



International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War
(IPPNW) Geneva Liaison Office
Annual Report 2025

ANNUAL REPORT 2025



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A word from Chuck

In my final year in the role of IPPNW-Geneva Liaison Office's first director, I reflect on what a ride it has been - and how grateful I am that so many of you had faith in our project. You made it possible for us to establish our new post in the peace and health capital of the world.

2025 was a breakthrough year in the short history of IPPNW-GLO. Building upon previous years' work, we finally succeeded in our campaign to convince the World Health Organization to renew its landmark 1987 study on the "Effects of Nuclear War on Health and Health Services."

In May 2025, under the leadership of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, Samoa, and Vanuatu, who added a mandate to update a 1993 WHO report on the "Health and Environmental Effects of Nuclear Weapons," a mandate for the study of "Effects of Nuclear War on Public Health" was passed by the World Health Assembly.

The work is now beginning on this study, due in 2029. IPPNW leaders are also serving on a parallel United Nations expert Panel creating a report on the "Effects of Nuclear War," which will be due in 2027.

As I write this in 2026, we are entering a new IPPNW-GLO era, with our talented, experienced new director, Jienna Foster. I will continue to serve as Policy Director and look forward to continuing to work with all of you for peace, health, and nuclear weapons abolition.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chuck Johnson".

CHARLES K. JOHNSON
DIRECTOR



Health effects of nuclear war transcend borders and generations – South Africa at Monday's World Health Assembly

World Health Assembly passes resolution to update report on Effects of Nuclear Weapons on Health

After just over two years of collaboration with World Health Organization member states and our civil society allies, in May 2025, IPPNW's Geneva Liaison Office celebrated the victory of the World Health Assembly passing a resolution calling for an update of previous reports on the "Effects of Nuclear War on Public Health". This historic resolution passed with 86 yes, 14 no, and 28 abstentions [[see Health Policy Watch News, 26 May 2025](#)].

Efforts were skillfully shepherded by numerous Pacific Island nations, led by the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI), still suffering grave health consequences of years of nuclear tests, along with Samoa and Vanuatu as chief sponsors. The resolution ultimately attracted co-sponsorship from 34 countries. Opposition was organized by a "strange bedfellows" coalition of Russia, North Korea, and NATO (which took an official position that all NATO countries must either vote 'no' or abstain). Nevertheless, with the exception of the other four nuclear weapons states who abstained, the rest of the world, including some in alliance with nuclear weapons states like Australia, Japan, South Korea, and Ukraine, voted yes.

After this first, crucial step, IPPNW's Geneva Liaison Office has been coordinating closely with

WHO's Radiation and Health Staff. IPPNW's experts, led by Prof. Tilman Ruff of the University of Melbourne and Prof. Sir Andrew Haines, former Dean of the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, have been providing input on the proposed work plan over the three-year period during which the report will be compiled. It is currently scheduled to be presented to the WHO Director-General for release in 2029.

Through these efforts, the updated report will serve as the international reference on the health effects of nuclear war, and help to re-establish nuclear war and nuclear testing as an imminent catastrophic public health and environmental threat.

IPPNW-GLO continues to cultivate key alliances in the world health and medical community, such as 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). These and other health and civil society organizations continue to endorse IPPNW's work, with several having provided statements of support before the World Health Assembly in favor of the resolution.

European Regional Meeting in Geneva

On April 11-13, 2025, the IPPNW Geneva Liaison Office was honored to host the European Regional Meeting, Finding Clarity in Chaos: Creating a Vision of Peace and Security. Geneva was chosen for its unique role as an international city of health and peace, as well as to mark two years since the creation of the Geneva Liaison Office.

