

Newsletter 2 – June 2016



IPB World Congress

Disarm! For a Climate of Peace

Creating an Action Agenda

30 September – 2 October 2016, Technical University of Berlin



EDITORIAL

Things are moving, times are changing – sometimes slowly, sometimes rather rapidly. Quite often, we are the ones responsible for change, the ones setting certain trends into motion.

RAMSTEIN PROTEST

A strong sign of change was visible about two weeks ago in the small German town Ramstein - a town widely known for the huge US Air Base being located there. The airbase, which covers an area about three times the size of the neighbouring town of Kaiserslautern, is the headquarters of the US military and the US Air Force in Europe. As former US-drone pilot Brandon Bryant revealed in 2013, Ramstein plays a central role in US drone operations. In fact, with its satellite relay station SATCOM, Ramstein forms the technological centre of the US-American drone warfare.

On June 11th, 2016, thousands of peace activists and others committed to the vision of a world without war therefore came to Ramstein to form an eleven kilometre long human chain. They came to manifest against the US-American drone war politics that causes the death of hundreds of civilians. They came to protest against the constant threat of force which is contrary to the Charter of the United Nations (Art. 2.4 UN Charter). They came to demand the end of the support provided by the German government to US military activities.

The demonstrators assembled for three opening rallies in Kaiserslautern, Landstuhl and Ramstein before forming the human chain and came together in a final rally at the traffic circle some hundred meters away from the US Air Base. Strong signs of solidarity were sent out – calls to stand united against the current drone war politics and the German involvement in it. Prominent speakers, among others the ex-CIA-Officer Ray Mc Govern, backed the demonstrators' actions. They praised their commitment to peace, worldwide justice and conflict resolution by non-violent means.

The actions in and around Ramstein were accompanied by a strong wind of change – not only in the region but within society altogether. A new spirit has come up – a spirit to speak up against the official German foreign policy, against the constant lack of information on US American drone operations on German soil, against injustice, war and the fact that the rights of hundreds of vulnerable, innocent people are violated. We all hope that this new activism will be conducive to a more peaceful future.

<http://www.ramstein-kampagne.eu/>

DANGEROUS NUCLEAR MODERNISATION

But not all signs are positive: the new SIPRI data on modernization of nuclear weapons suggests that, while the overall number of nuclear weapons is declining, none of the nuclear-weapon possessing states is willing to give up their nuclear arsenals in the near future. In the first months of 2016, the “big nine” (the United States, Russia, the United Kingdom, France, China, India, Pakistan, Israel and North Korea) possessed 4,120 operationally deployed nuclear weapons. If all nuclear warheads are counted, these states together possess a total of 15,395 nuclear weapons compared with 15,850 in early 2015. In keeping up their nuclear arsenals, these states constantly expose the international community to the risk of a nuclear catastrophe.

<https://www.sipri.org/media/press-release/2016/global-nuclear-weapons-downsizing-modernizing>

BREXIT IMPLICATIONS

Likewise, the Brexit vote gives many reasons for anxiety, although in a completely different dimension. At the European Union summit this week, Federica Mogherini, current High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, is to issue a global security strategy paper for the EU. The paper surely is not without controversy. Questions arise as to why it is brought on the table directly after the British vote for leave. Clear answers may not be given. While the member states of the European Union will keep their sovereignty in military affairs, the strategy paper proposes a considerably closer cooperation in military and defence affairs. It aims at a stronger, more autonomous stance of the European Union in matters of common defence but also favours a stronger cooperation with NATO. Moreover, the defence industry will be financially supported and a new financial item will be introduced in the next EU budget, to be dedicated to scientific research in military and defence matters.

It is difficult to foresee where this stronger weighting of military cooperation will lead. Not difficult to foresee, however, is the fact that the decisions to be taken this week will surely not favour more peaceful conflict resolution. They will certainly not foster a culture of common understanding. What place the British will take in this new policy of military cooperation will be an interesting part to witness. It remains shocking, however, that in the biggest crisis since its founding, the EU opts for further arming and military escalation.

To many, the modernization trend within the military, new production technologies for weaponry and increased military budgets seem to be the logical answer to the omnipresent politics of confrontation. But they are not!

JOIN OUR CONGRESS!

With the IPB World Congress, we want to send a strong signal in favour of disarmament and peace. We want to pave the way to more cooperation, understanding and social justice. We need the dedicated commitment of each and everyone to bring about real social change. We ask you to adopt our demilitarization goals and promote a strong, practically feasible Action Agenda for Peace. Above all, we want to show clear alternatives to the current politics of force.

