

INTERNATIONAL PEACE BUREAU INTERIM ACTIVITY REPORT FOR 2009

Summary



DISARMAMENT FOR DEVELOPMENT

The D for D Programme is gradually expanding in all continents through the IPB network, partner organizations and a variety of contacts. We have developed this process further through the following activities:

1. **ENDORSEMENTS:** Building the list of endorsing organisations of our *Call for Action on Military and Social Spending*, and working with them to create an active global network.
2. **DIALOGUE:** engaging in dialogue with:
 - a. development, social justice, and environment organisations,
 - b. governments and their representatives, both in capitals and in UN centres, and
 - c. experts, researchers and international agencies;in each case regarding military budgets as possible sources of funding for programmes to combat poverty, and in particular, concrete proposals relating to the funding of the MDGs.
3. **COALITIONS:** encouraging and sustaining efforts among civil society at national and international level to create coalitions and lobbying programmes, esp. on the spending issues;
4. **SOUTHERN OUTREACH:** reaching out specifically to members and partners in developing countries and helping them establish programmes within the frame of D for D. In **Mexico** we organised a special workshop, in the annual DPI-NGO conference (September), Theme of the whole gathering: *For Peace and Development: Disarm Now!* In **Costa Rica**, IPB was active in the conference held on the Peace Boat (July); and in **Nepal** we made presentations to the Religions for Peace Youth Summit.
5. **PUBLICATIONS:** deepening our work on multi-media and photographic projects, and on a range of publishing and educational efforts supporting the D for D message. These include workshops, production of books and materials, and preparations for the upcoming IPB Nobel Prize centenary in Oslo in 2010. The much-expanded edition of our new book *Nuclear Weapons: At What Cost?* Was launched both in **London** (July 2009) and in **Hiroshima-Nagasaki** (August 2009); a 20pp illustrated brochure on the *Arms Trade* was launched at the European Network Against Arms Trade meeting in **Barcelona**. We continued to publish the much-appreciated *IPB News* every two weeks. Our books are now used in Master's courses as readings and elements in bibliographies – and thus are becoming known more widely through teaching programmes. A 28pp Reflection Paper on *Challenging Militarisation* was published for the Washington Conference in Nov. 2009.
6. **TRANSLATIONS:** we have translated and distributed a whole range of key IPB texts, from flyers to entire books, into approx. 10 languages.
7. **PEACELAW:** we have built on work done in 2008 together with the Global Article 9 campaign and others working on peace constitutions (e.g. the Spanish initiative 'Luarca

Declaration') - see material on website.

8. **NUCLEAR:** IPB is one of the core group of NGOs now actively planning for the activities in May 2010 at the Non-Proliferation Treaty Review conference - and is supporting the growing calls for moves towards abolition. IPB was represented at the NPT PrepComm in May (**New York**) and at the **Hiroshima-Nagasaki** commemorations in August. We continue to work with Geneva based disarmament organisations via the NGO Committee for Disarmament.
9. **COLLABORATIONS:** making contributions to collective projects such as: the Disarmament to Combat Poverty campaign (run by the French development cooperation NGO Frères des Hommes); the annual Nobel Peace laureate summits; the Ubuntu Forum (World Campaign for In-Depth Reform of International Institutions); and the Conference of NGOs in Consultative Status with ECOSOC, CONGO.
10. **RESOURCE CONFLICTS:** The Secretariat has begun to explore a new agenda for longer-term action, which looks at alternatives to military conflict over resources, in a context of climate change. The critique of military spending can only be convincing if it is accompanied by a persuasive set of alternatives.

Annual Conference Washington - ROLLING BACK MILITARISM

Much of 2009 has been taken up with preparations for the Annual Conference (+ other meetings and seminar) held in the US capital in Nov 2009.

Advance planning: 2010

Much time has also been spent preparing for the centenary of IPB's Nobel Peace Prize in 2010. This will include activities in many places, and with two special highlights:

Geneva (June) : a 4 week period in June-July 2010 in which IPB will hold an outdoor exhibition and other events on the shore of Lake **Geneva**, in front of the Palais Wilson. The theme will be '*Making Peace*' and will focus attention on the contributions of the peace and disarmament movements over the last century.

Oslo (Sept): We are organizing a major international conference with well known keynote speakers and contributions from IPB member-organizations, to strengthen the connection between Nordic and international peace organizations. There will also be art, an exhibition, hot spot debates and more. The programme will take place in venues such as the Nobel Institute and the Nobel Peace Center in the heart of Oslo. We shall also hold in Oslo the Triennial IPB Assembly.

All are welcome !

11 Nov. 2009

<http://www.ipb.org>
