Three decades ago, IPPNW’s founders from the United States and Soviet Union reached across the Cold War divide with singular determination to avert a nuclear war between the superpowers. It was a unique and successful experiment in citizens’ diplomacy.

Today, physicians, medical students, health practitioners, and concerned citizens from scores of countries are engaged in dialogue, education, and advocacy to secure the abolition of nuclear weapons and to promote a more peaceful world without war.

We are currently focused on two major program commitments: the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) and the IPPNW Aiming for Prevention (AfP) campaign to tackle the crisis of small arms and violent armed conflict.

IPPNW leaders have been speaking at important meetings across the globe – most recently in North Korea, China, India, Russia, and throughout Europe – to promote negotiations on an international treaty, a Nuclear Weapons Convention (NWC) for the elimination of nuclear weapons.

In May, more than 180 nations will meet in New York to review the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). IPPNW activists will be there with a major new publication on the medical and environmental consequences of nuclear war, and we will be using it to push governments to comply with Article 6 of the treaty, which commits signatories to total nuclear disarmament.

Norwegian medical students will host the 20th IPPNW European Student conference in Oslo this coming April. The conference billed as “a unique forum for the youth perspective on peace and disarmament."

In June, IPPNW will be deeply engaged in another major United Nations event: the 4th Biennial Meeting of States of the UN Programme of Action on Small Arms. IPPNW will play a prominent role in the conference, advocating a public health approach to armed violence prevention. IPPNW will also be in Rome in June to participate in the next meeting of the World Health Organization’s Violence Prevention Alliance.

To mark our thirtieth anniversary year, and to chart a course of action for the years ahead, IPPNW activists will gather at the University of Basel in Switzerland for the 19th World Congress. A major focus of the congress will be analysis and follow-up to NPT Review, as well as to strengthen North-South partnerships for peace promotion. It will also provide occasion to celebrate 25 years of Medicine Conflict and Survival, the officially designated journal of IPPNW (see pg 4).

While IPPNW has accomplished a great deal over the decades, our most important work lies ahead. We have never been so close to achieving nuclear disarmament. The coming months will be critical to fulfilling our vision of the better world that is possible.

Online: Follow Students Biking Against Nuclear Weapons

In August, 40 cyclists will bike more than 460 miles, passing through Germany and France on their way to the 2010 IPPNW World Congress in Basel, Switzerland. View photos and read updates from the Biking Against Nuclear Weapons (BAN) tour.

IPPNW-STUDENTS.ORG/BAN/
The Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT)—which has stood for 40 years as both the most successful and the most fragile international agreement to rid the world of weapons of mass destruction—comes up for a crucial five-year review in May.

IPPNW will be in New York throughout the month-long review conference to make the medical case for the abolition of nuclear weapons and to add our voice to a global call for a Nuclear Weapons Convention (NWC) as the fulfillment of the NPT.

At the heart of the NPT is a simple bargain: countries that did not possess nuclear weapons when the Treaty entered into force in 1970 agreed not to acquire them; the five nuclear-weapon states at that time (the USA, the former Soviet Union, China, France, and the UK) agreed to pursue nuclear disarmament negotiations. Complicating the agreement is a provision offering assistance to countries that wish to develop so-called peaceful uses of nuclear energy, as long as they comply with their non-proliferation obligations.

The NPT has had a troubled history. Frustrations over lackluster compliance by the nuclear-weapon states have led to accusations of a double standard. Confidence in the Treaty has also been undermined by concerns that some states might be secretly developing weapons under the guise of nuclear energy programs. Three nuclear-weapon states—India, Pakistan, and Israel—are not NPT member states and a fourth—the DPRK—withdrew in 2003 after announcing a nuclear test in violation of its Treaty obligations.

Despite its problems, the NPT remains the single most important agreement currently protecting the world from nuclear chaos. The month-long 2010 Review conference will attempt to capitalize on a new US commitment to a nuclear-weapons-free world made by President Obama and echoed by government leaders worldwide.

The success of the 2010 Review will be measured not by new promises but by specific outcomes. IPPNW, ICAN, and abolition NGOs will be in New York to promote concrete, practical progress on the long-neglected 13 steps, particularly a fissile materials ban and a halt to all nuclear weapons modernization. Our most important priority, however, will be to build NPT member state support for a Nuclear Weapons Convention between now and the opening gavel of the conference on May 3 and to emerge from the conference with a clearly marked path to zero.

ICAN grassroots strategy for 2010 NPT

ICAN, in consultation with Rebecca Johnson of the Acronym Institute, has developed a grassroots lobbying strategy for the 2010 NPT Review that focuses on building government and public support for a Nuclear Weapons Convention.

During the months leading up to the conference, IPPNW affiliates and ICAN activists will press their NPT delegations to name the Nuclear Weapons Convention in their statements and working papers, and to promote the kinds of preparatory work that can lead to the earliest possible commencement of negotiations on an NWC.

