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Newsletter

October 2016

Important IPB updates

[IPB's Berlin Congress](#)



A huge success!

There was a general consensus in the Berlin Congress organised by IPB (Disarm! for a Climate of Peace: Creating an Action Agenda) that the gathering was a tremendous success. Between 700 and 1000 participants from 75 countries participated in a wide range of sessions: plenaries, panels and workshops, as well as side events and cultural presentations. Speeches by experts, activists, politicians, scholars and others provided both inspiration and understanding at a high level.

Conference reports, speeches, videos etc. are being posted day by day on the Congress website: <https://www.ipb2016.berlin/>. For even more information and behind the scenes captions, follow our social media channels such as Twitter: <https://goo.gl/I6TqE1> and Instagram: <https://goo.gl/wxXVcT>

"Missile" event outside the Reichstag - video

This video (in German and English) tells a lot about the issues addressed at the congress, some of personalities participating, and the creative style of the press- and side-events. The 3D-art project showing chains holding back a missile was organised by our colleagues in the **World Future Council** and **UNfold Zero**.

IPB declaration on demilitarization and youth

7th October 2016. (Extracts) "Youth are a military target in schools, universities, religious spheres and other social environments....We, the participants of the IPB Youth Gathering, actively strive for peace and a just future....Today we create a Youth Network under the umbrella of the IPB, calling for a world conference on youth, demilitarisation, and transformation in 2018." For the full declaration, take a look **here**. And if you have any questions, don't hesitate to send a mail to **youth@ipb.org**.

IPB publishes its Action Agenda for the coming years

Among the highlights of the Berlin Congress, held on Sept 30 - Oct 2, 2016, was the presentation of IPB's **Action Agenda**. It should be noted that this document is not the final declaration of the congress; nor is it a summary of the many events that took place during the weekend. Rather, it offers a broad framework to guide the IPB community in the years ahead. The Agenda begins with the IPB's vision, and goes on to outline some of the main challenges in the peace field. It then describes IPB's broad approach to campaigning. The final section focuses on IPB's central area of work (military spending) and lists a number of disarmament measures on which IPB intends to work.

IPB elects new officials

At the Triennial Assembly held in Berlin on October 3, a new group of IPB officials was elected. See list **HERE**. Our new Co-President is Lisa Clark from Italy. She takes over from Ingeborg Breines and will lead the organisation in the new 'Transition period', together with continuing Co-President Reiner Braun. Get to know CO-President Lisa Clark a bit more in her **election statement**. For a short background information on all the persons elected to the IPB Board and Council (2016 - 2019), take a look **HERE**. A fresh list of IPB Consultants was also adopted. Those present at the Assembly meeting gave a warm vote of thanks to the outgoing officials and welcomed the new team to their diverse positions.



Press review of the Congress

This document collects press reactions to the IPB World Congress.

Making it happen: Trade union movement backs a world without nuclear weapons

Philip Jennings, General Secretary of UNI Global Union, was a key speaker at IPB's Berlin Congress. UNI Global Union and its 20 million members in 150 countries adopted resolutions on peace at two world congresses in Nagasaki (2010) and Cape Town (2014). They support and are members of the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) and have a long-time partnership with IPB. UNI Global Union and its members welcome the discussions taking place on the draft UN General Assembly resolution to start negotiations on a treaty banning nuclear weapons. They are convinced that nuclear weapons money would be far better spent on climate change mitigation, public services or social justice etc. [Read more](#).

Sean Macbride Peace Prize 2016: To be awarded to Secretary-General Colin Archer



The Board of IPB is pleased to announce that the Sean MacBride Peace Prize will be awarded this year to our own Secretary-General Colin Archer, who since 1990 has served the organization with outstanding commitment and competence. Colin Archer, who will retire next year and return home from Geneva to the UK, has spared no efforts over the last 26 years in the service of peace and of the IPB community in particular...

Read the full announcement [here](#) and if you want to know more about the MacBride Peace Prize and its connection to IPB, follow this [link](#).

IPB publication: Time to Move the Nuclear Weapons Money - new resource launched at parliamentary event in Geneva



Over the next 10 years, governments will spend a staggering \$1 trillion on nuclear weapons globally. That's \$100 billion annually. Against the backdrop of increasing austerity and cuts in social spending, such allocations appear not only exorbitant, but also counter to the economic and social needs of the nuclear-armed States. Anti-nuclear activists and other civil society leaders need to join forces with progressive legislators and anti-nuclear governments to reduce the lobbying power of the nuclear weapons corporations, and to 'move the nuclear money' to social and environmental programs. In this framework, *Move the Nuclear Weapons Money: A handbook for civil society and legislators* was launched on October 25 at the 135th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary union (IPU). The handbook, published by IPB, WFC and PNND, was launched as part of deliberations at the IPU Assembly on the Issue of military spending versus Sustainable Development Goals. [More](#).

