

## **IPPNW CENTRAL OFFICE REPORT TO THE IPPNW BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

IPPNW 17<sup>th</sup> WORLD CONGRESS  
HELSINKI, FINLAND  
SEPTEMBER 2006

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At the Beijing World Congress, the IPPNW Board of Directors and the International Council took a major step forward in defining a focused set of programs that the federation would collectively pursue as a matter of priority for the coming two years. Such focus is, as it was agreed then, critical to achieving all the things we agree we want as an organization: sharper public understanding of the substantive contribution IPPNW is making toward our mission; greater impact on public opinion and governmental policy; greater media attention; increased funding; and stronger unity of purpose within the organization. This is the heart of "renewal." The programmatic priorities set in Beijing were:

NPT 2005 – Mayors for Peace, Abolition Now! \*\*\*  
Small Arms \*\*\*  
South Asia \*\*  
Iraq Health Monitoring Project \*\*  
Dialogues with Decision-Makers \*.5  
NWIP \*

As elaborated below, and in many other reports being presented at this Congress in Helsinki, each of these program priorities attracted widespread participation throughout the federation. In many ways, the federation as a whole over the past two years was more energized and productive than at any time since the end of the cold war. There remains an undeniable vigor and hunger in IPPNW to help change the course of history.

At its last meeting in September 2005, the Board reviewed the Beijing program priorities. Several new items were added to this list. The quantity and scope of items are reflections of the organization's vitality and broad sense of mission, especially at the affiliate level. At the same time, the number of items identified as "priorities" raised a concern that focusing the entire federation on a small number of common activities would be difficult in 2006. That concern was borne out in reality. The expanded list of priorities set by the BoD were:

Nuclear Weapons Convention Campaign (emerging from NPT) \*\*\*  
Small Arms Violence \*\*\*  
Dialogues with Decision Makers \*\*  
Nuclear Terrorism Response \*\*  
Nuclear Weapons Abolition Alliance \*\*  
Iraq Health Monitoring Project \*

Nuclear Weapons Inheritance Project \*  
North Korea \*  
Iran \*  
South Asia \*  
Vancouver Peace Forum \*  
Social Reconstruction (El Salvador) \*  
Nuclear Energy  
Globalization  
Curriculum on Core IPPNW Issue  
Global Health Alerts  
Hello, it's Our Future  
Responsibility to Care

IPPNW struggled during the year to define and develop its top-priority Nuclear Weapons Convention campaign. With the receipt by MAPW of a large three-year grant from the Poola Foundation, the hiring of a campaign coordinator by MAPW, and a summer-long series of consultations with IPPNW's European affiliates, the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons is coming into focus and will be discussed in detail in Helsinki. We worked during the year with Medact, to bring the issue of Trident replacement before the federation as a whole; with IPPNW-Germany to advocate for the removal of US tactical nuclear weapons from European soil; and with IDPD and PSR-USA to oppose the US-India nuclear energy deal.

Aiming for Prevention continued to grow and gain credibility for IPPNW among the medical, diplomatic, and NGO communities concerned with small arms violence. Funding from the Canadian Foreign Affairs department, which we hope will be renewed in 2007, has supported participation in major international conferences; the first phases of a landmark 10-country multinational hospital-based research pilot study on injury due to firearm violence, with participation from Kenya, Uganda, DR Congo, Nigeria, Zambia, and El Salvador; and the production of a variety of educational materials, including One Bullet Stories. IPPNW has cemented its relations with WHO, the CDC, and other medical and public health agencies with which it has collaborated on small arms issues.

During the past year we can point to the completion of Dialogues With Decision Makers meetings in London, Paris, Brussels, and Moscow; a series of affiliate conferences and publications to mark the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Chernobyl; the release of a new nuclear terrorism study by PSR; and IPPNW participation in important gatherings including the Vancouver Peace Forum, the UN Review Conference on Small Arms and Light Weapons, the ICJ+10 conference, the 8th World Injury Conference in Durban, South Africa, and a Summit of Nobel Peace Laureates in South Korea. The Global Health Alerts Project got off to a slow start, but shows considerable promise for 2007. The working groups on Globalization and on Energy Security, while they have prepared major contributions to the program of the Helsinki Congress, have not yet submitted concrete program proposals to the Board.

IPPNW continued to have a strong presence in South Asia, and rallied around our friends and colleagues in Nepal when governmental repression in that country resulted in the arrest and detention of several PSR Nepal leaders active in the pro-democracy movement. We are currently seeking foundation funds for an IDPD-led project to conduct health surveys among communities near the Jadugoda uranium mines in northeast India. Contact with the DPRK languished once again following a delegation to Pyongyang in August 2005. Although there are as yet no clear outlines for a program addressing the nuclear proliferation situation in Iran, contacts among IPPNW leaders and Iranian physicians and medical students have increased in recent months, and a delegation hopes to visit Tehran in October.

IPPNW medical students organized very successful Nuclear Weapons Inheritance Project trainings, Target X installations, and other student activities in the US, the UK, France, Italy, Belgium, Sweden, Canada, Australia, and elsewhere around the world. Plans are coming together for a major Latin American student meeting, and on August 20 more than 20 students began a Baltic Bicycle Tour from Tallinn, Estonia to Helsinki, as an exciting media event leading up to the 17<sup>th</sup> World Congress. IPPNW's students are not just the future of the organization in some rhetorical sense; in a very real way they are the activists of the present, bringing creativity and energy to the entire federation.

Other items on the 2006 priorities list did not fare so well. IPPNW withdrew from participation in the Nuclear Weapons Abolition Alliance (aka Global Fund for Nuclear Disarmament) when we were unable to agree on the terms of a contract that would sufficiently protect IPPNW's interests. Projects such as the curriculum on core IPPNW issues, "Hello It's Our Future," and Responsibility to Care never quite got off the ground.

Despite all the activities generated within IPPNW over the past year, there is a clear sense that something is missing. We have heard this concern expressed in different ways by Board and staff, by affiliate leaders and activists, by the Renewal Committee, and even by donors. It is a recognition that we have not defined a program that can bring the entire federation together around a common purpose and a common set of activities that is both inspiring and cohesive. The EC has attempted to address this concern in the 2007 program plan that the Board and the IC will have an opportunity to discuss, approve, and, most important, act upon when we leave Helsinki.