

**INTERNATIONAL PEACE BUREAU -- ANNUAL CONFERENCE
WASHINGTON DC, 14-18 NOVEMBER 2009**

Rolling back militarism : a task for the global movement

Underlined = confirmed

Draft program -- work in progress – speakers confirmed as at 21 Sept

*We are at a time of crisis and opportunity. This conference is an invitation to engage in a strategic process, to examine our campaigning priorities and options, to explore new ways to challenge the militarism we see around us, and to build international connections and partnerships. In particular, IPB is seeking to build its **Disarmament for Development program**, which focuses on military spending, campaigns against weapons that undermine development, and related issues.*

A collection of background papers on the conference themes will be made available to participants in the conf. folder – also available on website.

FRIDAY Nov 13

Arrival

Open social evening

Day 1 : SATURDAY Nov 14 – Georgetown University

8:30 Registration opens

9:00 Workshops facilitators meet to agree method of work

9:30 Conference Opens

Indigenous/drumming/music

Welcome!

- o [Kevin Martin](#): welcome from host org + Practical info
- o [Tomas Magnusson](#): welcome from IPB + Explanation of the program/process

9.45 MILITARISM: where it comes from, where it's going, how to roll it back:

An international perspective at a time of economic crisis

1st Keynote Speaker

+ Comments from the floor

10.30 Coffee break

10:45 FORUMS: KEY ISSUES

Each forum will offer a chance to explore key points relating to the impact of militarism in a significant area. Each group will be asked come up with 3 or 4 specific suggestions for IPB work.

- Military bases – voices from around the empire :
- Resource conflicts – peak oil, climate change...
- Race, peace, gender – how does it all connect ? [Judith LeBlanc, United for Peace and Justice/ Emira Woods ,Institute for Policy Studies](#)
- Middle East (1) Israel-Palestine – crisis/opportunity [Prof. Mark Lance, Georgetown Univ. /Azza Elkholy, Institute for Peace Studies, Egypt](#)
- Middle East (2) Iraq-Iran – out of the frying pan into the fire ?
- Peace law – constitutions (for ex. Art. 9 Japan), legislation, Depts. of Peace [Carlos Vargas, IALANA, Costa Rica](#)
- Religions – [Representative of Religions for Peace \(from RDC\)](#)

12:30 Lunch

POSTER SESSIONS – small groups, diverse topics

MEETING OF DECLARATION DRAFTING GROUP (1)

2.00 DIMENSIONS OF MILITARISM

This is an opportunity to explore together what militarism means to us, our lives, our institutions and communities – and how to build the alternatives. We hope to encourage a dialogue between older people who have experienced struggles against perhaps more than one war; and younger folks who are engaged in anti recruitment or similar work.

Buzz groups 30 mins, with materials on wall, then:

Panel

- culture of war/peace –[Pierre Villard,Co-President, Mouvement de la paix, France](#)
- politics – [David McReynolds \(WRL\)](#)
- economics – [Frida Berrigan, New America Foundation](#)
- consumer culture
- gender –
- media –
- youth - [Oskar Castro, AFSC](#)
- religion -

3.45 Break

4:00 THE WAR IN AFGHANISTAN/PAKISTAN – HOW TO GET OUT

We are one year on from the US Presidential election and the war is going badly. Many countries are involved and the debate is growing everywhere. How can we build a stronger peace movement challenge to the militarists ?

- *Afghan voice*
- *Critical voice from Congress*
- *Journalist:*
- *Analyst:* [Phyllis Bennis, Institute for Policy studies](#)
- *Peace activist :* [Paul Kawika Martin, Peace Action](#)
- *A view from Europe* [Reiner Braun, IPB Board member, Germany](#)

MOVE TO NEW VENUE

5:30 PEACE EDUCATION

+ presentation of MacBride Prize:

- Introduction, background to the prize and previous winners : [Cora Weiss, President Hague Appeal for Peace & IPB UN Representative](#)
- Acceptance speech by the 2009 award winner : [Prof. Betty Reardon, Teachers' College, NYC](#)

International panel of peace education practitioners:

- [Azza El-Kholy, Institute for Peace Studies, Alexandria, Egypt](#)
- _____
- _____
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7.30 RECEPTION and CELEBRATION - Music

Day 2 : SUNDAY Nov 15

9:00 PLENARY - DISARMAMENT FOR DEVELOPMENT

9.15 ----2nd keynote: [Tom Hayden, former US Senator, Progressive Democrats of America](#)

Questions and comments

- **10.00 PRESENTATION OF IPB WORK –** [Colin Archer, IPB Secretary-General](#)

In 2005 IPB launched a new global program entitled 'Disarmament for Development'. The purpose is to create a worldwide campaign to work on three inter-related areas:

- Military v Social Spending
- Impact of weapons on development
- Related issues: resource wars or human security?

