

International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War
21th World Congress, Astana, Kazakhstan

APPROVED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

Title: Amendment to Section 4.11 regarding Board Term Limits

Submitted By: IPPNW Board of Directors

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

Section 4.11 of the IPPNW Constitution, regarding Ballots and Terms for election of Board members, which currently states:

No person shall (a) hold the office of elected President, Co-President, or Vice President for more than two successive terms or (b) serve as a Board member for more than four (4) successive terms.

BE AMENDED AS FOLLOWS:

No person shall (a) serve as a Board member for more than four (4) successive terms, unless the fifth term is served as the second consecutive term as president, co-president, or vice-president; and (b) no person shall hold the office of elected President, Co-President, or Vice President for more than two successive terms.

REASONS FOR ABOVE:

A person serving in their **first term** as Co-President or Regional Vice President is presently **ineligible to serve a second term** if they are in their fourth consecutive term on the Board.

The IPPNW Executive Committee believes that the organization should not restrict persons, having gained the experience and confidence for election as Co-President or Regional Vice President, to serve only a single term in these positions. The proposed Constitutional amendment would remove this ban, allowing persons to serve two successive terms as Co-President or Regional Vice President, regardless of prior time served on the Board. The IPPNW EC believes it is rational and prudent for the International Council to be given the authority to decide whether it is in the organization's best interest to re-elect a person in these circumstances.

This constitutional change would better serve the desire of the federation for continuous renewal and development of the IPPNW leadership as well as taking care of the need for continuity of experienced IPPNW activists serving in key positions of the federation.

Estimate for amount of staff time and resources required to implement this resolution:

None.

Estimated expenses and sources of funding:

Not applicable.

International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War
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APPROVED INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Title of Resolution: New facts on the nuclear chain
Submitted by: Helmut Lohrer, Andi Nidecker
Affiliate: IPPNW Germany and PSR/IPPNW Switzerland
Date submitted: August 10th, 2014

Be it resolved that:

The IPPNW International Council supports the publication of authoritative IPPNW information material on the topic of the nuclear chain. The task of drafting, layout and publishing these can be delegated to affiliates already working on these topics. All documents will be reviewed and approved by the Board or the EC prior to publication.

Reasons for the above:

Nuclear weapons possess the potential to destroy humankind and our planet. Their complete abolition and the prevention of nuclear war are core issues of our organization. Besides calling for an international ban of nuclear weapons, we should also address the detrimental health effects of the entire nuclear chain, however, as IPPNW possesses the unique expertise to research, compile and communicate these:

- The process of **mining and refining uranium** is a very important subject to countries like Canada, India, the USA, Australia, or Kazakhstan but also to many African states, like Niger, South Africa, Gabon or Namibia, where miners and locals are suffering from the inhumane and unsafe working and living conditions in and around the uranium mines. At the World Congress in Basel in August of 2010, IPPNW called for a ban on uranium mining worldwide and decided to engage in public education on this issue. As requested by the IPPNW Board of Directors in 2011, the German and Australian affiliates have already created a draft booklet on the health effects of uranium mining, which could serve as a blueprint for IPPNW publications on the subject (see attachment).
- The **civil use of nuclear energy** as one of the two sides of the nuclear coin is being seen as an important IPPNW issue in many countries and numerous affiliates are already working on this subject – not just since Chernobyl or Fukushima. As early as 1998, at the World Congress in Melbourne, IPPNW issued a resolution, calling for an end to the use of nuclear energy and decided to inform all IPPNW affiliates about the links between nuclear power and nuclear weapons. In 2011, the IPPNW Board of Director renewed its call for affiliates to share expertise on this subject.
- The **threat of nuclear weapons** intimately affects all human beings and, through the threat of nuclear famine, especially those in the developing world, who would suffer the most from the effects of a regional nuclear war. But nuclear conflicts are also a very real and scary scenario in the Middle East, on the Korean peninsula, in Europe and on the Indian subcontinent, threatening the very survival of mankind. Updated, authoritative information on the concrete health effects of nuclear weapons are needed today more than ever.
- Ultimately, the **unsolved problem of nuclear waste** is a major issue for all nuclear states and those practicing uranium mining. 70 years after the beginning of the nuclear age there is still not a single safe depository for nuclear waste in the world

and it is doubtful that such a place will ever be found. Furthermore, in the decades to come, societies will face the need to dismantle many existing nuclear power plants and weapons.