A second part of the strategy calls for a globally coordinated series of local actions in support of a nuclear-weapons-free world on the weekend of June 5, immediately after the Review Conference.

Anyone wishing to learn more and to participate in these activities should contact Tim Wright (tim@icanw.org).
The International Commission on Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament, launched by Australian Prime Minister Kevin Rudd in 2008 at the urging of IPPNW affiliate MAPW and other nuclear disarmament campaigners, issued its final report in December. Calling nuclear threats and climate change “the two great global issues of our age,” the Commission said bluntly that “Every state with nuclear weapons has to be persuaded to give them up. States without nuclear weapons have to neither want nor be able to acquire them.”

IPPNW board member Tilman Ruff, one of two NGO liaisons to the Commission, welcomed the report’s focus on the goal of a world without nuclear weapons, but criticized the pace set by the Commission in its recommendations.

“What is needed is a clear roadmap to eliminating and outlawing nuclear weapons,” Dr. Ruff said. “ICAN...advocates a Nuclear Weapons Convention (NWC), a comprehensive global treaty to get the world to zero nuclear weapons. While the Commission recognizes the need for an NWC, it does not envisage one being negotiated until around 2025. This undermines the urgency of getting to zero.”

That war wreaks ecological devastation is hardly a new observation’ writes Dr. Williams.

“[T]he first century Roman historian Tacitus famously described the military approach of his age as "they make a wasteland and call it peace". In our era, the rapidly escalating environmental impacts of war are a critical public health concern.

2010 IPPNW Briefing paper on the medical and environmental consequences of nuclear war

IPPNW is preparing a major new briefing paper on the medical and environmental consequences of nuclear war. “Zero Is the Only Option: Four Medical and Environmental Cases for Eradicating Nuclear Weapons” will be sent to foreign ministries and NPT delegations in advance of the 2010 NPT Review conference, and will be the focus of an IPPNW panel discussion during the first week of the Review. The briefing paper, summarizing recent scientific findings on the consequences of regional nuclear war, including climate effects and global ozone depletion, will be sent to UN delegates and will also be available at: nuclear-zero.org

PHOTO: ICNND CO-CHAIR GARETH EVANS, PRIME MINISTER KEVIN RUDD, PRIME MINISTER YUKIO HATOYAMA, ICNND CO-CHAIR YORIKO KAWAGUCHI

PHOTO: ICNND CO-CHAIR GARETH EVANS, PRIME MINISTER KEVIN RUDD, PRIME MINISTER YUKIO HATOYAMA, ICNND CO-CHAIR YORIKO KAWAGUCHI
IPPNW will once again bring a critical health perspective to the upcoming 4th Biennial Meeting of States of the United Nations Programme of Action on Small Arms (UN PoA) in New York City June 14-18th. We need your participation! Please consider raising travel funds via your local affiliate to join us to educate delegates and NGOs on the health affects of small arms use at this high level UN meeting.

The first UN Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects was convened in July 2001 to decide on steps nations should take to prevent the illegal trade in small arms. NGOs including IPPNW took a prominent role in the conference advocating for a variety of methods to reduce armed violence. The result was a Programme of Action. Since then IPPNW has participated in all the subsequent PoA meetings, providing our unique health perspective via panel presentations, delegate education, policy papers, testimony and leadership of the IANSA Public Health Network. In our paper, Prescriptions for Prevention: A Public Health and Human-Centered Approach to Reducing Armed Violence and Promoting Health and Development we review violence as a humanitarian crisis and a threat to development, as well as the role of the medical community in solving this global challenge. We describe how a public health approach focuses on risk factors and on scientific methodologies and injury prevention. We examine entry points in the PoA where health professionals can make contributions, including through action-oriented injury research.

IPPNW has been bringing the message on health to other UN-related seminars throughout the year organized for both NGOs and member states. Most recently, PSR NYC president Cathey Falvo, MD MPH addressed 40 attendees at a December panel discussion on the topic Small Arms and Light Weapons, Health, and Development: The Public Health Approach. The panel was sponsored by the UN NGO Committee on Disarmament, Peace & Security and was designed to illuminate the connection between disarmament and development while addressing the issues of the Millennium Development Goals, the interplay between poor health and armed violence, and the human rights implications of disarmament.

"All over the world, small arms in the wrong hands destroy lives and livelihoods, impede peace efforts, hinder humanitarian aid, facilitate the illicit trade in narcotics and obstruct investment in people. The Programme of Action is a globally shared responsibility to increase security and foster development for all. I am committed to work with all States and regions to achieve a substantive outcome of its upcoming biennial meeting."

