CO-PRESIDENTS’ REPORT
TO THE IPPNW BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OCTOBER 5-6, 2007
LONDON, ENGLAND

SUBMITTED BY: IME A. JOHN, IPPNW CO-PRESIDENT

This report covers the period after my election at the Helsinki world congress up to the end of September 2007.

The working relationship with my Colleague, Professor Gunnar Westberg has been unique; probably my current residency in Sweden provided for the excellent communication between us. However, our aspirations for IPPNW may be distinct. I fervently believe that injuries and scourge from small arms and light weapons are relevant issues that have a strong affinity to nuclear war. Also, most members from the global south and some from global north will appreciate the paradigm that associates development, small arms and nuclear arm race. This sketchy observation, should provide us with serious consideration of how our mission for the prevention of war; be it nuclear or conventional should be shaped.

Many challenges exist;
- How can we carry our diverse memberships along?
- How do we sustain our campaigns and mission vis-à-vis; research, education and advocacy?
- How do we turn around our dwindling financial state?
- How do we maintain our ‘engine’, the central office?
- What are our visions for a post cold war IPPNW?

IPPNW Finances and Projects
The revenue of our federation has consistently reduced for the past years. Several ideas have been suggested and debates are currently engaging our attention. I am not sure if we’ve undertaken an outright fundraising for IPPNW for the past years. A simplistic view may be to engage a professional fundraiser. Another may be to include the Central Office overheads into the budget of projects. The Aiming for Prevention campaign and the Multinational injury surveillance Pilot Project (MISPP) may be an opportunity to raise fund for IPPNW.

One avenue for keeping us relevant in this current campaign should be projects. A tripod of our mission is based on Research, Advocacy and Education. From my view, I observed that we are yet to be saturated with research which when properly articulated and executed will increase our revenue base as well as fuel our advocacy and educational programs.

Multinational Injury surveillance Pilot Project MISPP
This is a multinational hospital-based research imitated with an epidemiologist based at Ponce Medical School, Puerto Rico. Basically, participants drawn from the IPPNW Affiliates in Nigeria, Kenya, DR Congo, Uganda and Zambia gather data on violent injury at their respective hospital emergency rooms and test the viability of implementing injury surveillance systems at these hospitals which is vital for injury prevention policies. The focus of the research project was to identify the circumstances of gunshot injuries with a goal to provide data that can be used to promote healthy and safe communities where development can flourish. The project has been concluded at these countries.
In addition to this, we were approached by Small Arms Survey, a Geneva based Research group to extend this project to 3 centres in Nigeria with a plan to monitor similar injuries in the periods prior and after the Nigerian elections. This process has also been completed.

The gains of this project have been recognition by the World Health Organization (WHO), the WHO Violence Prevention Alliance and NGOs in the field of injury and small arms.

Also, the horizon for dissemination of the analysis and results of the project through scientific-peer reviewed publications and relevant international meetings or conferences has been greatly enhanced. E.g. abstracts from the preliminary results were sent to the 9th world congress plan for Merida, México in March 2008.

Our hope will be to replicate this project in South Asia and Latin America where small violence is also a threat to peace if funding will permit.

**The UN and Charter for a world without violence**

As part of the many years of deliberations at the Nobel peace Laureate’s meetings in Rome, a charter for a world without violence occupied our discussion in the last summit. Drafts of which was circulated and endorsed by those present at last year’s meeting and some who were absent. It was a rare privilege to be invited to the UN, Geneva to present this draft to the President of the UN General Assembly. We hope that this draft will move along the UN processes and get endorsement by heads of States and Government in the near future.

**Medical Students**

This group is the future of IPPNW. Their zeal and enthusiasm is worthy of praise. In Africa, Latin America and other regions there are the epitome of peace that provides hope to our volatile world. Their involvements in the aiming for prevention campaigns, Target X and the Nuclear Weapons inheritance Projects are few examples that send messages for a weapons free world. Recently, we have included them in our team to this year’s summit of Nobel Peace Laureates in Rome in recognition of their great potentials.