Describe how this resolution might be implemented and by whom:

Attached is a draft version of an informative brochure on uranium mining – the “first link in the nuclear chain”. It was compiled and drafted by the Australian and German IPPNW affiliates upon request by the IPPNW Board of Directors and could serve as the blueprint for an authoritative international brochure, published and distributed in the name of IPPNW. In the following years, similar brochures on the other part of the nuclear chain could follow, drafted by affiliates already working on these subjects for many years. An international group of IPPNW experts could help with compiling data, drafting texts and proof-reading the final brochures.

Estimate for amount of staff time and resources required to implement this resolution:

Minimal, as most of the work would be done by the affiliates already working on these topics. The CO could help with the proof-reading, distribution and uploading of the finished publications.

Estimated expenses and sources of funding:

The expenses would be paid by the affiliates already working on these topics. German IPPNW has already set aside 5,000 Euro and 150 hours of staff time over the next few years for the creation of brochures on the nuclear chain, for example.

International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War
21th World Congress, Astana, Kazakhstan

APPROVED INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Title of Resolution: Global call to action against military use of drone technology
Submitted By: Helmut Lohrer
Affiliates: IPPNW Germany
Date Submitted: August 25th 2014

Be it resolved that:

IPPNW call for appropriate measures to ban the military use of unmanned air vehicles.

Reasons for above:

“Unmanned air vehicles”, or drones, have become a common sight in current warfare. Many developed countries already have them in service. Drones can be used for reconnaissance, but more and more armed versions of drones are operating on the battlefields.

Military drone technology is spreading fast. Dozens of countries are developing or purchasing drone systems, including India, Pakistan, China, Russia, and Iran. Many civil and academic institutions take part in their development. While some developments are clearly of military nature, others are typical for dual use technology. Researchers are working on technologies for autonomous drones that are allegedly “intelligent” and can take decisions without human control on when to attack a target.

Drones eliminate the risk for those piloting them, when compared to ordinary fighter planes. Sending technology to the front lines instead of human soldiers, waging war supposedly becomes safer and cheaper. This view neglects the side of the victims. The image of “surgical assaults” has been proven false by many examples where innocent people, including children, have been killed by missiles deployed from drones.

Executions or “targeted killings” are carried out – as it is practiced by US forces in their “war against terror” – without any form of legal process. The victims of such killings are given no chance of protection or defense.

War is being extended into civil life, and violent solutions evolve instead of peaceful developments. As the deployment of drones lowers the threshold of military engagement, the proliferation of drone technology will result in increasing militarization of international relations.

Describe how this resolution might be implemented and by whom:

In order to achieve the goal of an international ban on military drone technology, IPPNW will strengthen its public education on this issue and exert influence on both national and international political decision-makers.

Estimate for amount of staff time and resources required to implement this resolution:

Minimal staff time will be required, mainly for coordination of activities and communication between activists.

Estimated expenses and sources of funding:

Minimal cost for shipment of information material



August 28, 2014

Gaza Declaration

International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War (IPPNW) received the Nobel Prize in 1985 for creating an awareness of the catastrophic consequences of nuclear war and advocating prevention by abolishing nuclear weapons. It was essentially a universal public health project and an exercise in preventive medicine. IPPNW continues to advocate the same humanitarian principles.

IPPNW is extremely concerned that the ongoing military conflict between the Israelis and the Palestinians in the Gaza Strip is not only undermining nuclear disarmament regionally and globally but also resulting in massive urban destruction and the mounting loss of civilian lives. Unless the root causes of the conflict are addressed, it will recur.

No one can deny that the Israelis have every right to live in peace and freedom in a legitimate state with internationally established boundaries and be free of any threat to destroy it. No one can deny that the Palestinians have every right to live in peace and freedom in a legitimate state with internationally established boundaries and be free of any threat to destroy it. Both sides must stop their aggression and peacefully negotiate a just resolution through dialogue.

IPPNW appeals to the United Nations and the international community to intervene and effect an immediate, lasting ceasefire, an end to Israeli bombardment and ground invasion of Gaza, an end to all rocket attacks by Hamas, and full provision of food, water, shelter and medical care to the wounded and displaced, as well as psychological support for the bereaved, and guaranteed United Nations supervised full access to the world. IPPNW favours negotiations for the fulfilment of the "Oslo declaration of principles" as it was accepted by Israel and Palestinians in 1993.

