

# 2024 ANNUAL REPORT



## International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War GENEVA LIAISON OFFICE

# FINDING CLARITY IN CHAOS - ENGAGING THE GLOBAL HEALTH COMMUNITY

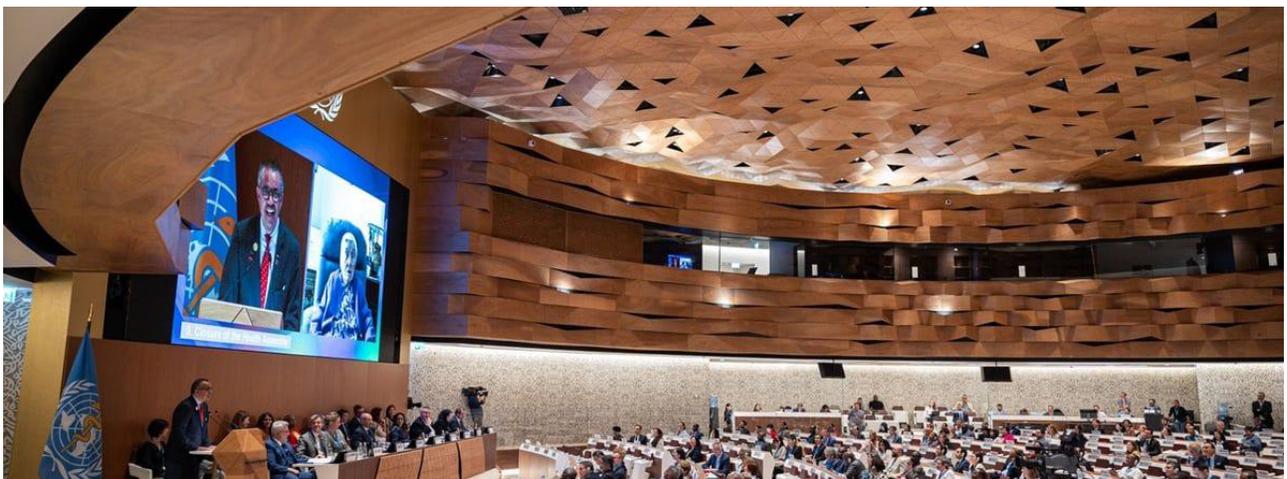
As we enter a new international era, the chaos that seems to consume government decision-making and public discussion threatens to overwhelm us. But IPPNW-GLO and our health partner allies remain focused on our mission of reminding policy-makers that regardless of their political beliefs, diplomacy is preferable to armed conflict - and that it is in everyone's vital interest to prevent nuclear war and to abolish nuclear weapons. In 2024, despite all that was happening around the world, we made progress in universalizing that message within the global health community.

IPPNW-GLO opened its office in Geneva two years ago to deepen our connection to international governmental bodies and organizations – especially those focusing on public health. Our proximity to those institutions and leaders is fostering closer engagement. Many of our partner organizations have a major branch or a headquarters here in Geneva. Being located in the same city with our partners and the second largest United Nations headquarters advances our movement toward the ultimate goal of nuclear weapons abolition. When public health officials, diplomats, and leading health organizations understand that preventing nuclear war is essential, not just to good health but to human survival, their expert voices will help to convince political leaders and people throughout the world to demand an end to the nuclear stalemate that leaves us 15 minutes away from human and environmental destruction on a scale never before seen.

## RENEWING THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION'S BENCHMARK STUDIES ON NUCLEAR WAR AND HEALTH

Previous discussions with Dr. Zhanat Kenbayeva, Radiation and Health scientist at WHO led to a proposed plan for a long-overdue update of WHO's 1987 report "Effects of Nuclear War on Health and Health Services." IPPNW-GLO engaged Melissa Parke, executive director of International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) in the planning process and she arranged for meeting in April with WHO Director-General Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, including IPPNW-GLO director Chuck Johnson. Dr. Tedros endorsed this idea and issued a public statement supporting our aims but told us that the mandate for updating the 1987 report had sunsetted in 2020 and required a new mandate from their governing body.