**Conferences, speeches, travel**

Within the past one year, I was able to represent our Federation in the following meetings;

**2006**

Nov 16-19  Summit of Nobel Peace Laureates, Rome, Italy  
Nov 20-21  Ubuntu: NGO conference on reform of UN institutions, Geneva, Switzerland  
           Visit to the injury and violence department of WHO, Geneva, Switzerland  
Dec 13-24  Initiation and mobilization for the MISPP in Nigeria

**2007**

Jan 7-13  18th World Congress planning meeting, New Delhi, India  
Mar 14  “Trident and a nuclear weapon free Europe” seminar at the Swedish parliament, Stockholm, Sweden  
Mar 22-25  Nuclearization of Europe and the Middle East. From Threat to Preventive Action. Montê Verita, Ascona, Switzerland  
Apr 30-May4  NPT Prep.Com. meeting, Vienna, Austria  
           Meeting with the Nigerian Embassy, Charges d’Affairs on Nigerian’s planned nuclear power acquisition
May 5  Speech at the 25th Anniversary of the German Affiliate, Berlin, Germany
Jun 11-16 Meeting with doctors and students of SCWVS Iran. Meeting with the Deputy Mayor of Tehran.
Jul 2-5 Presentation of the charter for a non-violent world during the UN ECOSOC meeting at the UN headquarters, Geneva, Switzerland
Jul 19-26 Participated in West African network on small arms, regional meeting Abuja, Nigeria
Sep 7-9 Participated in the 6th African Regional meeting, Nairobi, Kenya
Sep 18 Fundraising for Aiming for Prevention, Oslo, Norway

Plans
My immediate preoccupation would be to address those 5 challenges mentioned at the beginning of this report.

Appreciation
The discharge of my duties would not have been possible without the financial support from NLA- Norway and the Swedish Affiliate SLMK.

The Central Office staff provided the necessary advice and administrative support that encouraged me to continue my modest service.
Several members and Affiliates appreciated and were in solidarity with my concept of IPPNW of our century.

I am grateful to all that made it possible.

Ime A. John
Co-President
IPPNW
This report covers the period since the latest meeting of the Board of Directors at Helsinki, Finland, September 2006.

To take advantage of the fact there are two Co-Presidents Ime John and myself have to a major but not exclusive extent divided the work between us so that questions of small arms, the Aiming for Prevention campaign and issues of development and justice have primarily been addressed by Ime John, questions of nuclear weapons and nuclear energy by me. This is reflected in our accounts to this meeting.

**Abolition of Nuclear Weapons**

The nuclear weapon states continue to ignore their solemn pledges to abolish their nuclear weapons. Instead, several of them develop new nuclear weapons and carriers. The UK Parliament voted for a renewal of the Trident nuclear missiles, prolonging the age of nuclear terror for 50 or 60 years. New nuclear doctrines, making nuclear weapons a part of the conventional arsenal pose a strong incentive for other states to acquire their own nuclear deterrent. Nuclear proliferation, new nuclear doctrines and deteriorating relations between Russia and the USA increase the risk for nuclear wars, both “limited” and global. This increasing threat and the deteriorating status of international agreements should strengthen the resolve of organisations such as IPPNW to work for a world secure from the risk of nuclear war.

**International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN)**

This has been our most important program during the period.

From the beginning, the vision of IPPNW has been that if we were able to make people really understand the nature of nuclear war, they would demand from their governments that nuclear weapons are abolished. Thus our tool has always been education, and we trust in democracy. After the end of the cold war, however, people have largely forgotten the threat of nuclear war. There is a renewed need for education: We are still targeted with nuclear weapons, a technical or human mistake can exterminate us. This we must bring to the attention of all citizens of the world. Again.

Against this background the International Campaign for the Abolition of Nuclear Weapons was conceived and launched “to create a groundswell of public opinion for the abolition of nuclear weapons”. The support of the Pooila Foundation made it possible for MAPW Australia to start this work. Felicity Hill was employed to develop the ICAN concept. Her great experience and knowledge of the field and her enormous energy was important for the development of the campaign.

Now we have these tools of the ICAN. What we now need is activism in every affiliate to use the methods and material in the best and most effective way in our own countries and in international fora. And here is also the main weakness of IPPNW today: We have an insufficient cooperation between affiliates, our central office is too small to support and invigorate the affiliates, and there is no money for the international work. The Board should discuss how we could collaborate more efficiently without burdening the staff of the central office.
A central feature of the ICAN is the **Model Nuclear Convention**, included in the booklet Securing our Survival, which is produced by the ICAN group. The document was presented to the delegates of the Preparatory committee of the NPT at the meeting in Vienna April 2007. At the upcoming session of the UNGA the Convention will be introduced by Malaysia and Costa Rica.