IPB Round Table, Geneva Nov. 11: Moving the military money. To climate, development, humanitarian action

On Friday 11 November 2016, between 16.00 – 18.00, IPB will organise a Round Table discussion: *"Moving the Military Money: to climate, development, humanitarian action and peacemaking"*. It will be held at the Ecumenical Centre in Geneva. You can find the full programme [HERE](#).

Each year since 2011, the Global Day of Action on Military Spending has brought together some 100-150 actions and events organised in communities around the world, in order to build public awareness and challenge decision-makers.

This meeting is a forum for sharing ideas on how to secure additional funding for vital social programmes (such as the Sustainable Development Goals and climate action) by reducing the financial and intellectual resources devoted to the military system. It will report on the outcomes of IPB's recent Berlin world congress on this topic, and outline plans for future work. All are welcome. It will be followed by the 2016 MacBride Prize ceremony.

MILITARY SPENDING



USA, opinion: Where is that wasteful government spending?

In early September 2016, Donald Trump announced his plan for a vast expansion of the U.S. military. According to him, it would be covered by cutting wasteful government spending. The question is the following: where is the waste? Military spending is the biggest item, by far, in the U.S. budget. But the Pentagon functions without an audit system. The U.S. Defense Department does not know therefore how much equipment it has purchased, how much it has been overcharged, or how many contractors it employs. This leads to enormous waste. Weapons are accumulating and some of them will never be used. The nuclear weapons for instance will either lead to the destruction of the world or to vast and unnecessary expenditures. The U.S. is set to spend \$1 trillion over 30 years to rebuild its nuclear complex and modernize its nuclear weapons.

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Future actions of the French collective *En marche pour la Paix (Marches for Peace)*

The collective, which is part of the French Mouvement de la Paix, organized peace marches all over France on September 24, 2016. Today, the collective is launching three priority actions. In the short term, the collective is calling for massive actions everywhere in France and especially in working-class neighborhoods to stop the propositions of the Defence Summer University aiming at practically doubling the nuclear weapons budget and increasing the French military budget by €10 billion per year. Furthermore, the collective wants to publish a white paper proposing alternative solutions to our policed society and to the militarization of international relations. Peace forums will be organized in many different cities before December 15 2016 so as to gather citizens' ideas and opinions on the topic of the white paper. Finally, the collective will relaunch its petition against nuclear weapons.

More on Military Spending

Indonesia: 2017 defense budget set much lower than proposed by government

Press release: Development money to fund the military - The EU Commission plans to repurpose the civil conflict management budget

NUCLEAR



UN votes to outlaw nuclear weapons - negotiations to open in 2017

On October 27, the UN adopted a landmark resolution to launch negotiations in 2017 on a treaty outlawing nuclear weapons. The UN vote came just hours after the European Parliament adopted its own resolution on this subject, inviting European Union member states to “participate constructively” in next year’s negotiations. Most of the nine nuclear-armed nations and many of their allies voted against the resolution. But the nations of Africa, Latin American, the Caribbean, Southeast Asia and the Pacific voted overwhelmingly in favor of it. As the executive director of ICAN, Beatrice Fihn, says: “This treaty won’t eliminate nuclear weapons overnight. But it will establish a powerful new international legal standard, stigmatizing nuclear weapons and compelling nations to take urgent action on disarmament.”

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Nuclear disarmament - A challenge for the new UN Chief

The UN General Assembly has on October 13 affirmed Antonio Guterres, the former Prime Minister of Portugal and UN High Commissioner for Refugees, as the next UN Secretary-General. The expertise of Guterres in managing the global refugee crisis played a big role in his nomination. But the fact that he never directly challenged the nuclear weapons policies of the P5 during his term as Prime Minister of Portugal might also have been another important factor in his favor. Non-nuclear states and civil society should encourage Guterres to take a strong leadership role on the issues of nuclear disarmament and achievement of security by non-nuclear means.