Dr. Tedros encouraged us to see if member states would introduce a resolution to reinstate the mandate from the floor of the World Health Assembly in May. This did not prove possible on such short notice, but IPPNW-GLO joined with health partners the International Committee for the Red Cross (ICRC), World Medical Association (WMA), International Council of Nurses (ICN), International Federation of Public Health Associations (IFMSA), and the World Federation of Public Health Associations (WFPHA) in an influential side meeting, attended by delegates from more than twenty key countries



## FINDING CLARITY IN CHAOS - ENGAGING THE GLOBAL HEALTH COMMUNITY, Continued

and co-sponsored by Austria, Kazakhstan, and Mexico. Momentum picked up to rescue this key study from its dusty Cold War “catacombs.”

As the summer progressed, during the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Preparatory Committee meeting in Geneva, we discovered from the New Zealand and Ireland delegations that they were planning a similar effort at the United Nations General Assembly First Committee in the fall – to reconstitute an overall study of the “Effects of Nuclear War” that had last been done in 1989, using much of the data from the WHO 1987 study. Careful talks ensued with member states, as to how backing for these two studies could be timed in order to gain support and not reduce it for either effort. Ultimately, the passage of the UN General Assembly study in First Committee in November and again in the full General Assembly in December with only three no votes, gave additional power to the WHA resolution.

The UN General Assembly resolution explicitly named WHO as an agency to contribute to the study and WHO staff took this as a political decision that allowed them to assist member states' efforts to explain the context for discussion of the issues involved, and to help word the resolution clearly and accurately.

IPPNW-GLO eventually found a strong core of Pacific Island nations sponsors, led by the Marshall Island, Samoa, and Vanuatu, with Fiji, Kazakhstan, and Micronesia as co-sponsors – later joined by Peru, Guatemala, Iraq, and Burkina Faso (so far). The superb leadership shown by the diplomats from these countries as they walked their colleagues, slowly and carefully through six informal meetings was impressive.

Because the leadership was coming from these Pacific Island states and Kazakhstan, where many communities have experienced illness, loss of life, and environmental degradation from nuclear weapons testing, they were interested in making certain that the resolution would cover the health effects of nuclear weapons testing. They added a 1993 study on the “Health and Environmental Effects of Nuclear Weapons” to the list of reports that need updating and changed the title of the new resolution to “Effects of Nuclear Weapons on Health and Health Services.”

At the time of publication this resolution is being planned for a vote in May during the 2025 World Health Assembly and IPPNW-GLO is working with its health organization allies and the friendly member states to make sure we have the votes to pass it. Even more important than ever, due to the swift withdrawal from WHO by the United States after President Trump took office, is that there be funding for this study and IPPNW-GLO is helping advocate for that among some of the more supportive member states that have resources.

We are getting closer to the finish line and expect to reach the goal of a new authorizing resolution in May. Then the timeline and goals shift to establishing a committee to do the review, feeding the results into the UN General Assembly study and to the WHO study itself - and developing a plan with Dr. Tedros and the WHO to present and publicize the results. Stay tuned.



IPPNW volunteer Chris Serrao testifies on the human rights consequences of the Marshall Islands' nuclear legacy at the UN Human Rights Council

## WHAT IS THE PROCESS FOR A WHA RESOLUTION?



# IPPNW-GLO WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY EVENT

## 31 May, 2024 - Vieux Bois at the United Nations

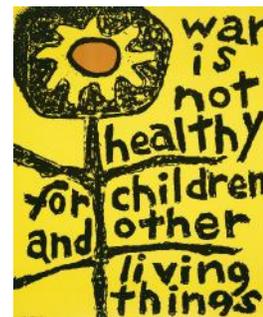
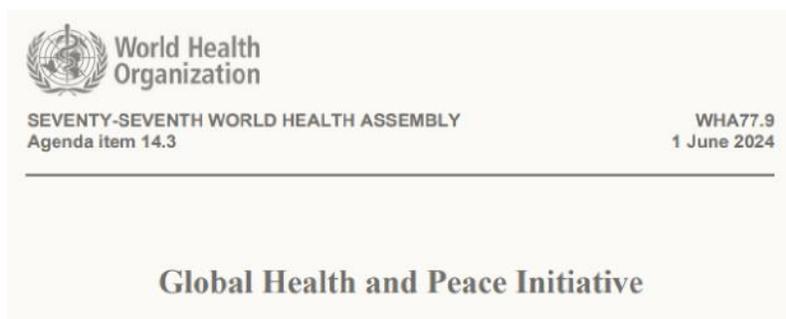


IPPNW-GLO's side event at the World Health Assembly at the Palais des Nations in Geneva on 31 May, 2024 was well attended by medical professionals and health diplomats from around the globe and was a wonderful public launch for our office. With this event and our coordinated editorial, "[Reducing the risks of nuclear war: the role of health professionals](#)," in 153 major journals worldwide, we are reviving the concept within health and medical leadership that it is a core responsibility to describe the health consequences of nuclear war to world leaders and the general public and to demand its prevention.