Many other organisations have become partners to ICAN, such as Mayors for Peace, Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom, WILPF, Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament, CND, UK, Abolition 2000 and many others. Hans Blix and Mohamed ElBaradheii have voiced their full support for ICAN. However, without a strong driving force from IPPNW our ICAN is not likely to achieve what was intended: To raise a strong international opinion against nuclear weapons.

**IPPNW renewal**
The renewal process in the period leading up to the Helsinki conference involved many Board members and affiliates, and the procedure consumed a lot of time and energy. The conclusion was that IPPNW needed *structural change, better communication and imaginative programming*. Questions of *structural change* were divisive, and no change of vital importance for our renewal was initiated. The chair of the IC has worked to improve the *communication* within the Council, but the response from the affiliates has been sparse. Many Board members have assumed and carried out specific obligations, but in general the interaction between the Board members and the EC or the Central Office has been sluggish.

The EC has held telephone conferences frequently, most often monthly. The agenda and the decisions have been communicated to the Board - albeit sometimes not as early as desired – but there have been very little reaction from the Board. Can we find better ways to communicate?

During the renewal process affiliates expressed the opinion that many of the problems of IPPNW were due to the lack of vigorous and *imaginative programs*, stemming from inadequate funding. The Renewal Committee emphasized the importance of creating "compelling and attractive international programs and high profile campaigns which could galvanise the federation, attract media attention and put IPPNW’s agenda back under the spotlight” (quoted from Co-President Ron McCoy’s report 2006). ICAN is precisely such a campaign. *It is now up to the Board members and the members of the International Council to realize the “galvanisation” of the federation.*

Unfortunately, there is no funding for the international work with ICAN. John Loretz will set aside one day a week to work with ICAN, but there is a need for a stronger central resource. How can this be obtained?

**Nuclear weapons free zones**
A Central Asian NWFZ was conceived in 2007 through the Semipalatinsk agreement. Unfortunately, because of opposition from the nuclear weapon states USA, UK and France, the CANWFZ is not open for additional countries to join. Iran had expressed some interest in joining the CANWFZ, which the Western nuclear weapon states did not want. Mongolia, a unique one/country NWFZ, is thus also prevented from joining.

A NWFZ in North East Asia, comprising North and South Korea, Japan and Mongolia, has been proposed and was discussed at the North East Region IPPNW meeting at Ulaan Baator in June 2007. Our Japanese and Mongolian affiliates have set a good
example by arranging this conference. Four members of IPPNW of North Korea were present. While there are many problems with such a zone, particularly the US “Nuclear umbrella” over Japan, a solution can be approached step by step. Discussion with this goal can help improving the relations between the countries in the region.

In Europe five NATO countries have US nuclear weapons located on their territory, more than 400 warheads. These weapons are of no military importance. They are where they are as a symbol of “burden sharing”. “We all stand behind NATO’s nuclear doctrines”. IPPNW affiliates in Europe are waging a campaign to make people in these countries aware of these unwelcome tenants. The nuclear weapons in Greece were removed after their presence, first denied by the Greek Government, was exposed by IPPNW Greece. In Belgium the parliament has asked that the nukes should be removed from the country, but the government has not found it wise to demand this from NATO or the USA.

A gradual development of a NWFZ in central Europe and Scandinavia is possible. This project should be further explored by IPPNW. NATO is at present considering its future strategy. NATO’s nuclear doctrines are not forever.

**Nuclear energy and nuclear weapons proliferation are intertwined.** India, Pakistan, Israel and North Korea all made their first nuclear explosives from plutonium reprocessed from nuclear research reactors, first obtained from other countries on the condition of peaceful use only. Iran, not trusting that the country will obtain enriched uranium for its nuclear power reactors, has started its own uranium enrichment program, a program that can also be used for the production of material for nuclear weapons. It is the purpose of the IAEA to monitor nuclear facilities to prevent peaceful energy programs from being for weapons.

