IPB
International
Peace Bureau

Newsletter

February 2018

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

In this issue, we have lot events to announce.

Soon, the Global Days of Action Against Military Spending will start April 14th to May 3rd. Make sure that you do not miss the chance to be part of this world wide campaign.

At the end of April, the 2nd preparatory committee for the NPT Review Conference is going to be held in Geneva. IPB will be present in Geneva and organize several side events with partners. Also, IPB we will organize an event in collaboration with ICAN. It will be held on April 21st in Geneva.

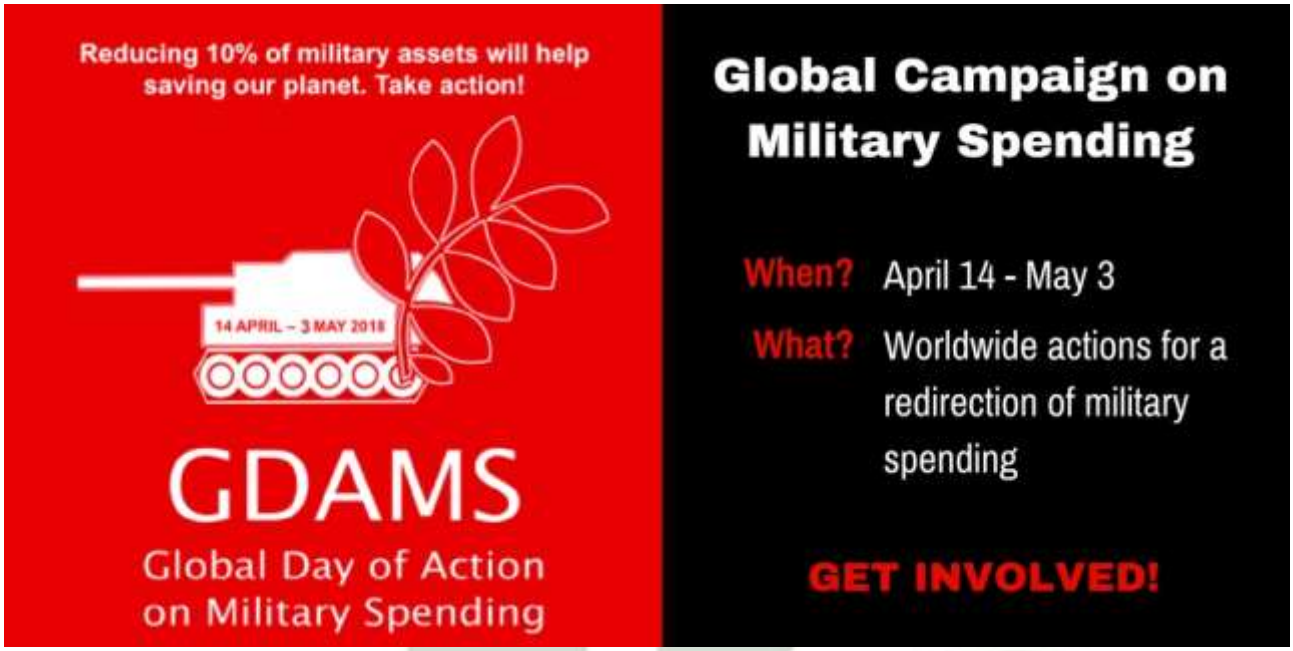
This is not the end. In New York, we will be very active too – during the UN High Level Conference on Nuclear Disarmament, but also organizing events independent from the UN events like our International Conference. It is a great pleasure to say that among our speakers we will have Noam Chomsky. The programme will be published soon on our website www.ipb.org

We also want to announce the Abolition 2000 Annual General Meeting.

Help us to reach our aim and be part of our VOICES of IPB and join the Global video action from the Abolition 2000 Youth Group.

With our warmest regards,

Amela Skiljan



Be part of the Global Days of Action Against Military Spending

This year, GCOMS will include GDAMS in April-May and Cut-Milex in October-November. The IPB Global Day(s) of Action on Military Spending (GDAMS) will include the period from **April 14 to May 3rd**, 2018. This way, GDAMS includes the U.S. Tax Day, when Americans pay their taxes and debate their use, together with the previous week-end, when most of the U.S. actions will take place. GDAMS 2018 will also include May 2nd, the date of the release of the annual world military expenditure figures by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI). Moreover, May 3rd is the Constitution Day in Japan. This way, GDAMS could help taking actions on Japan prime Minister Abe's attempts to amend war-renouncing Article 9 of the Japan Constitution (this being the main hook in Peace Boat 2018 GCOMS efforts). And May 3rd will also be the last day of the 2018 Preparatory Committee for the 2020 Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference.