As part of our May event, we emphasized our existing alliances in the world health and medical community with speakers representing the World Health Organization, the International Committee for the Red Cross (ICRC), the World Medical Association (WMA), the World Federation of Public Health Associations (WFPHA), the International Council of Nurses (ICN), and the International Federation of Medical Students' Association (IFMSA). We also laid the groundwork for moving forward with the WHO 1987 and 1993 Report updates.

"There cannot be health without peace, or peace without health"

Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director-General, WHO



## IPPNW Helping Form New Coalition to Promote Public Health by Preventing Armed Conflict

IPPNW was founded in 1980 by US and Soviet doctors who understood the profound danger that nuclear weapons posed to human health - and human survival. But the conflicts that could lead the world to nuclear Armageddon do not just happen spontaneously. Nuclear war prevention and armed conflict prevention are linked--and the principles of both are obviously the same. Armed conflict and good health are completely incompatible and that point needs to be continually raised by health professionals worldwide. Preserving life and human health is a critical reason to settle conflicts through diplomacy--seeking just and stable solutions.

At various times over the decades IPPNW has worked for the elimination of chemical and biological weapons, land mines, and cluster munitions, and to regulate the sale of small arms. Our "Aiming for Prevention" program, while less active than in previous years, continues as a program at the affiliate level, as does the medical peace work curriculum program developed by leaders of IPPNW affiliates.

Now, with continuing violent conflicts in Africa, the Middle East, and Europe, the IPPNW Geneva Liaison Office has been asked by several health leaders to help reform and revive international health-based collaborations. A good place to start is in rallying support for the WHO's new Global Health and Peace Initiative. Established by a WHA resolution put forth by Oman and Switzerland in 2024 with the active support of WHO Director-General Dr. Tedros Ghebreyesus, this fledgling program needs bolstering in today's chaotic environment.

An informal collaboration is taking shape between IPPNW-GLO, the Global Alliance on War Conflict & Health, Pegasus Institute, and the World Federation of Public Health Associations. Our initial step was to develop the concept and speakers for a workshop under the auspices of the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine - with a speaker also in the plenary - for this coming year's World Health Summit in Berlin. We welcome all who are interested in this new collaboration to contact us.



# NAVIGATING UNCERTAIN TIMES

## SEEKING NEW UNDERSTANDINGS AND BREAKTHROUGHS

As we write this, much of the common global framework is being rapidly tossed aside, sometimes in brutal ways, but, as a supporter of ours who lived through the dissolution of the Soviet Union has told us recently, the gaps created by the destruction of the old order can make room for new understandings and even breakthroughs.

Chuck Johnson and the IPPNW Federation are participating in retreats sponsored by traditional arms control groups, brainstorming with creative friends and our colleagues on the margins of the 3rd Meeting of States Parties to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. Among many activities, Chuck will be attending a micro-targeting planning session with advertising professionals in Berlin in March.

We are looking anywhere and everywhere for clues and ideas for advancing our work. President Trump has called for "denuclearization" talks with Russia and China with the goal of abolishing nuclear weapons - something all of us would ordinarily support. It is our responsibility to pursue all possibilities regardless of national politics.



## NUCLEAR WEAPONS ABOLITION REMAINS OUR PRIMARY GOAL AND INSPIRATION

The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) remains central to our strategy of stigmatizing nuclear weapons and reaching universal abolition.

As an original and ongoing member of the Steering Group of the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN), IPPNW continues to encourage likely national governments in countries in which we have affiliates to join the TPNW. We are also engaging our international health partners in these ongoing efforts. As of today, there are 94 signatories and 73 states parties to the TPNW - nearly half the world's nations.

At a time of great distress in the world, the clarity of the TPNW and a steady increase in numbers of states parties will be necessary to give the international community hope that war fever will pass and sanity return to the critical task of eliminating nuclear weapons absolutely and completely.