Much has already been done; even more remains to be done. This session will set out our track record and the crucial issues confronting us.

A view from the South: [Fred Lubang, IPB Council member, Bangkok. \(Nonviolence International SE Asia\)](#)

10.30 Coffee break

11.00 Open discussion on building global campaigns on these issues, incl. reminder of points raised in the Saturday discussions.

12:15 LUNCH

1.45 PANEL : NUCLEAR ABOLITION: IT'S TIME TO GET SERIOUS

The arrival of Barack Obama in the White House, and in particular his Prague speech, have changed the terms of

the global nuclear debate. But there are many tough problems to deal with and challenge is to move from rhetoric to real political action. We shall discuss prospects for the 2010 NPT Review, for a nuclear weapons Convention, and how we can all mobilise our communities to make it happen.

- Hibakusha: ... [VIDEO](#)
- Grass roots activist : [Jackie Cabasso, WSLF](#)
- Researcher [Zia Mian, Princeton Univ.](#)
- Organiser: summary of international mobilisations for NPT, May 2010: [Joseph Gerson, AFSC](#)
- French view : [Pierre Villard](#)

Questions, discussion from the floor, points for drafting group

3 :30 pm **COMMUNITIES**

Militarism affects communities differently – and each has different potential for opposing it. We have much to learn from each other. This Panel will feature representatives from :

- Faith:
- Labor unions:
- Women:
- Youth : [Jonathan Williams, Peace Action](#)
- People of color/southern voices: [Fadoua Amer, Institute for Peace Studies, Egypt](#)
- Env/dev campaigns :

Theme: *What contributions can your sector make to the task of rolling back militarism? What are the alternatives we need to be building?*

+ Discussion: A chance to comment on the earlier discussions; and also to make suggestions for the drafting group.

Meanwhile: **Drafting group:** final meeting (2)

MOVE TO NEW VENUE

5 :00 pm: **WHERE WE GO FROM HERE**

CLOSING PLENARY: Facilitators: [Kevin Martin](#) and [Tomas Magnusson](#)

Our purpose here is bring the threads together and attempt both a summary and a work program for us all.

- Reports from Forums , also from internet participants
- Proposals for projects and resolutions to IPB Council – FUTURE DIRECTIONS
- *[NPT : Reminder to invite people for Monday afternoon meeting]*
- Conference declaration
- Final remarks and thanks to all helpers

6.30 – Light buffet

7.00 PEACE CINEMA

Day 3 : MONDAY 16th Nov.

9.00: IPB COUNCIL MEETING --- Open to all -- Methodists Building

12:00 : LUNCH

From 9:00 (separate room - small group - NPT)

1.00pm- 4pm : **NPT 2010 –International Planning meeting (open session)**

4pm – 7pm+: **International Planning meeting (decision making group)**

Day 4: TUESDAY 17th Nov.

SEMINAR: An elephant in the room: military spending – Methodists building

We follow on from the main conference with a smaller, more expert group for a more focussed discussion and to engage with decision makers. IPB's *Disarmament for Development* programme has at its core the work of challenging budget priorities. We aim to exchange perspectives on how the budget debate is going in different places - especially given the economic crisis - and hopefully to seed a new, or at least a strengthened, network of activists willing to engage with this issue over the medium term.

Morning: The USA

- Expert presentation
- Dialogue with member of Congress

Afternoon: The rest of the world

- Expert presentation
 - Reports from civil society groups
 - Building a sustainable network
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Alternative to Seminar and/or WEDS Nov 18 - Day 5

While we hope to have the participation of some US officials and representatives at the conference, this is a chance to visit them on their own territory and explore – even if only briefly – some of the issues raised by our conference and our work.

HILL VISITS/Visits to key organisations

- Obama administration officials – State Dept, Defense etc
- Capitol Hill/Congress
- NGOs/think tanks

Depends on requests from participants