We need to involve even more citizens and organizations in an open and robust debate on the counter-productive results of military expenditure. More than ever, we need new partners to work on the ongoing Global Campaign on Military Spending (GCOMS), and to make the Global Days of Action on Military Spending (GDAMS) a great success!

Between April 14 and May 3rd, 2018, GDAMS will include as many actions as possible worldwide to ask for a redirection of military spending. GDAMS 2018 slogan will be:

Reducing 10% of military assets will help saving our planet. Take action!

We must move a significant part of the military budgets to human needs! For more information visit the GCOMS website: http://demilitarize.org

Please send us any information on actions that you are planning in your country, mailto: coordination.gcoms@ipb.org. We will be pleased to publicize them in the GCOMS webpages and on the social networks. Please also send us any suggestion and proposal that you may have. We must all build the campaign in a joint and common effort, to succeed in reducing military spending!

IPB and Partners to host International Conference on Nuclear Dangers and the Ban Treaty Hopes

The UN will be holding the first High Level Conference on Nuclear Disarmament in May, while an international conference in New York will assess the dangers of Great Power and nuclear war, and the possibilities opened by the Nuclear Weapons Ban Treaty and other peace and disarmament initiatives.

With a warning that the danger of nuclear war is more "dire" than at any time during the Cold War, the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists has moved the hands of the Doomsday Clock to two minutes to midnight. This is the closest the hands have been to nuclear annihilation in the clock's 71-year history. The Bulletin focused on the Trump Administration's Nuclear Posture Review, with its increased reliance on nuclear weapons, the staggering investments driving the U.S. nuclear "modernization" and that of the world's other nuclear powers. They decried the return to Cold War rhetoric and absence of U.S.-Russian arms control negotiations, with both the INF and the New START treaties at risk. They expressed alarm about Trump's threats to attack North Korea and about the DPRK's nuclear weapons program, the lack of coherent US foreign and military policies, Trump's threat to the nuclear deal with Iran, South Asian rivalries and climate change.

All nuclear weapon states are modernizing their nuclear arsenals. The costs of the modernization of the US nuclear weapons will be more than 1 Trillion Dollar during the next 20 years. The urgent necessity of eliminating nuclear weapons and the existential danger they pose could not be clearer.

At the same time, after years of campaigning, ICAN was awarded the 2017 Nobel Peace Prize. With other nuclear disarmament organizations, international organizations like the Red Cross/Red Crescent movement, and the majority of governments especially from the Global South, ICAN was recognized for its role in the negotiation of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW,) adopted by 122 countries. It has since been signed by 56 nations and ratified by 5. Despite heavy pressure from the nine Nuclear Weapons states, including blackmailing their friends and allies, this powerful treaty provides a path leading toward the total elimination of nuclear weapons.

> **"The Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons is a sign of hope for our troubled times."**

On the eve of the UN High Level Conference on Nuclear Disarmament, the International Peace Bureau, and partner organizations organize an International Conference to raise the alarm, to analyze and warn about nuclear dangers, to raise up the Ban Treaty and other nuclear disarmament initiatives, and to build the US and world movement for peace and complete nuclear disarmament.

Speakers will be announced soon!

Date and venue: May 12, New York, Judson Memorial Church, 55 Washington Square South.

IPB will hold its board meeting 2018 in Geneva in April. In addition IPB will be hosting a joint conference with ICAN, discussing disscussing the development of the Ban Treaty and its future. The board meeting will be split into two parts, with the first one taking place on Sunday, April 22, and the second one on Monday, April 23. On Monday the NPT PrepCom will take place as well, while Abolition 2000's annual meeting will be on Saturday, 28.

Dates and Times:

April, 21 (Sat)	11 am – 6 pm:	ICAN IPB conference
April, 22 (Sun)	4 pm – 8 pm:	1st part of IPB board meeting
		ICAN campaigners meeting
April, 23 (Mon)	9 am:	Start of NPT Prepcomm
	5 pm – 9 pm:	2nd part of IPB board meeting
April, 28 (Sat)	(tba)	Abolition 2000 annual meeting

Besides the GDAMS which are taking place from April 14, to May 2, there will be a range of side events taking place at the UN in Geneva. These will be conducted by IPB and partners.

