by the OLA GIRLS cultural troupe depicting the consequences of gun violence on communities.

Further, Juliet Kpordotsi touched on why it became imperative for such an event to be held at this specific time. Reiner Braun described the role of IPB in advocacy efforts against the small arms trade and gun violence around the world.

Speakers included Dr. George Tesilimi Banji (Ho Technical University), Honourable Moses Ayine Asampoa (Senior State Attorney and Regional Head for Volta and Oti Region), Professor Isaac K. A Galyuon (Provost of College of Distance Education, University of Cape Coast) and Jürgen Grässl in (Chairman of the Arms Information Centre & Coordinator of Global Net: Stop the Arms Trade).
People’s Voices for Disarmament in Asia
January 24, 2021

This webinar explored trends of disarmament issues in Asia highlighting stories of victories against militarization in the region. It concluded with recommendations and proposals and considered campaigns to address moving forward.

Speakers included Binalakshmi Nepram (India, Manipur Women Gun Survivors and IPB Board Member), Enkhsaikhan Jargalsaikhan (Mongolia, Blue Banner and IPB Board Member), Eskil M. Gray (Norway, IPB Staff-Member), JunKyu Lee (South Korea, IPB Board Member), Yayoi Tsuchida (Japan, Assistant Secretary General of Gensuikyo), and Roland Simbulan (Philippines, author, scholar, and nuclear weapons activist). The webinar was moderated by Corazon Valdez Fabros (Philippines, IPB Vice-President).

To view a recording of the full webinar, click here.

Time to Think Beyond the Current Nuclear Weapon Free Zones: Challenges for the Indo-Pacific
April 21, 2021

This webinar, organized by IPB’s Asia Working Group, provided an opportunity to evaluate the challenges of small individual states and non-self-governing territories when attempting to become a part of a nuclear-weapon-free world.

The establishment of Nuclear Weapon Free Zones (NWFZs) is a practical contribution of NNWSs to nuclear non-proliferation, to which the five nuclear-weapon states provide security assurances. Today, there are five NWFZs consisting of 119 states and 18 territories, and making up about 2 billion people. In the Indo-Pacific region, there are states and territories that, due to their geographical location or political and/or legal issues, cannot form NWFZs.

Speakers included Ms. Sung-hee Choi (Republic of Korea, Gangjeong Peace Network and activist in Jeju Island), Mr. Shushi Kajimoto (Japan, General Secretary of Hyogo Council against A and H Bombs [Hyogo Gensuikyo] and National Board member of Gensuikyo), Dr. Lisa Linda Natividad (Guam, Professor of Social Work at the University of Guam and primary convener of the Guahan Coalition for Peace and Justice), Professor Roland Simbulan (the Philippines, Vice Chair of Board of Directors at the Center for People Empowerment in Governance), Alyn Ware (New Zealand/Aotearoa, Global Coordinator for Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament), Kate Dewes (New Zealand/Aotearoa, Director of Disarmament and Security Centre), and Dr. Enksaikhan Jargalsaikhan (Mongolia, Chairman of Blue Banner and IPB board member). The webinar was moderated by Corazon Valdez Fabros (the Philippines, member of Gensuikyo and Vice-President of IPB). To view detailed biographies of the speakers, click here.

To view a recording of the full webinar, click here.

US-China Relations: Challenges & Prospects for Disarmament in Asia-Pacific
February 18, 2021

On February 18, 2021, in preparation for the Second IPB World Peace Congress in Barcelona, the IPB held a roundtable on US-China relations.

Speakers included Joseph Gerson (President of the Campaign for Peace, Disarmament and Common Security (CPDCS) and Vice
President of the IPB, co-founder of the Committee for a SANE U.S.-China Policy and convener of the U.S.-based Asia-Pacific Working Group), Professor Wang Danning (China Women’s University in Beijing); Anuradha Chenoy (India), Enkhsaikhan Jargalsaikhan (Mongolia, IPB Board Member), and Lee Junkyu (South Korea, IPB Board Member).

To read Joseph Gerson’s comments, [click here](#). To also read Professor Wang Danning’s comments, [click here](#).

To view the recording of the full webinar, [click here](#).