The opening event was held at the Palais Eynard, home of Geneva's Administrative Council. The Honorable Christina Kitsos, Mayor of the City of Geneva, and the Honorable Micheline Calmy-Rey, former President and Foreign Minister of Switzerland, welcomed 90 European Meeting guests from 14 countries. [see photo below of Pres. Calmy-Rey with Chuck Johnson]

Hosted at Campus Biotech, where the Geneva Liaison Office is located, guests from civil society, academia and political spheres gathered to speak, participate in panel discussions, and address questions. These questions ranged from the future of IPPNW, to current nuclear disarmament issues, to broader implications for IPPNW affiliates. This represented a unique opportunity for members to

collaborate and plan the critical next steps to reaching the main objective of preventing nuclear war and abolishing nuclear weapons.

The agenda covered topics including:

- Current global risk of nuclear war, with specific focus on Europe
- WHO Global Health and Peace Initiative (GHPI)
- Health professionals' role in prevention of war
- WHA's resolution on the "effects of nuclear weapons on public health"
- Intersection between the twin existential threats: nuclear war and climate crisis
- IPPNW strategic plan and affiliate updates
- Regional Vice President and Student Representative elections

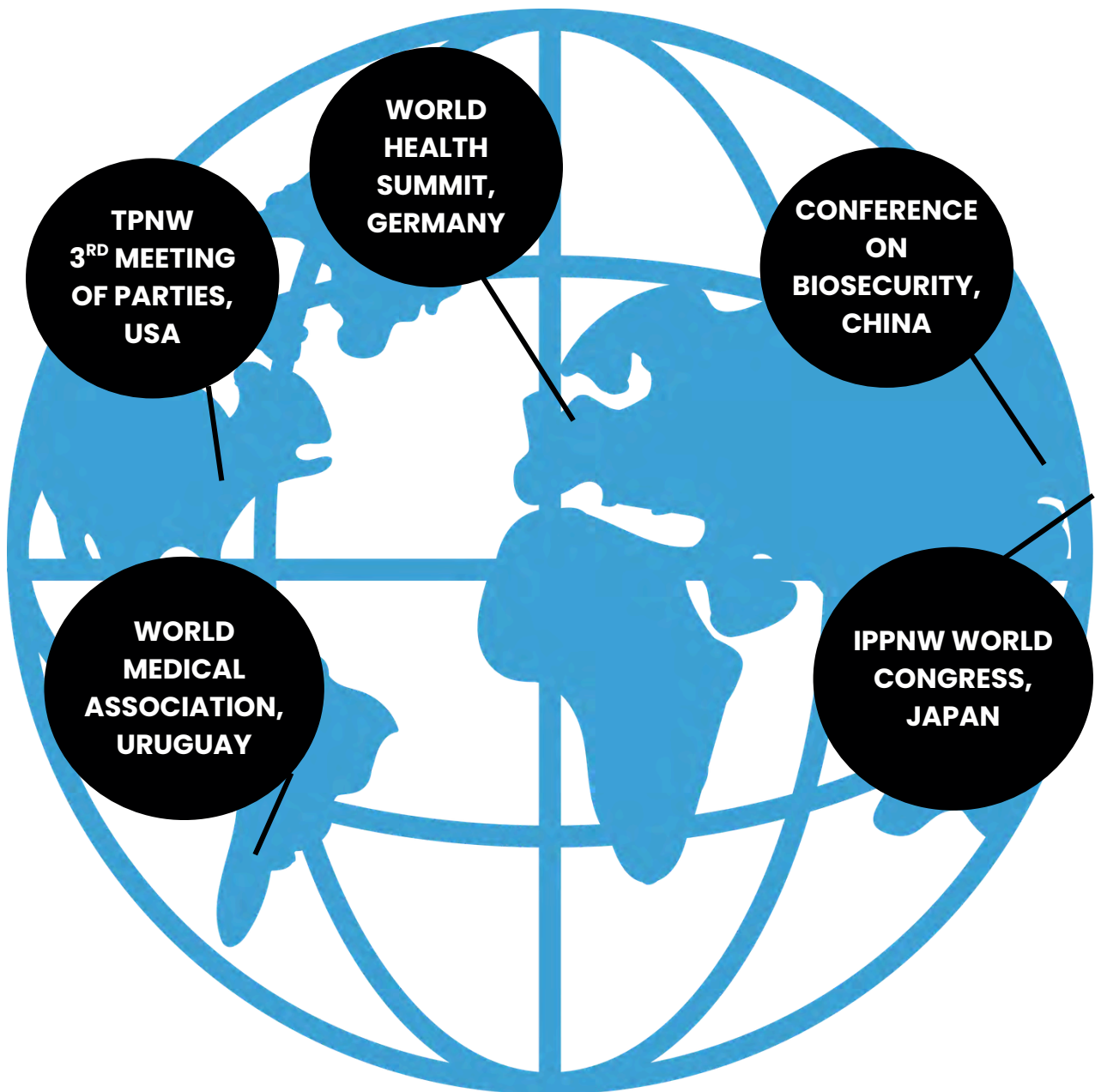
The participants of the 2025 European Regional Meeting formulated a declaration to "better coordinate our work across Europe and strengthen our voice within IPPNW and toward international bodies". They also committed to enhancing regional cooperation with the Geneva Liaison Office as a hub for networking, coordination, and advocacy.