Therefore, we are working hard on the Congress' organizational structure and have taken immense steps forwards. On June 17th, 2016, our second draft program was published. It contains an already quite comprehensive overview of our panels, workshops and plenary sessions. We look forward to discussing new, innovative and powerful ideas with all participants of the IPB World Congress. Likewise, we are happy to announce that the program for our Nuclear Disarmament "Conference within the Congress" has been finalized. You can check it out in our new draft program no.2. Let yourself get inspired!

If you, your family, friends and/or colleagues are interested in the IPB World Congress we ask you to register now and join this great event. Please spread the word and give a first forceful signal in the direction of disarmament, peace, security and social justice.

Let's change the world into a more peaceful and just place! Let's be the ones to bring about the wind of change we need!

Conference organising team:

Colin Archer, Ingeborg Breines, Reiner Braun, Juliane Drechsel-Grau, Amela Škiljan, Lucas Wirl

CONGRESS STRUCTURE

We are happy to announce that our **second draft program** has been published.

It contains an already comprehensive overview on the **plenary sessions, panels and workshops** to be offered during the IPB World Congress. A detailed description of our **“Conference in the Conference”-Program** on nuclear weapons is incorporated in the program. Likewise, you will find an announcement on our special event – the **IPB presidents panel** on the final day of our congress.

The program is still a work in progress. Further ideas and suggestions will certainly be considered. We are pleased about any advice or critical comment.

Please take your time to examine our already quite extensive and inspiring version of the congress program that may be a source of motivation for all of you who intend to come to Berlin.

Participate in the event and share your ideas on a better, more peaceful future!

Here is a first overview of the program structure. You may find it in full length at <https://www.ipb2016.berlin/program/program-structure/>.

INVITATION SPECIAL EVENT



Abolishing war/ Peace movement futures: Panel with IPB Presidents and former Presidents

SUNDAY, October 2nd, 2016

Venue: Novotel Berlin am Tiergarten, Strasse des 17. Juni 106-108,
10623 Berlin

18.00h – 20.00h

OPEN TO ALL

Friday, 30th September 2016

7 pm **Opening Plenary** *Disarm! For a Climate of Peace*

Musical Opening by Berlin Metropol Orchestra

Welcome by the Organizers by **Ingeborg Breines and Reiner Braun**,
IPB Co-Presidents

Welcome by the Technical University Berlin by **Christian Thomsen**,
President of the Technical University

Greetings from the City of Berlin by **Matthias Kollatz**, *Senator of Finances*,
Berlin

Disarmament for Sustainable Development

Opening Speeches

Saber H. Chowdhury, *President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU)*,
Bangladesh

Tawakkol Karman, *Nobel Peace Prize Laureate (2011)*, *Yemen*

Samir Amin, *Economist and Director of the Third World Forum*, *Senegal*

Sharan Burrow, *General Secretary of the International Trade Union*
Confederation (ITUC), *Australia/based in Belgium*

Federico Mayor Zaragoza, *Former Director-General of UNESCO (1987 - 1999)*,
Spain

Musical Closing by Berlin Metropol Orchestra

Saturday, 1st October 2016

A - Analytical Approach

9 am Relaxing Start into the Day

10 am - 1 pm **Plenary Session**

Michael Møller, *Director-General of United Nations Office at Geneva*

Frank Bsirske, *President of ver.di (Multi-service Trade Union), Germany*

María Fernanda Espinosa Garcés, *Former Minister of National Defence of Ecuador and current Permanent Representative of Ecuador to the United Nations, Ecuador/based in Switzerland*

Jayantha Dhanapala, *President of the Pugwash Conferences on Science and World Affairs, Sri Lanka*

Aude Fleurant, *Director of the Arms and Military Expenditure Program of the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), Sweden*

Lunch

2.30 - 4.00 pm **Panel Discussions** (see page 12)

4.30 - 6.30 pm **Workshops** (see pages 14 - 16)

6.45 - 7.30 pm **Plenary Session**

James Galbraith, *Chair of Economists for Peace and Security, USA*

Dinner

8.30 pm - 10.00 pm **Cultural Program: Music & Media Show**
by Berlin Metropol Orchestra & PEN Germany

10.00 pm **Party**

Sunday, 2nd October 2016

B - Strategic Approach

8.30 am **Relaxing Start into the Day**

9.30 - 10.30 am **Plenary Session - Transformation**

Reiner Hoffmann, *President of the German Trade Union Confederation (DGB), Germany*

Vandana Shiva, *Right Livelihood Award Laureate & Environmental Activist, India*

Madeleine Rees, *General Secretary of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF), UK/based in South Africa*

Jakob von Uexküll, *Founder of the World Future Council and the Right Livelihood Award, Sweden*