**Asian Generation Z’s Voice for Peace and Justice**  
**June 16, 2021**

On June 16, 2021, the IPB Asia working group hosted an informative discussion on the socio-political phenomenon currently sweeping Asia, namely that of the youth generation’s political activism. The event brought together four grassroots activists from around the continent to share in solidarity their experiences, lessons, and hopes for the future of their generations.

View the English version of the [event here](#).

**Gender and Disarmament in the Asia-Pacific Region**  
**March 5, 2021**

The webinar on March 5, 2021, organized by the Asia Group of IPB, marked International Women’s Day 2021. It focused on sharing important ongoing work within the field.

Speakers included Emiko Hirano (Japan, New Japan Women’s Association), Dr. Lisa Linda Natividad (Guam, Guahan Coalition for Peace and Justice), Jung Min Choi (South Korea, World Without War), and Lisa Clark (IPB Co-President). The webinar was moderated by Binalakshmi “Bina” Nepram (IPB board member and Founder-Director of the Manipur Women Gun Survivors Network).

To view the recording of the full webinar, [click here](#).

**IPB X AEPF 13: Re-Imagine Our World: Action for Peace & Justice**  
**May 23, 2021**

The IPB and the Asia Europe People’s Forum (AEPF 13) hosted a family-friendly and musical event to Re-Imagine Our World and get excited for the Barcelona World Peace Congress. A live discussion was held and live music from Filipino artists Akira, Judy Pasimiom, and Joseph Purugganan was played.

Further contributing were IPB board members Binalakshmi Nepram, Philip Jennings, Reiner Braun (IPB), and Cuong Dong and Anuradha Chenoy (AEPF).
Webinar: Black Hope and Futures  
*February 17, 2021*

This webinar highlighted stories of hope from black activists around the world working on disarmament, tax justice, and political organizing.

Speakers included Ambassador Bonnie Jenkins, Vannary Kong (Co-Founder of the World is Watching), and Sinegugu (SACCAWU/COSATU, South Africa).

First IPBYN Community Meet Up  
*September 5, 2021*

Members of the IPB Youth Network (IPBYN) and those who wished to learn more were invited to the first monthly IPBYN social on September 5, 2021. Young peace activists from around the world got to meet before the Second World Congress in Barcelona.

IPB Youth Network Kick-Off  
*November 4, 2021*

The IPB Youth Network Kick-Off event was held to help international youth peace leaders from around the world connect and learn how to get involved.
SEÁN MACBRIDE PEACE PRIZE

About the Seán MacBride Peace Prize

Every year, the IPB awards a special prize to a person or organization that has done outstanding work for peace, disarmament, and/or human rights. These were the principal concerns of Seán MacBride, the distinguished Irish statesman who was Chairman of IPB from 1968-74 and President from 1974-1985. MacBride began his career as a fighter against British colonial rule, studied law, and rose to high office in the independent Irish Republic. He was a winner of the Nobel Peace Prize (1974).

To learn more about the Seán MacBride Peace Prize, click here.

The Prize is a non-monetary one. In past years, it consisted of a medal cast by Quite Quiet, which is a Berlin-based label that was founded with the intention to create jewelry that people cherish and keep close to for a long time. To create truly valuable pieces, Quite Quiet focuses on responsible material choices like fully traceable Fairtrade Gold and lab-grown gemstones.

IPB wishes to record its deep appreciation of the contribution made by the Irish Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament and From War to Peace who have covered the production costs and made the arrangements for the medal every year since the inception of the Prize.

MacBride Award 2020 for the 'International Signature Campaign in Support of the Appeal of the Hibakusha'

The International Signature Campaign in Support of the Appeal of the Hibakusha was launched in April 2016 in the name of prominent Hibakusha of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Since its launch, the signature campaign has been supported by a broad range of prominent individuals and organizations, enjoying great support from people across the world. The collected signatures, totaled 11,843,549 (as of March 31, 2020), making it one of the largest signature campaigns ever carried out in the world. The signatures have been submitted and acknowledged by the U.N. and NPT PrepCom Chairs.