Chuck Johnson with Hon. Micheline Calmy-Rey, former President of the Swiss Federation (2007 & 2011)

IPPNW European Regional Meeting hosted at GLO's headquarters in Geneva

Hon. Christina Kitsos, Mayor of Geneva, at the opening reception



TRAVELING THE GLOBE

Representing IPPNW in Geneva leads to contacts and related conferences throughout the world. In 2025, the team based in Geneva and our headquarters in Boston, along with representatives of our affiliates in 56 countries, were traveling to spread our message of the public health imperative to abolish nuclear weapons. Conferences where IPPNW-GLO played a key role are on the map above. These meetings, described in the next few pages, took place in New York, Montevideo, Berlin, Beijing, Guangzhou, and Nagasaki.

FOR A NUCLEAR WEAPONS FREE WORLD

Nuclear Ban Treaty: 3rd Meeting of State Parties

The Third Meeting of States Parties for the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW), a gathering of diplomats and advocates from around the world, took place at the United Nations Headquarters in New York from March 3-7, 2025. It was a packed week for planning, networking, and challenging ourselves to move forward in these difficult times.

Further cementing IPPNW-GLO's work on the WHA resolution, a side-meeting was held featuring a WHO New York representative, Fatima Khan, who spoke favorably about the upcoming resolution the World Health Assembly on the "Effects of Nuclear War on Public Health". IPPNW-GLO Director Chuck Johnson spoke on March 1st as part of "Seeking Nuclear Justice," the Nuclear Victims Remembrance Day Commemoration at Riverside Church, NYC, sponsored by the Republic of the Marshall Islands. IPPNW-GLO also co-hosted the "Nuclear Free Futures Award" ceremony at Cooper Union on March 4th, honoring activists from India, Brasil, Germany, Zimbabwe, Dineh Nation, and the United States.



Some WMA representatives posing in front of the Montevideo sign during the WMA Council Meeting in Uruguay, April 2025

World Medical Association (WMA) – Uruguay

Working closely with the World Medical Association's Immediate Past President Dr. Lujain Al-Qodmani [\[seen speaking on the next page\]](#), GLO Director Johnson helped maintain language, and smooth objections to WMA's updated Statement on Nuclear Weapons at the organization's Council meeting held from April 24-26, 2025 in Montevideo.

The new statement (adopted later in October in Oporto, Portugal, with Dr. Carlos Umaña representing IPPNW) focused on the alarming frequency of national leaders threatening to use nuclear weapons, and recorded WMA's support of the WHA resolution to reestablish WHO's study group to update its 1987 and 1993 reports on the "Effects of Nuclear Weapons on Public Health".

World Health Summit, Berlin

Also in October, IPPNW-GLO co-hosted an event at the World Health Summit in Berlin titled "Conflict, Militarism and Health – An Agenda for Action" moderated by Prof. Sir Andrew Haines with IPPNW Co-President, Dr. Carlos Umaña.