Mexican Ambassador Pablo Macedo, the Chairperson-designate for the BMS4

By Maria Valenti, Aiming for Prevention Coordinator
1 **OCTOBER 13, 2009: MEMBERS OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT** learned about the climate effects of regional nuclear war at the IPPNW seminar in Brussels. An IPPNW delegation met the next day with nuclear policy experts in NATO headquarters to press for the removal of US tactical nuclear weapons from European bases and for the denuclearization of the new NATO strategic concept. The fall 2009 round of dialogues with decision makers concluded with a discussion on French disarmament and non-proliferation proposals at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Paris.

2 **FOUNDING CO-PRESIDENT, DR. BERNARD LOWN** standing with Mrs. Louise Lown at the book signing in Berlin for *Prescription for Survival*, the German edition. In February, Dr. Lown conducted an online “Ariel Conversations” video conference with students from India and another in March with Canadian medical students and physicians.

3 **THE ICANW.ORG WEBSITE HAS A NEW LOOK AND NEW FEATURES INCLUDING A VIDEO GALLERY WITH MESSAGES FROM ICAN SUPPORTERS WORLDWIDE.**

**ONLINE: ICANW.ORG**

4 **IPPNW CO-PRESIDENTS, DRS. SERGEY KOLESNIKOV AND IME JOHN** addressed an international conference in Stockholm sponsored by the Swedish network for nuclear disarmament in November. Reaching nuclear disarmament: the role of civil society in strengthening the NPT, featured sessions on the legal, normative and human aspects of nuclear disarmament and on strategies and priorities for the upcoming NPT review. IPPNW’s Swedish affiliate, SLMK, was one of the principal conference organizers. Conference materials **ONLINE: NUCLEARDISARMAMENT.SE**

5 **JANUARY 29-31, 2010: IPPNW CO-PRESIDENT, DR. VAPPU TAIPALE** joined hands with leaders from the Indian doctors for peace and development at the 8th national conference held in Agra. IDPD also held a peace rally outside the Taj Mahal, called for the complete abolition of nuclear weapons, checks on the proliferation of small arms, resolution of issues through mutual dialogue, and diversion of funds from arms race to health, education and development.

**ONLINE: PEACEANDHEALTHBLOG.COM**

**SHARE YOUR PHOTOS, OPINIONS, AND IDEAS!**

**PEACEANDHEALTHBLOG.COM**

**TWITTER.COM/IPPNW**

**FACEBOOK.COM**

**FLICKR.COM/GROUPS/IPPNW**

**NUCLEAR-ZERO.ORG**
Global Burden of Disease
IPPNW Zambia leader Dr. Robert Mtonga, Aiming for Prevention Coordinator Maria Valenti, and IPPNW consultant Dr. Diego Zavala participated in recent meetings held at Harvard University of the Global Burden of Disease (GBD) Injury Expert Group, and a joint meeting of the GBD group with the International Collaborative Effort on Injury Statistics. Bob and Diego were invited to present findings from the IPPNW multi-center pilot surveillance project that documented injuries from violence at hospital emergency rooms in five African countries. Bob was invited to participate in a new African research project, with initial work to collect additional data from Zambia and further research to pilot test WHO’s new mortuary data collection form. The WHO Global Burden of Disease analysis provides a comprehensive and comparable assessment of mortality and loss of health due to diseases, injuries and risk factors for all regions of the world.

North-South Collaboration on Research and Advocacy to Reduce Armed Violence
A number of IPPNW members and associates, led by Dr. Andrew Pinto of Canada, have embarked on a new project that involves both research (via surveys to health professionals) and preparation of findings to submit for publication. Although about 90% of all direct conflict deaths in recent years occurred in low-income countries in the global South, with indirect deaths even more disproportionate, most of the research and advocacy on armed violence originates from universities and organizations in the North. This paper will identify best practices of North-South collaborations on armed violence research, education and advocacy.

Aiming for Prevention (AfP) was officially launched at IPPNW’s global conference on health in Helsinki in 2001, but many IPPNW affiliates have been working for decades on the devastating health impacts of war, conflict, and conventional weapons’ use. Members have been leaders in addressing injury prevention from small arms, landmines, and other munitions that kill, maim, and destroy lives. IPPNW’s peace through health work spans continents and issues— from recording gun injuries in African emergency rooms, to educating delegates at United Nations meetings; from documenting the health crisis in Iraq, to preventing youth violence in Latin America; from educating on landmine risks in India, to addressing gender violence around the world. They dedicate themselves to peace through health even as they patch up victims of violence in emergency rooms, and counsel them in therapy sessions. Whether under the rubric of AfP, or as a separate affiliate program or project, IPPNW is the leading NGO to provide a health perspective on violence via research, education, publication, advocacy, and policy initiatives.

ONLINE: AFP RESEARCH
In order to raise awareness, and help inform policy-making to implement intervention strategies, results from the research projects have been shared freely.