In addition to worldwide efforts, across Japan signature promotion committees had been established in each of Japan’s 47 prefectures, leading to the endorsement of the Appeal by 1263 mayors and governors. On August 6-9, the 75th-anniversary commemorations for the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the “Peace Wave” of international joint actions by grassroots organizations will circle the globe with activities to press for the elimination of nuclear weapons with the Hibakusha Appeal signature campaign serving as the Peace Wave’s common action.

On March, 17th 2021, the Séan MacBride Peace Prize was formally awarded to Terumi Tanaka (Convenor of the Promotion Committee of the Int. Hibakusha Appeal Signature Campaign).

During this first online award ceremony, welcomes came from IPB Co-President Lisa Clark and Rieko Asato (IPB board/Gensuikyo), and moderation was conducted by Reiner Braun. In addition, Philip Jennings (IPB CO-President), Terumi Tanaka, and the Signature Campaign’s Leader Mitsuhiro Hayashi vividly illustrated
the central importance the struggle against nuclear weapons still occupies in our world today—for the Hibakusha, for the Japanese people, for every world citizen.

To view the full program, click here.

To view the recording of the full ceremony, click here.
**OTHER PROJECTS**

**The Cycle of Protests and democratic crisis: What is the Future for Peace in Colombia?**

*June 30, 2021*

On April 28, 2021, one of the most important waves of protests in Colombia's recent history began. Different sectors of the Colombian population raised their voices to protest against different policies proposed by the government, including tax reform and health reform. Thanks to the demonstrations, none of these controversial legislative proposals were approved. However, the Colombian government violated the demonstrators' fundamental rights during the protests. As of May 31, 2021, 3789 cases of police brutality were registered.

Considering the magnitude of the protests and their implications for democracy and the peace process in Colombia, on Wednesday, June 30, 2021, the IPB presented the webinar “Cycle of protests and democratic crisis: What is the future for peace in Colombia?” The event was held in Spanish with simultaneous interpretation in English.

During this event, panelists addressed various issues surrounding the cycle of protests such as the current social-political context of Colombia; the claims of the workers and youth movement; the need for police reform; and the failures of the Colombian government to guarantee the right to protest.

Speakers included Alejandro Lanz (Co-Executive Director, Temblores NGO), Gilberto Luis Martinez Guevara (Director of International Affairs, CUT Colombia), and Angelo Cardona (Co-founder and President of the Iberoamerican Alliance for Peace - AIPP).

**Annual Conference: Cooperation for Peace**

*February 26-27, 2021*

On February 2021, the IPB supported the German initiative "Kooperation für den Frieden" (Cooperation for Peace) in collaboration with Welt ohne Waffen (World without Weapons), Weimar, and the Rosa-Luxemburg Foundation, at their Annual Conference “Für ein Europa, das Frieden wagt” (For a Europe daring Peace).

Cooperation for Peace includes an association of more than 50 initiatives and organizations of the German peace movement. Founded in 2003, the initiative strives for the development of peaceful methods and strategies for conflict prevention and resolution, denouncing politics of violence and coercion.

The event was held virtually. The conference featured opening music, moving speeches, passionate panelists, skilled exposés, and intriguing discussions.

Speakers included Dr. Klaus Dörre (Jena University), Alain Rouy (France, Mouvement de la Paix), Yuri Sheliazhenko (Ukraine, War Resisters International), Vladislav Belov (Russia, European Institute Moscow), Ralf Becker (Coordinator of ‘Sicherheit neu denken’ initiative), Willy van Ooyen (Bundesausschuss Friedensratschlag), Dr. Christine Schweitzer (Bund für Soziale Verteidigung), Renate Wanie (Kooperation für den Frieden/Werkstatt für Gewaltfreie Aktion), and Jens-Peter Steffen (Co-Speaker Cooperation for Peace). The event was
Conference: Militarism and Peace in Latin America and the Caribbean
October 23-24, 2021

The hybrid conference on Militarism and Peace in Latin America and the Caribbean was held at the Gewerkschaftshaus Frankfurt. Latin America follows the worldwide trends on armament and militarization, especially since the NATO summit in Wales 2014. The conference first discussed the militarization in Latin America and the Caribbean including the NATO's strategic partnership. It further focused on possible counterstrategies.

The meeting of NATO defense ministers in Brussels on October 21-22, 2021 underlined the role of NATO as the global military alliance.