Our session focused on 1) The link between militarism, climate change and health. 2) The enormous cost of war and diversion of resources to fuel it. 3) The case for the development of a global conflict-health index to monitor progress. 4) The increasing and urgent need for the prevention of conflict in general and nuclear war in particular, stressing the potential catastrophic impact on health outcomes.



Prof. Andrew Haines, Dr. Carlos Umaña, Elzara Badri, Neil Arya, "Conflict Militarism and Health," IPPNW presentation at WHS



Renewed Outreach to China

Our office in Geneva is providing IPPNW with opportunities to expand contacts in countries all over the world. In 2024, IPPNW-GLO Director Chuck Johnson moderated a side meeting at the Biological Weapons Convention in Geneva and met Prof. Li Fujian of the China Foreign Affairs University (CFAU), who was one of the speakers.

In September 2025, Chuck traveled to Beijing as Prof. Li's guest lecturer to a class for future diplomats at China Foreign Affairs University. He later met with members of the Chinese Medical Association at their headquarters, securing a promise from them to invite IPPNW doctors to present to medical professionals in China in the coming year. He also reconnected with leaders of the China Arms Control and Disarmament Association in their office in Beijing.

Chuck's final stop was presenting on a panel at the International Conference on Global Biosecurity, Governance and Cooperation held at Guangzhou Laboratories. This high level conference with experts from around the world examined the frightening prospects, intentional or unintentional, of the combination of new genetic engineering techniques and artificial intelligence.

Our office in Geneva continues to have contact with Chinese visitors, with Chuck presenting IPPNW's message to two groups of Chinese medical students sponsored by the World Federation of United Nations Associations (WFUNA) in the Palais des Nations. We are working to make sure that mutual exchanges with Chinese health leaders and others become more frequent in the coming years.



Chuck Johnson, Director, IPPNW-GLO presenting at Guangzhou Laboratory, Guangzhou, China

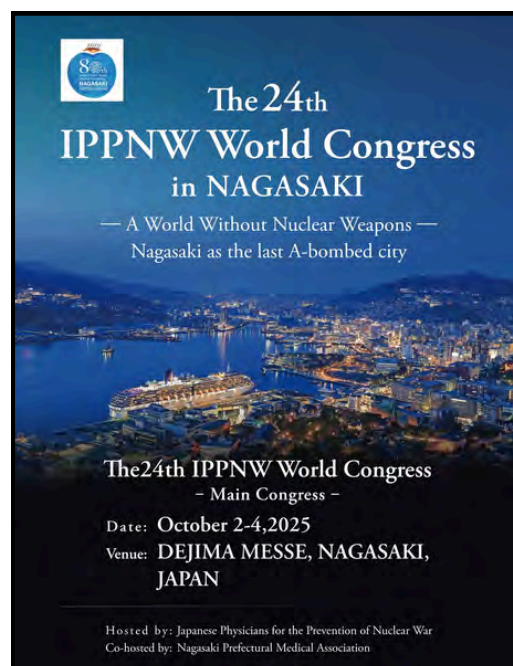


Chuck Johnson, Director, IPPNW-GLO presenting to Chinese Medical Students in the Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland

IPPNW's 24th World Congress, Nagasaki, Japan

IPPNW held its 24th World Congress from October 2-4 2025 in Nagasaki, Japan. Convening 80 years after the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, with the testimonies of Nihan Hidankyo, the atomic survivors group who had received the Nobel Peace Prize leading the program gave participants an unparalleled opportunity to reflect on the devastating consequences of nuclear weapons.

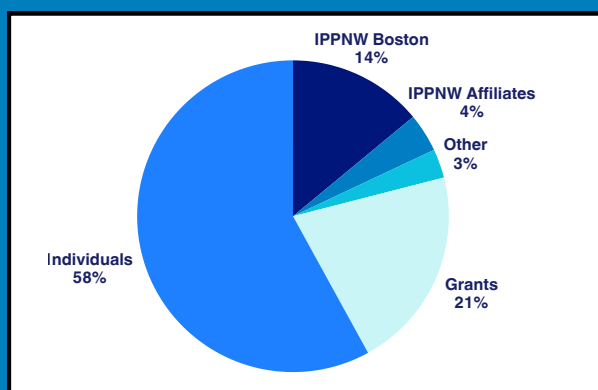
A total of 350 people from 36 countries attended the congress and met for 3 days of learning, planning and renewing their commitment to nuclear weapons abolition. IPPNW's board and international council used the in-person opportunity to meet and elect new leaders.