The planned agreement between the USA and India, through which the USA would sell nuclear fuel to India, will make it even more difficult to separate peaceful from military use of fissile material. Even if the supplied uranium is not used to make nuclear weapons, it would make the domestically produced uranium available for weapons production. Pakistan, Israel, Iran and other countries will ask for a similar favoured status. The US-India agreement would increase the risk for a nuclear arms race between several countries and undermine the NPT. IPPNW as well as our affiliates in the USA and in India have issued statement warning against this development and we have written to the Board of Governors of the IAEA as well as members of the Nuclear Suppliers Group, NSG, to prevent this development.

This shows that in our imperfect world it is not possible to separate peaceful and military nuclear uses. Today there is talk of a “renaissance” for nuclear energy as a way out of the energy crisis and climate change. However, nuclear energy provides at most only 4-6% of the total amount of the energy used in the world. Even with a large increase in the number of reactors nuclear energy will remain a relative marginal energy source. If the same investments are made in sustainable energy sources and in energy conservation, more megawatt hours will be available to a lower cost and without the danger of nuclear weapons proliferation. **IPPNW as an international organisation asks that nuclear energy is replaced by sustainable energy.**

The most encouraging development in IPPNW in recent years has been the increased activity of the **medical students**. They have invented new methods and programs such as Target X and Nuclear Weapons Inheritance Program as well as being successful in existing programs such as Aiming for Prevention. Read the report by the student representatives at this meeting, or visit the IPPNW students’ website!
The students do not always receive the support they should by the doctors of the affiliates. It is often difficult for IPPNW to keep the enthusiastic young doctors in the organisation. *These problems deserve careful consideration by the affiliates and by the IPPNW Board.*

**IPPNW finances**

Like so many other peace organisations, IPPNW has experienced increasing difficulties to obtain funds. Our staff has worked very hard, applying to foundations and tending our group of donors. It has become necessary to decrease the staff to a level, which in my opinion is below the minimum required. During the coming months the central office will move into a smaller space in the windowless basement in the building. A call to affiliates has been sent out, but so far no suggestions for how to increase the funding have been made. The decreasing value of the US dollar should make it easier for affiliates to support IPPNW. We must also search for foundations outside the US that we could apply to. *The financial crisis is the most important question the Board has to discuss at the London meeting.*

**IPPNW Central Office**

The staff has worked hard, with insufficient resources and low salaries. We are fortunate to have such dedicated staff, with a long and extensive experience in problems regarding nuclear abolition. They deserve our gratitude and our wholehearted support.

**Summary**

The irresponsible attitude of the Nuclear Weapon States has been infuriating during the last year, but this has also invigorated IPPNW and other antinuclear organisations. We need good programs, perseverance, and money. The first two we have, the third we must get. This the responsibility of the Board of Directors.

**Conferences, speeches, travel**

All expenses I have had as Co-President of IPPNW have been covered by SLMK. I am very grateful for this generosity.

**2006**

Sept 27-30  Middle Powers Initiative, Article VI Forum. Ottawa, Canada,

Nov 16-19  Summit of Nobel Peace Laureates, Rome, Italy.

Nov 20-21  Ubuntu: NGO conference on reform of UN institutions, Geneva, Switzerland

**2007**

Jan 19-23  Visit to Tehran, Iran, with meetings with Iranian Society for Chemical Weapons Victims Support, SCWVS, planning for the formation of an Iranian affiliate of IPPNW.

Mar 22-25  Nuclearization of Europe and the Middle East. From Threat to Preventive Action. Conference arranged by Swiss affiliate of IPPNW at Monte Verita, Switzerland

Mar 27-30  IPPNW Student meeting for the European region, Oporto, Portugal

Mar 30–April 4  NPT Prep. Com. meeting, Vienna. Austria.

Jun 21-22  IPPNW North East Asian regional meeting: Nuclear weapons free zones in North East Asia, Ulaan Baator, Mongolia.
Conferences, speeches, and travel in Sweden
Several speeches at different locations, participation in SLMK Board and Executive Committee meetings, publications in Swedish newspapers. These are not reported here.

2007
Jan 12-14 Why are there still nuclear weapons? Conference arranged by SLMK at Sigtuna, Sweden with participation from peace groups.

March 14 “Trident and a nuclear weapon free Europe”. Seminar at the Swedish Parliament, Stockholm

Gunnar Westberg
Co-President
IPPNW