Invitations were extended by Frieden- und Zukunftswerkstatt e.V., the International Peace Bureau (IPB), Netzwerk Cuba, Österreichisch - Kubanische Gesellschaft (ÖKG), Vereinigung Schweiz-Cuba (VSC) as well as other supporters, donors, and media partners.

Speakers included Leo Gabriel and Raina Zimmering, Santiago Espinosa Bejerano (Center for International Political Research), Heike Hänsel (former member of the German parliament, Die LINKE), Julieta Daza (Juventud Rebelde Colombia and Venezuela), Ruth Kries (Chile, physician); Jimmy Chediak (Consul General of Venezuela), Monica Valente, Reiner Braun (IPB Executive Director), Özlem Demirel (MEP of The LEFT), Kristine Karch (No to NATO & EcoMujer e.V.), and Natalie Benelli (Association Switzerland-Cuba).

Military Coup in Myanmar/Burma and Ways Forward for Finding Peace and Democracy
February 15, 2021

On February 15, 2021, a webinar was held regarding the military coup in Myanmar. The webinar was composed of national experts from Burma to provide their insights into the situation.

Speakers included Daw Khin Ohmar (Chair of Progressive Voice Myanmar’s Advisory Board, awarded with Anna Lindh Prize and the Vital Voices Global Leadership Award for Human Rights) and Daw Thin Thin Aung (advisory board member of the Women’s League of Burma, co-founder of Mizzima News).

Global NATO – A Threat to Peace
June 13-14, 2021

Together with the network “No to War, No to NATO”, The Left in the European Parliament, and the European Left, IPB was a part of this event to add critical voices to the discourse around NATO policies and practices.

World Social Forum 2021 Peace Day
January 24, 2021

This forum took place under the theme “Thematic Space “Peace and War”: geopolitics, militarization, refugees, migration.” The program was prepared by Reiner Braun, Leo Gabriel, Kristine Karch, and Eskil Grav.
Central Panel Discussion: Universal Disarmament for Social and Ecological Transformation
World Social Forum 2021

This webinar explored the strategies of the social and environmental movements for the demilitarisation of political structures in the aftermath of the pandemic.

Speakers included Alexander Ač (Slovakia), Ann Wright (Hawaii, USA), Binalakshmi Nepram (India), Jan Kavan (Czech Republic), Malala Yousafzai (Pakistan), Owen Tudor (UK); Reiner Braun (Germany), and Socorro Gomes (Brazil). The event was moderated by Leo Gabriel (Austria-Mexico, Journalist and Anthropologist, Prague Spring II network, and member of the IC of the WSF).

Military as Climate Killer
World Social Forum 2021

This webinar addressed the damages of military and military installations to nature and the environment. It explored this issue from multiple angles and in several regions, with speakers from Europe, East Asia, and North America, including Claus Montonen (Finland) and Tamara Lorincz (Canada). The event was moderated by Karl Heinz Peil (Germany).

GCOMS: Military Spending Costs Us The Earth
World Social Forum 2021

In this session, experts and activists of IPB’s GCOMS discussed current levels of military spending globally from a critical perspective, arguing that ever-growing military power perpetuates and exacerbates conflicts and instability. The event was organized by the Global Campaign on Military Spending (GCOMS) and IPB.

Military Bases: Environment and Geostrategic Impacts
January 24, 2021

More than 1000 military bases exist worldwide, and more than 800 are under US or NATO command. In this webinar, speakers examined the geostrategic impact of the military bases; what we can learn from the fights against military bases in Ramstein, Okinawa, and South Korea; and how we can convert military bases.

Speakers included Alain Rouy (France, IPB Board Member and Movement de la Paix), A-Young Moon (South Korea, IPB Council Member and PEACEMOMO), Joe Lombardo (USA, The United National AntiWar Coalition), and Suzuyo Takazatu (Japan, Okinawa Peace Alliance). The event was moderated by Reiner Braun (IPB Executive Director and Campaign Stopp Air Base Ramstein) and organized by the Stopp Air Base Ramstein Campaign, No to NATO and IPB.