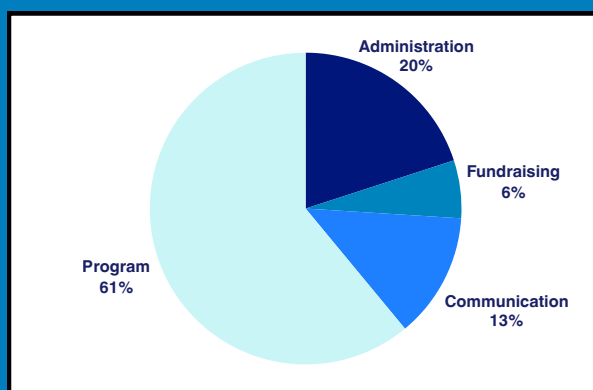
Photos from the IPPNW World Congress in Nagasaki Japan. IPPNW-GLO Treasurer, Urs Rüegg (bottom right); and (top right - from right to left) volunteers Ragi Rajeev and Pauline Gatmaytan pose with radiation expert and JPPNW leader Dr. Masao Tomonaga, Philippine leader Dr. Aurora Corazon A. Parong

FINANCIALS

IPPNW-GLO 2025 INCOME
CHF 296,314



IPPNW-GLO 2025 EXPENSES
CHF 215,277



IPPNW-GLO is grateful to the dedicated staff, volunteers, and funders, who made this year another success in the City of Peace.



The IPPNW-GLO team at the European Regional Meeting in Geneva 2025

The Future for IPPNW–GLO

With the historic breakthrough at the World Health Assembly resolution to revisit the WHO report on the effects of nuclear weapons on health and health systems in May 2025, the IPPNW Geneva Liaison Office is at a crossroads. The finalization of this WHO report is scheduled for release in 2029. IPPNW-GLO plays a crucial role in this. To ensure this report becomes the definitive international reference on nuclear health impacts, the office will be involved in ensuring there will be a Commission established in 2026, working in close concert with WHO colleagues, member states, and our network of experts, to synthesize data and make sure the final report accurately reflects reality.

*Pauline Gatmaytan, Chuck Johnson,
and Ragi Rajeev in Nagasaki*



IPPNW-GLO Director, Chuck Johnson, with IPPNW Incoming Director, Jienna Foster, at the Campus Biotech Innovation Park

This scientific work will be supported by the strategic leadership transition that honors the foundations laid by our outgoing Director, Chuck Johnson. Given the significant value of his experience, Chuck has agreed to remain as Policy Director on a volunteer basis through at least early to mid-2027, providing essential continuity as new leadership integrates. This period will also see an expansion of our advocacy, including intensified collaboration with the Swiss affiliate and the renewed activity of diplomatic channels with Russia and China, broadening the movement's global footprint.

Our commitment to the next generation remains at the heart of IPPNW's work. In Geneva, we are witnessing unprecedented interest from undergraduates and graduate students for our educational initiatives, with student volunteers and interns expressing more enthusiasm than we can currently accommodate. Moving forward, we will formalize our recruitment processes to channel this energy into more structured internships and training, ensuring a steady pipeline of engaged young advocates.

On the operational front, the office is committed to sustainable, sensible growth. This involves strengthening our communications to amplify our message of peace and health, while working to secure the diversified funding necessary to support our vital mandate. As we navigate the ever-shifting geopolitical climate and the challenges of 2026 and beyond, the convergence of a renewed mandate, a committed team, and a growing global network confirms that the future of the IPPNW Geneva Liaison Office is not only bright, it is essential.