10.45 - 12.00 noon **Workshops** (see pages 17 - 18)

Short Lunch

12.30 - 2.00 pm **Panel Discussions** (see page 13)

2.15 - 4.00 pm **Closing Plenary - Strategies and IPB Action Agenda**

Ernst Ulrich von Weizsäcker, *Co-President of the Club of Rome, Germany*

Betty Reardon, *International Institute on Peace Education (IIPE) & MacBride Prize Laureate (2009), USA*

Philip Jennings, *General Secretary of UNI Global Union, UK/based in Switzerland*

Gabriele Krone-Schmalz, *Author, Germany*

Presentations of the Preparatory Events and the Youth Declaration

Presentation of the IPB Action Agenda by **Colin Archer**, *IPB General Secretary, UK/based in Switzerland*

Closing Remarks

Conference within the Congress

1st Oct (2.30 – 4.00 pm & 4.30 – 6.30 pm)

2nd Oct (10.45 am – 12.00 pm)



Creating the Nuclear Weapons-Free World:

The Political & Diplomatic Landscape, Openings and
Movement Models

Join Us!

A three-part conference within IPB's Sept. 30-Oct. 3 *Disarm! For a Climate of Peace: Creating an action agenda.*

Building on the opportunity of IPB's Climate of Peace Congress, leading nuclear disarmament activists from Japan, the United States, Britain and Germany have organized a mini-conference with exceptional speakers to consolidate and build our movement.

For More
Information: facebook.com/ipb1910twitter.com/IntlPeaceBureau
www.ipb2016.berlin



Conference site: Technische
Universität Berlin, Germany

MEDIA PARTNERS

We are happy to announce that we have won **several media partners** from **Germany** and **abroad**.

Our **current media partners** are:



We expect the number of media partners to rise in the next two months and hope to win some more international partners.

SPEAKERS OF THE CONGRESS

As previously announced, in each newsletter we will be presenting two of our renowned speakers. Today, we are happy to introduce **Sharan Burrow** and **Jayantha Dhanapala** to you.

Sharan Burrow is the General Secretary of the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC). She has served on this post since 2010. Formerly, she was the President of ITUC (from 2006 until 2010) and President of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU). She is the first woman to have ever served on these posts.

Sharan Burrow studied teaching at the University of New South Wales (NSW), Australia, and began her teaching career in high schools. She was very active in the NSW Teachers' Federation and was President of the Bathurst Trades and Labour Council in the 1980s. In 1992, she became President of the Australian Education Union (AEU). From 1995 until 1995 she was Vice-President of Education International.

In May 2000, she became the second woman to be elected President of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions Asia Pacific Region Organisation.

She has also served as a member of the Governing Body of the International Labour Organisation and a member of the Stakeholder Council of the Global Reporting Initiative. As part of her ILO responsibilities, Sharan Burrow chaired the Workers' Group of the Sub-Committee on Multinational Enterprises.

Jayantha Dhanapala is currently the 11th President of the Nobel Peace Prize-winning Pugwash Conferences on Science and World Affairs and Deputy-Chairman of the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI). He is also on several other advisory boards of international bodies.

From 1998-2003 he was United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Disarmament Affairs. Formerly, he represented Sri Lanka as ambassador to the United States of America (from 1995 until 1997) and to the United Nations Office in Geneva (from 1984 until 1987). From 1987-1992, he was Director of the UN Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR).

As a Sri Lankan diplomat Dhanapala served in London, Beijing, Washington D.C., New Delhi, and Geneva. He also represented Sri Lanka at several international conferences and chaired many of them. Among these was the historic NPT Review and Extension Conference in 1995.

Dhanapala has received many international awards and honorary doctorates. He has published five books and several articles in international journals. Additionally, he lectures widely and speaks Sinhala, English, Chinese and French.

PEPCOMS LATIN AMERICA

You may find the latest information on the prepcoms in Latin America on our website:

<https://www.ipb2016.berlin/buenos-aires-argentina/>

<https://www.ipb2016.berlin/rosario-argentina/>

<https://www.ipb2016.berlin/montevideo-uruguay/>

<https://www.ipb2016.berlin/encarnacion-paraguay-2016-jul-7st-8th/>

<https://www.ipb2016.berlin/bogota-columbia/>

YOUTH

Interview with Lucas Wirl, Youth Program Coordinator

1.) How are the preparations for the Youth Gathering going?