Interview with the Heidelberg Institute for International Conflict Research

IPB Executive Director Reiner Braun sat down for an interview with members of the Heidelberg Institute for International Conflict Research (HIIK). In the interview, they discussed the methodology of the HI IK’s work, their outcome, the yearly published Conflict Barometer, and the main observations of the latter in 2020.

To read the full interview, click here.

To learn more about the HI IK, click here.
Regular Activities

**The IPB BOARD** gathered every 6 weeks through video conferences. Physical board meetings were not possible due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

**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.

**WEBSITES AND SOCIAL MEDIA:**
Maintaining our two websites and their corresponding social media channels including [Facebook](http://www.facebook.com), [Twitter](http://www.twitter.com), and [Instagram](http://www.instagram.com) is vitally-important work.

Our [YouTube](http://www.youtube.com) is where the majority of our recorded content is updated and made available publicly.

Readers are encouraged to consult our websites on a regular basis:
- [www.ipb.org](http://www.ipb.org)
- [www.demilitarize.org](http://www.demilitarize.org)
In 2021, the IPB released numerous statements regarding world events. Below is a list of all issued statements. To view each statement, click on the title and you will be redirected to the text of the statement on our website.

**ITUC-ICAN-IPB Letter to NATO in Support of the TPNW**

**IPB Statement on the Release of SIPRI’s Military Expenditure Data for 2020**

**IPB Statement on the Military Coup in Myanmar**

**IPB Calls for Solidarity with the People of Myanmar**

**IPB Condemns UK Decision to Increase Warheads by 40%**

**IPB Calls for the Immediate Release of Arrested Activist Daw Thin Thin Aung**

**IPB Statement On The Police Brutality Against Peaceful Protesters in Colombia**

- To read the statement in Spanish, [click here](#).

**Israel and Palestine: From This War a New Peace Process Must Emerge**

**President Biden and Putin: Re-Imagine and Secure Humanity’s Future**

**IPB and The German-Russian Forum: Let Us Finally Make Peace**

- To read the statement in Russian, [click here](#).

**IPB Joins International Peace & Common Security Advocates Opposing QUAD and AUKUS Alliances**
**IPB STAFF MEMBERS 2021**

**Berlin**
- Reiner Braun – Executive Director
- Sean Conner – Co-Coordinator for the World Peace Congress

**Barcelona**
- Jordi Calvo – Director of the Barcelona Office & Coordinator for the GCOMS Campaign
- Quique Sanchez – Project Manager for the GCOMS Campaign
- Arés Perceval – Co-Coordinator for the World Peace Congress

**Geneva**
- Arielle Denis – Consultant

**IPB Volunteers & Interns**

**Berlin Office (BFD)**
- Eskil Grav
- Julia Auf dem Brinke
- Stephanie Verlaan
- Lucas Maaser
- Pauline Auer
- Jessica Pardo Nieto

**Barcelona Office Interns**
- Gilles Gounongbé
- Roger Mazariegos
- Sara García

**Barcelona Office Volunteers**
- Francesca Montagnari
- Tània Ferré
- Marc Enzo Belligoi
- Claudia González
IN MEMORIAM

In 2021, the world lost individuals dedicated to fighting for peace and social justice. The IPB family mourned the loss of Nawal El Sadaawi, Arcadi Oliveres, and Maj-Britt Theorin.

**Nawal El Sadaawi: 22/10/1931 - 21/03/2021**

Egyptian writer, activist, and physician Nawal El Sadaawi ardently struck down patriarchy and capitalism and fought for the oppressed. Her work—some of which were banned in her country—served humanity invaluable, significant ways.

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**Arcadi Oliveres: 27/11/1945 - 06/04/2021**

Arcadi Oliveres dedicated his life to building a world free and emancipated from any kind of violence. Centre Delàs for Peace Studies was born as a result of his mastery, and his discourse was fundamental for peace, human rights defense, solidarity, and development aid.

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**Maj-Britt Theorin: 22/12/1932 - 06/04/2021**

Maj-Britt Theorin was deeply committed to peace, global justice, and emancipation, and served as President of IPB from 1992 to 2000. IPB, in her remembrance, will continue to fight for peace with her utmost passion as inspiration.

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ACTIVITY REPORT 2021

Envisioning a world without war