In the long term, IPPNW calls for a radical change in thinking and in the way ordinary people and governments respond to conflict so that peaceful dialogue becomes the norm and sweeps away militarism and war.





September 2, 2014

Statement of IPPNW physicians on the situation in the Ukraine

In 1985, at the height of the Cold War, the International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War (IPPNW) was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for its East-West cooperation to prevent a nuclear catastrophe. The current crisis in Ukraine requires us to remind President Obama in the USA and President Putin in Russia that there are still thousands of nuclear weapons on high alert, set to launch on warning within minutes.

We know—and have new evidence—that even a small percentage of those weapons, if launched, would kill millions of people immediately, and would alter our climate in ways not seen since the last ice age—quite possibly killing 1-2 billion people. The current arsenals of Russia and the USA, totaling around 15,000 warheads, are sufficient to literally end life on this planet several times over.

The current crisis in Ukraine is of complex origin and of large humanitarian consequence. It may lead to Ukraine re-acquiring nuclear weapons (which they voluntarily renounced in 1991). It threatens to re-ignite the Cold War and risks involving the use of nuclear weapons accidentally or on purpose.

As Russian, American, Ukrainian, and German doctors and leaders of IPPNW, we together call upon the parties to immediately cease the violence and to re-emphasize diplomatic communication between the USA and Russia, to assist Ukraine to resolve the crisis peacefully.

Furthermore, we hope the parties recognize the potential existential threat posed by a return to nuclear-armed antagonism. We call for renewed efforts to finally negotiate an end to the risk of nuclear war by making the historic decision to take the weapons off high alert and then ban and eliminate them. We are living in the most dangerous time since the end of World War II, and this is our joint prescription for our survival.

On behalf of the Board of Directors of IPPNW,

Vladimir Garkavenko, IPPNW Co-President
Ira Helfand, IPPNW Co-President
Olena Bezsmertna, International Councillor, IPPNW Ukraine
Helmut Lohrer, International Councillor, IPPNW Germany



ASTANA DECLARATION

**IPPNW 21ST WORLD CONGRESS
30 AUGUST 2014**

For more than 50 years, physicians concerned with the medical, environmental and humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons have documented the extreme and unacceptable consequences of their use. The evidence accumulated over the decades since the US atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki has convinced us that only the complete and rapid elimination of nuclear weapons from the world can assure us of a future. Even in a world without nuclear weapons, we face severe challenges from unsustainable living patterns, global warming, militarism and armed violence, economic inequalities, resource depletion, and the inexcusable poverty that afflicts billions of people on Earth. Only in a world without nuclear weapons, however, will we have a chance to solve those problems. The renewed awakening to the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons that is now driving a political initiative for their abolition is the most hopeful development in more than 20 years since the end of the Cold War.

International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War has assembled in Astana, Kazakhstan for its 21st World Congress. The people of Kazakhstan have experienced the horrors inflicted by nuclear weapons first hand. From 1949 until 1989, the former Soviet Union conducted 467 nuclear tests at “The Polygon” in Semipalatinsk, without regard for the health and safety of those living and working near the test site. The Polygon was closed in 1991, and the nuclear testing programs of both the USSR and the US were halted, due in large part to courageous public protests by the joint US-USSR Nevada-Semipalatinsk Movement, in which IPPNW played a seminal role. The Kazakh victims of nuclear testing suffer terribly to this day from a whole range of radiation-related illnesses and this toll extends across multiple generations living in the contaminated area. We urge the Kazakh government to provide adequate and continuing healthcare and social protections to meet the ongoing needs of those exposed to nuclear test fallout. Kazakh survivors of nuclear testing bear witness to the dangers we all face as long as nuclear weapons exist. We stand in solidarity with our Kazakh friends in a common demand for the abolition of nuclear weapons, and we commend President Nazarbayev for his leadership in pursuit of that goal.

We call upon the governments of the world to consider all of the dangerous implications of the nuclear chain. Mining, processing, and exporting uranium raise grave health, environmental and proliferation concerns, and are serious obstacles to nuclear disarmament. We urge States to hasten both the arrival of a nuclear-weapons-free world and the transition to a sustainable, renewable, and safe energy system.