IPPNW.ORG/PROGRAMS/AFP/RESEARCH.HTM
VS: Global Doctors, in cooperation with IPPNW's Danish affiliate and other organizations, collaborated recently to organize the “Global Response 2010 - Conference on Violent Conflict and Health” at Copenhagen University. What were the major goals of the conference?

CB: The main purpose of the conference was to build bridges between different disciplines addressing violent conflict and health, with the purpose of building an international network, inspire action and develop knowledge and understanding of violent conflict and health.

VS: What is the unique role of health professionals in preventing conflict and promoting peace?

CB: Violent conflict remains a major threat to humanity. Every year more than 200,000 civilians die in vain because the international community does not take a responsibility for the prevention of conflict and because we are not good enough at learning from past lessons and evidence. We can still learn a lot when it comes to coordination and communication. Health workers have a unique role to play in preventing conflict. This topic was addressed during the conference and has in the past been described in detail in the context of peace through health.

VS: The process to organize, conduct and create an ongoing post-conference dialogue was unusual – what were the techniques, and were they successful?

CB: Traditional academic conferences are characterized by a fairly passive process and one-way communication, where the participants are presented with ideas and knowledge from a number of experts. Today there are many possibilities to share knowledge on the internet. We wanted to create a conference process where full advantage was taken of having so many knowledgeable people in the same place. Therefore we had received professional help in designing an innovative and interactive conference process where the participants had a better chance to develop ideas and partnerships. The purpose was not to come up with a final product or document that everyone could agree to, but in the end it turned out to be many of the same issues which were addressed and the conference resulted in a list of concrete projects and recommendations.

VS: You’ve been a leader in IPPNW on peace through health issues. What motivated you to work on a conference like this and how can IPPNW members help support your violence prevention work?

CB: We found that it was important to bring new perspectives to the table and truly call for a multi-disciplinary effort. To do that we needed to involve peace workers, development workers and humanitarian workers, to mention just a few of the people who attended the conference. We have now through a bottom-up and inclusive process identified a list of concrete issues to be addressed in the future. We will try to capture this in writing throughout 2010 [www.global-doctors.org]. We hope IPPNW’s members will help us develop the understanding, disseminate knowledge of the conference recommendations and turn the recommendations into action through their own efforts in addressing violent conflict and health.

---

ONLINE: INTERVIEW
Read the full interview on the IPPNW blog.
PEACEANDHEALTHBLOG.COM

More on global health issues:
GLOBAL-DOCTORS.ORG
JUNE 14 - 18, 2010  
UN PROGRAMME OF ACTION ON SMALL ARMS  
4TH BIENIAL MEETING OF STATES (BMS)  
NEW YORK, NEW YORK  
IPPNW’s Aiming for Prevention activists will raise awareness on the health effects of armed violence, and lobby for a health approach to prevention. For details of IPPNW participation at the 3rd BMS in 2008: ippnw.org/Programs/AFP/BMS2008.html

AUGUST 14 - 24, 2010  
BAN 2010 TOUR  
IPPNW-STUDENTS.ORG/BAN/  
Organized by IPPNW medical students, the Biking Against Nuclear Weapons (BAN) tour will be 10 memorable days of biking from Düsseldorf, Germany, through Strasbourg, France, arriving at the IPPNW Congress in Basel, Switzerland. Along the route, participants will visit the last remaining nuclear weapons base in Germany, hold public demonstrations, and meet with politicians and media representatives.

AUGUST 25 - 30, 2010  
IPPNW WORLD CONGRESS 2010  
BASEL, SWITZERLAND  
IPPNW2010.ORG  
This Congress will be the first opportunity after the May NPT Review and the June Programme of Action on Small Arms for IPPNW affiliate members to connect, be inspired, and to plan a course of action for a nuclear-weapons-free world and for preventing armed violence of all types. Some 400 to 600 doctors from all over the world are expected to attend, along with as many as 200 medical students.

AUGUST 30 - SEPTEMBER 1, 2010  
63RD UN DPI/NGO CONFERENCE  
MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA  
UN.ORG/DPI/NGOSECTION/INDEX.ASP  
Each year this conference brings together hundreds of non-governmental organization representatives from around the world to focus on a topic of interest related to the work of civil society and non-governmental organizations in collaboration with the UN. The 2010 conference will focus on global health as it relates to the Millennium Development Goals, an issue of importance to both the Government of Australia and the non-governmental community.

SEPTEMBER 21 - 24, 2010  
10TH WORLD CONFERENCE ON INJURY PREVENTION AND SAFETY PROMOTION  
(SAFETY 2010)  
LONDON, UNITED KINGDOM  
SAFETY2010.ORG.UK  
Safety 2010 is a major world conference bringing together stakeholders in the prevention of unintentional injuries and violence from around the world to debate, discuss and exchange information and experiences. The key theme of the 2010 conference is Safe and Equitable Communities.