We are in contact with more than 30 persons more or less actively discussing and planning the Youth Gathering with us. In frequent skype calls we update each other, discuss and figure out next steps in the organization of the meeting. Recently, we had first discussions on a draft declaration which we want to decide upon on the last days of the Youth Gathering. I think we are on a good track and are organizing the Youth Gathering in the broadest and most participatory way possible. If I had a wish I would wish for more young people to join in. We are an open group and anybody interested – young of age or heart – is more than welcome to join the process.

2.) So how can people help to create more momentum for the Youth Gathering?

I would love to see that all (or most) delegations coming to the IPB World Congress sponsored a youth or young person from their network and/ or organization to come to Berlin and join the process of the Youth Gathering. I know that money is always the issue, but this is an investment in the future of the peace movement. Young people need to be given the chance to experience these “magic” conference moments which we will hopefully have in Berlin. They need to be given the chance to broaden their horizon by meeting international activists.

3.) What do you expect of the three days of – hopefully intensive – discussions during the Youth Gathering?

First, the Youth Gathering aims at offering time and space for exchange and discussions among younger people. We think it is important to build networks of younger people, to learn from each other and understand the struggles of the youth in other societies. Personally, I hope to get in touch with young students from other countries working on military research and military in schools. In Germany, this is an important topic in the peace movement and beyond. Second, we would like to see the Youth Gathering as a starting point for a continuous – so to say sustainable – work. We do not see this as a onetime event but want to establish closer relations between us and young people striving for a more peaceful world. During the preparations, we are brainstorming how to continue working together. Third, and most importantly, I hope that we will be able to decide on a finalized draft declaration of the Youth Gathering on Sunday, 2nd of October, without too long a debate. A few weeks ago, we have already started a broad and participatory process of drafting a declaration and will continue working on it until and during the congress. If we manage to decide on it quickly, we will prove that we have done a good job in advance.

4.) If I am interested in joining the youth gathering, what should I do?

You should **get in contact with us!** Either via **facebook** (www.facebook.com/IPByouth /Youth Gathering event <https://www.facebook.com/events/1105580946139752>) or via **e-mail:** youth@ipb2016.berlin and join in the planning of the Youth Gathering. We have regular skype calls in which many open points are still discussed and decided upon. It is a dynamic process and nothing is set in stone.

For **more information** on the **Youth Gathering**, please check: www.ipb2016.berlin/youth

Register at [https://www.ipb2016.berlin/event/ipb-world-congress-berlin/!](https://www.ipb2016.berlin/event/ipb-world-congress-berlin/)

No to War – No to NATO

Alternative Summit and Demonstration in Warsaw from 8th till 10th of July

“No to War – No to Militarism – Yes to Refugees”

“Money for the Hungry, not for Tanks”

Appeal to the International Peace Movement

In the interest of peace – participate in the protests of the international network “No to War – No to NATO” against NATO’s summit taking place from July 8th until July 10th, 2016, in Warsaw

We protest for

- the end of confrontation with Russia! No troops and maneuvers at Russia’s Western border
- no further armament in the NATO member states! It can only be financed by sharply reducing spending on education, health care and social security systems
- no new nuclear weapons (and no modernization of existing arsenals) in Europe and worldwide
- no missile defence system in Eastern Europe because this system only furthers the dynamic of armament and confrontation
- no NATO operations against refugees

In the last couple of years we have never been as close to a belligerent confrontation in Europe as today. Leading politicians, military officials and scientists of different NATO member states therefore warn about the politics of aggression pursued by NATO.

The Bulletin of Atomic Scientist’s doomsday clock is at three minutes to midnight.

It is time to stand up, it is time to protest: the next major war in Europe will be the last one.

Therefore, we call on all of you: come to Warsaw and join the anti-NATO-protests.

All necessary information is available at www.no-to-nato.org.

It is time to say NO to war and confrontation and YES to peace, to life, to disarmament, to cooperative security in Europe.

For the international network **“No to War – No to NATO”**

Kristine Karch, Lucas Wirl (Co-Chairs)

For more information on the events, see: <http://www.no-to-nato.org/>

GENERAL INFORMATION

Date	September 30 th – October 2 nd , 2016 + Side meetings from September 29 th – October 3 rd , 2016
Venue of the Congress	<i>Technical University of Berlin</i>
Logistics	A list of hotels and hostels in the direct neighbourhood of the <i>Technical University of Berlin</i> as well as information on public transportation in Berlin is available on our website (https://www.ipb2016.berlin/logistics/accommodation/)

The Berlin Cathedral



Image © Flickr. Carlos ZGZ

The Bode Museum on the Museum Island



Image © Flickr. Daniel Mennerich

REGISTRATION

Be part of this great event!

Register now!

<https://www.ipb2016.berlin/event/ipb-world-congress-berlin/>.

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