# *The IPPNW-Geneva Liaison Office Team*



**Here is our staff team hard at work on Zoom. From top to bottom & L-R: Charles Johnson, Director; Cynthia Hurst, Senior Advisor; Alexandra Reidon, Administrative and Financial Manager; Dr. Urs Rüegg, Treasurer; Jennifer Cole, Special Projects Manager. Not pictured, IPPNW volunteers Illian Halbertsma, Lea Renaudet, and Chris Serrao.**

In 2024, IPPNW-Geneva Liaison Office (IPPNW-GLO) expanded our staff from 2 to 4 people and increased our support from IPPNW volunteers as we began to see significant progress in our program agenda. We hope that these pages will give you a glimpse of the progress we've made and inspire you and others to get involved in whatever way feels best.

IPPNW-GLO, our IPPNW headquarters in Boston, and the entire 56 nation IPPNW federation of affiliated members salute the people who contribute financially, with their personal creativity and tireless energy. In a time of great difficulty that is showing no sign of letting up, it is critical that we all do our part to appeal to the best in humanity. The world hangs in the balance and we know that everything we do must count. We remember this urgency every day and we deeply appreciate the companionship of our donors and partners on this journey.

Please check out our new website: [www.IPPNW-GLO.org](http://www.IPPNW-GLO.org)

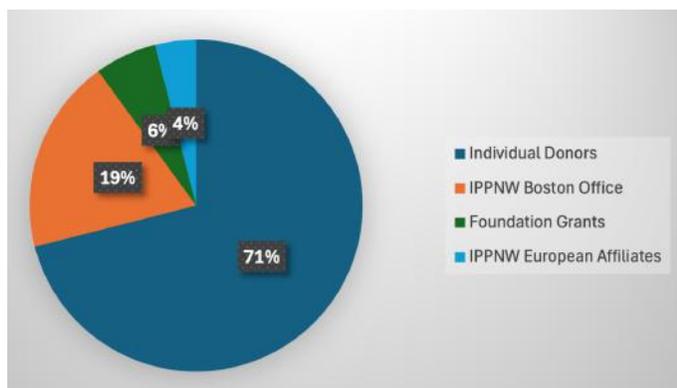
# IPPNW-GLO 2024 FINANCES

At IPPNW-Geneva Liaison Office, 2024 was our first full year of operation. We are grateful to our board of directors, dedicated staff, and funders for making our critical work here in the City of Peace possible.

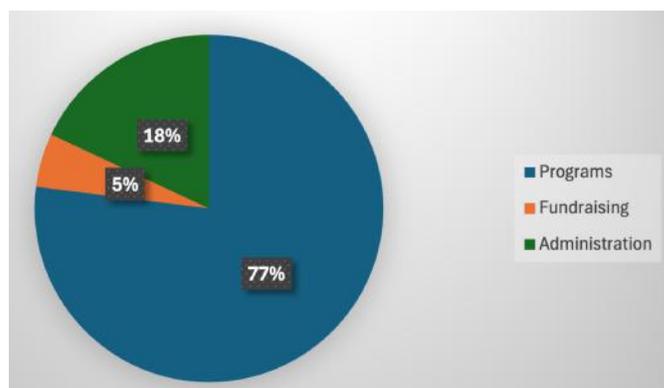
Our total budget for 2024 was CHF 306'031. In 2025, we expect to increase our income to CHF 334'346 in order to grow our programs to meet the increasing threat of nuclear war.

Thank you for your continuing support of our efforts toward a nuclear-weapons free and peaceful world!

## IPPNW-GLO 2024 Income CHF 306'031



## IPPNW-GLO 2024 Expenses CHF 255'217



## IPPNW European Regional Meeting, coming soon!

On 11-13 April 2025, IPPNW-GLO will host IPPNW's European Regional Meeting, "Finding Clarity in Chaos: Creating a Peaceful Vision" – in Geneva.

In collaboration with European regional IPPNW affiliates, we have planned a three-day meeting and we expect leaders from WHO, ICRC and other health partners, Swiss political leaders, and members of the academic and diplomatic community to attend and participate. In addition to discussions on how we can collaborate more effectively through financial supports and mobilization of our members, the agenda will include:

- IPPNW-GLO's WHO agenda - new health effects of nuclear war report, support for Global Health and Peace Initiative;
- Avoiding the current global risk of nuclear war - specifically in Europe; and,
- Finding the linkages between the issues of climate, war, and health and working for solutions.

*And...on October 1-5, IPPNW's international federation will be commemorating the 80th Anniversary of the bombings of Nagasaki and Hiroshima with IPPNW's World Congress in Nagasaki, which will be a major gathering that will especially attract supporters from throughout the Pacific Rim.*