[READ MORE](#)

More on Nuclear

[Hibakusha join activists at UN event in calling for nuke ban treaty](#)

[ICRC e-briefing on the human cost of nuclear weapons](#)

ARMS TRADE



German arms exports go from strength to strength

Germany's arms export is booming, due in part to a jump in sales to Turkey. Top customers also include Algeria, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and South Korea. But Germany's economics ministry insists it is operating the most restrictive arms export regimes in post-war history. Berlin refuses to allow weapons exports to countries involved in – or facing the threat of – armed conflict, and has also introduced new post-sale checks to prevent arms ending up in the hands of Islamist extremists and others. Furthermore, the ministry will no longer allow arms companies to export machines from Germany, allowing them to produce weapons and components beyond the control of Berlin.

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Norway's arms trade to warring countries

Norway earns about US\$300 million from its arms export deals. A network of 50 Norwegian organizations has called for a thorough investigation of Oslo's weapons sales to countries involved in the civil war in Yemen. The country's Liberal Left Party meanwhile called for a complete halt of sales of the weapons to the same countries. Norwegian export control rules state that the country "will not allow the sale of weapons and ammunition to areas where there is an ongoing war or a threat of war, or to countries where a civil war goes on."

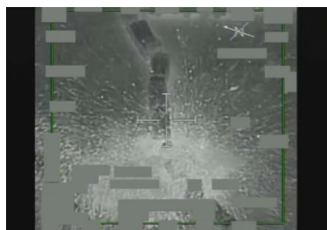
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More on Arms Trade

[EU strengthens trade rules against goods used for capital punishment and torture](#)

[Day of action against arms dealers in Brussels](#)

IMPACTS



US confirms that it has fired depleted uranium

Contrary to earlier claims, US admitted that it fired depleted uranium (DU) weapons in Syria on two occasions in November 2015. The International Coalition to Ban Uranium Weapons (ICBUW) and the peace organisation PAX are concerned that these events could be a sign that DU will be used more widely in the conflict. They are therefore calling for urgent clarification from the US authorities on both the incidents and its DU policy for the conflict

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iansa Report
international action network on small arms



Time to End the Deadly Flood of Guns

Final report on the 2016 Global Week of Action Against Gun Violence

On May 1-8, 2016, members of the International Action Network on Small Arms (IANSA) took up the theme "Time to End the Deadly Flood of Guns" and organized marches, exhibitions, social media campaigns, seminars, mural contests, TV appearances, disarmament lessons, and speeches to bring greater attention to the problem of gun violence through the annual Global Week of Action Against Gun Violence. Activities have been compiled into this final report.

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More on Impacts

Iraq War records
reignite debate over
US use of depleted
uranium

New petition launched
on US use of depleted
uranium in Syria

Open source industrial
risk analysis of the
Mosul battle

MISCELLANEOUS



Peace education: Colombian peace education collective manifesto

The Peace Education Collective constitutes an effort of several universities, research centers and NGOs at the national and international level. It aims to promote the processes of Peace Education and to transform those practices and discourses that have upset social forms of interaction and generated violence and armed conflict in Colombia.

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Finally... Right to peace reaches General Assembly

On June 24, 2016, the Human Rights Council of the United Nations endorsed a resolution recommending the General Assembly to adopt the "Declaration on the right to peace" as prepared by the Council's Working Group in the course of four years of debate. There was a large campaign in Italy to support the work of the Human Rights Council. The adoption of the Declaration would give a strong signal in favor of peace.

[READ MORE](#)

More on Miscellaneous

[Goodbye to Tom Hayden](#)

[Nobel Peace Prize winner Malala urges Muslims to unite against wars](#)

[The Peace Experience - video](#)

RESOURCES



Chatham House research paper - Nuclear disarmament: The missing link in multilateralism

The purpose of this paper is to explore how the detonation of nuclear weapons would impact the following issues and how they connect to nuclear disarmament: climate change, development, international law, gender, protection of cultural heritage, public health, non-state armed groups, humanitarian action and cybersecurity. Experts should be aware of the dangers that nuclear weapons still pose and this should be factored into policymaking.

[READ MORE](#)



"A Global Security System: An Alternative to War" - 2016 edition now available

This report, provided by World Beyond War, states that the historic end of war is now possible. It describes the "hardware" of creating a peace system, and the "software" — the values and concepts — necessary to *operate* a peace system and the means to *spread these globally*.

[READ MORE](#)

More on Resources

**Civil Society & the UN
– Creating & Maintaining Civil Society Space –
Report of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights**

New SIPRI Background Paper on military capabilities in the Arctic

For upcoming events see IPB Calendar



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