The draft program (state of end february) for the side events organized by IPB and partners during the NPT Prepcomm Geneva 2018 is as follows:

1. **Nuclear weapons in Europe (IPB, CND, Mouvement de la paix)**
   Speakers: Dave Webb (CND), Daniel Högsta (ICAN), Arielle Denis (IPB), Roland Nivet (Mouvement de la paix)
2. **Nuclear weapon free zone or zone free from weapons of mass destruction (IPB, PNND,IDM)**
   Speakers: Tarja Kronberg (PNND), Sarhane Saadi (Arab Federation for Human Rights), Sharon Dolev (IDM)
3. **Move the money – the costs of the nuclear modernization (IPB, Centre Delas d'Estudis per la Pau)**
   Speakers: NN trade union, Reiner Braun (IPB), Jordi Calvo (Centre Delas d'Estudis per la Pau), Susi Snyder (PAX), Leo Hoffmann-Axthelm (Transparency International)
4. **The ban treaty, road map towards elimination (IPB, AFSC)**
   Speakers: Beatrice Fihn (ICAN), Joseph Gerson (AFSC), John Borrie (UNDIR) Jean Marie Collin (PNND/IDN)

Save the dates: Abolition 2000 Annual General Meeting in Geneva and New York

Geneva: April 28 New York: May 11

Dear friends

On January 25, the hands of the Doomsday Clock were moved to 2 Minutes to Midnight due to the increased risk of nuclear conflicts. Now is the time to take action for nuclear abolition! Help us reverse the hands of the Doomsday Clock and abolish nuclear weapons.

Join us in Geneva and/or New York for the annual campaigners meeting of Abolition 2000, the global civil society network to eliminate nuclear weapons. Nuclear abolition activists from around the world will meet to share campaign reports, discuss nuclear disarmament strategy, explore opportunities for action, build cooperation and plan further campaigns.

This year, we will hold the AGM in two sessions: the first in Geneva on April 28 and the second in New York on May 11. Join us for either or both sessions.

AGM Session 1: Geneva. April 28

States Parties to the NPT will be meeting in Geneva from April 23 – May 4 for the *2nd Preparatory Conference for the 2020 NPT Review*. The Abolition 2000 AGM will be held in the weekend in-between the two weeks of NPT deliberations.

Abolition 2000 was established at the *1995 NPT Review and Extension Conference*, with a focus on the full implementation of Article VI of the NPT, the obligation to achieve complete nuclear disarmament. We have been active at all the NPT review conferences and preparatory meetings since then.

Session 1 details:

Friday April 27: Abolition 2000 Global Council Dinner

Time and venue to be confirmed
Saturday April 28: AGM session 1
Time: 8:30am – 5pm
Venue: Maison des Associations, rue des Savoises 15, 1205 Genève Suisse
Contact: Arielle Denis arielle@icanw.org

AGM Session 2: New York. May 11

The UN General Assembly is holding its first ever High-Level Conference on Nuclear Disarmament from May 14-16 in New York. Abolition 2000 members have been encouraging governments to attend at the highest level, and to advance concrete nuclear-risk reduction and disarmament measures at the conference.

Abolition 2000 members are also organizing some parallel events including Count the Nuclear Weapons Money from May 10-16 and an international conference on nuclear disarmament on May 12.

Session 2 details:

Friday May 11:

Time: 9am – 5pm

Venue: Judson Memorial Church, 55 Washington Square S, New York

Contact: Alyn Ware. alyn@lcnp.org

Global Youth Action to support United Nations High Level Conference in May 2018

From May 14-16, world leaders will be gathering in New York for the United Nations High Level Conference on nuclear disarmament.

This conference has become increasingly important in light of the increased threat of nuclear war. Last month this threat was highlighted by the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists moving the hands of the Doomsday Clock to 2 Minutes to Midnight

Youth voices and concerns should be part of the UN Conference. We want world leaders to take action in order to protect current and future generations from the risks of nuclear annihilation.

Global youth video – call for action

The Abolition 2000 Youth Network invites youth (and the 'young at heart') to be a part of a global video action to support the UN High-Level Conference.

Submit your video clip of 'reaching high for a nuclear-weapon-free world' on info@pnnd.org
We will compile the videos and show to world leaders to encourage them to take action at the High-Level Conference.

Click here to view the promo video.

News From IPB

Appeal

Are you interested in the current world politics, the state of the world, or societal issues? Are you into drawing, sketching or even an artist? **WE ARE LOOKING FOR CREATIVE SUPPORTERS OF PEACE WHO WANT TO CONTRIBUTE TO OUR NEWSLETTER AND SOCIAL MEDIA PUBLICATIONS!**
We are in particular looking for caricatures and cartoons – aiming to draw a bitter sweet smile on our supporters face, while making us think twice.

Voices of IPB is going online

IPB is colourful, intercultural and multilingual and so are these short videos. The series on what IPB stands for is being published once a week on our social media channels on YouTube, Facebook and twitter.

We want to invite you to **be part** of this shared experience and to **send us your picture or video saying what IPB stands for** in **your words and language.** Please add the language you speak and an English translation and let the video end with the completion of the sentence "IPB stands for…"

We are looking forward to hearing and seeing your thoughts on "What IPB stands for…"

Tune in and share our core values and objectives with your family and friends all over the world!

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