The region in which we have held this 21st Congress is presently beset by armed violence. The tragedy in Ukraine threatens to unravel decades of progress in relations between Russia and the United States—the two largest nuclear-armed States—and could deteriorate into outright civil war, setting those two great powers against each other once again, unless strong and effective diplomacy on all sides replaces armed violence. Ukraine made a historic decision in the 1990s—along with Kazakhstan and Belarus—to return the nuclear weapons based on its territory to Russia, following the collapse of the Soviet Union at the end of the Cold War. The wisdom of that decision is evident today, given the catastrophe that could ensue from the introduction of nuclear weapons into the current conflict. Nevertheless, with Russia and the US holding

most of the 17,000 nuclear weapons in the world, thousands of which are on alert and ready to be launched on short notice, the possibility of their use, should events in Ukraine take a desperate turn, cannot be ruled out. The only way to avoid a relapse into the dangerous major-power antagonism the world was hoping had been left behind, is to make a good faith effort to find diplomatic solutions that respect the need for peace and security of all people in the region. First and foremost, the US and Russian presidents should take a joint decision to refrain from making nuclear threats—explicit or implicit—during this crisis.

In 2007, IPPNW launched ICAN—the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons—and is now the lead medical NGO in a campaign that has been embraced by 360 partner organizations in 93 countries. We have brought IPPNW's medical message about nuclear weapons and nuclear war—including our most recent findings on nuclear famine—to international conferences on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons (HINW) in Oslo and Nayarit. Later this year, we will participate in the third HINW conference in Vienna, where we will join our ICAN partners in calling for negotiations on a treaty to ban nuclear weapons and pave the way for their elimination. The nuclear-armed States oppose such a treaty because, once adopted, it will tell them unambiguously that their continued possession, testing, manufacture, stockpiling, transport, and use of nuclear weapons are illegal and that they must negotiate the complete elimination of their nuclear arsenals without excuses and without delay. The ban treaty refutes the notion that only the nuclear-armed States can decide how, when, and under what conditions to complete the task of nuclear disarmament, as the World Court has said they are obligated to do. The step-by-step process favored by the nuclear-armed States is inadequate and, coupled with the modernization programs in which they are all investing hundreds of billions of dollars, is a formula for keeping nuclear weapons for the rest of this century and beyond. With sufficient courage and determination, the ban treaty, championed by ICAN and IPPNW, can be completed in a very short time, and can hasten the arrival of a nuclear-weapons-free world.

We recognize that a world without nuclear weapons is not a world at peace, free from the carnage of war and other forms of armed violence. For this reason, we have worked for more than a decade through our Aiming for Prevention programs to address the problem of armed violence. Numerous major conflicts in Africa, the Middle East, and Asia, some recent, some decades old, result in the violent deaths of tens of thousands of people every year. Thousands of other lives are lost to armed violence in dozens of smaller, but no less tragic, conflicts around the world. While recognizing the unacceptable toll taken by armed violence in all its forms, this Congress calls for ceasefires both in Ukraine and in the Gaza Territory as immediate priorities. We reiterate our urgent appeal for a diplomatic solution to the complex and contentious political issues in Ukraine. No effort must be spared in bringing the warring factions together to end the tragic and violent Israeli-Palestinian conflict, and to achieve a comprehensive Middle East peace.

As physicians, we are too well aware of the impact of armed violence on individuals, families, and entire communities, as well as on our capacity to provide for public health. Global military spending in 2013 was US \$1.75 trillion—2.4% of world GDP—according to SIPRI. These obscene levels of expenditure on weapons, preparations for war, and the actual fighting of wars, not only fuel the carnage we are witnessing around the world, but also drain resources from health care, education, basic human needs, environmental protection, and all the other social investments that are essential to development and real security.

A small but important step in the right direction was taken last year when the UN General Assembly adopted the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT). As of today, 118 States have signed the ATT, but only 44 States have ratified it. Fifty ratifications are required for the Treaty to enter into force. We urge every State that has not yet signed the ATT to do so. Every signatory State should ratify the Treaty without delay, to ensure that the uncontrolled flow of arms into conflict zones and into the hands of human rights abusers can be prevented.

We live in dangerous times, surrounded by challenges that can seem intractable. Yet we also see signs of hope. We leave Astana recommitted to achieving a world without nuclear weapons and without war, which provides for the health, safety, and security of all.