

Global Action to Prevent War



Welcome to Global Action's Winter 2011 Newsletter.

Those of you who consult these quarterly updates have become accustomed to our organizational pattern – new challenges and often successful outcomes related to all three of our core program areas. This quarter is no different. We continue to explore new options for addressing capacity gaps and bringing partners into new areas of collaborative engagement. The stories that follow tell only part of that story. We have held or co-sponsored more meetings, publications and outreach activities than we have space to share here. This semester we welcomed four new staff members-- Jessica Erdman, Salvatore Russo-Tiesi, Arman Hirose-Afshari, and Moraa Onyonka -- without whom we could

not possibly have fulfilled our program responsibilities.

On our website you will find evidence of diverse concerns – a paper on the status of NGOs authored by Lester Ruiz for which we provided substantive feedback; a formal statement to the 55th Commission on the Status of Women on security dimensions of education and training for women that we helped to draft; a conference we supported in Canada that focused on training the next generation of peace professionals, a presentation to the Secretary-General's Disarmament Board focused on capacity gaps in disarmament structure; commentary on US military spending based on an updated article by the late Randall Forsberg and Alex Carlin; and daily briefings for diplomats on Arms Trade Treaty issues. On top of that, our social networking disarmament tools are drawing worldwide attention!

We have planned a series of collaborative publications that we will share in the next newsletter – on gender and development, on DDR (disarmament, demobilization and reintegration) and, perhaps most especially, on trust building in the UN

system around some of our most important and occasionally controversial work – on both the responsibility to protect and our proposal for a UN Emergency Peace Service. Indeed, next to mentoring 'next generation' advocates, trust-building might be our most essential organizational asset.



We are rarely the recognized 'expert' in any of the many UN conference rooms and offices in which we find ourselves. But what we sometimes lack in expertise we more than make up in reliability, attentiveness and clarity. We pay close attention to the needs of diplomats and the UN system as a whole to better ensure that our interventions fill structural needs as well as organizational concerns. Our trust building pays off in both increased access to diplomats and more attentive dialogue when we are in their presence. Please share your ideas with us for making the UN more effective and efficient. **-Jenneth, Katherine, Bob**

Disarmament Update

'Disarmament Dialogues' Update

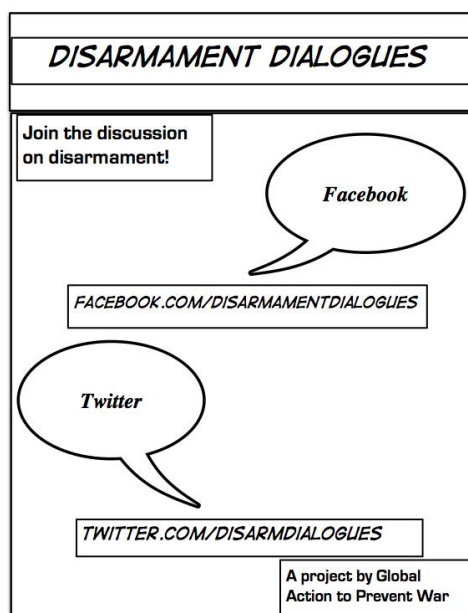
We have recently launched a Youth and Social Networking Project, highlighting the importance of engaging the younger generation in ways that allow for a two-way conversation. We have chosen to pair social networking tools with an oft-misunderstood topic: *disarmament*. The topic of disarmament should be analyzed in a different manner—comprehensively—through the lens of gender, economics, and security in the 21st century. We have moved beyond Cold War notions of superpowers and arms races; thus, our definition of disarmament should be re-evaluated.

Young people from a variety of cultures offer us the best resource for a project on disarmament for two reasons—first, their ability to think about disarmament in a fresh, contemporary way, and second, their powerful presence on social networking sites. Young people have proven themselves to be passionate about political and social causes on Facebook and Twitter. With greater outreach and collaboration among young social media users, the conversation about

disarmament can begin, and be sustained.

We have already received a great response from a variety of individuals and organizations from around the globe wanting to engage with us in a conversation on current disarmament issues.

Please join the discussion!



Facebook: www.facebook.com/disarmamentdialogues

Twitter: @DisarmDialogue

Second ATT Preparatory Committee

February 28-March 4, 2011

From February 28 through March 4, Member States came together for the second preparatory committee prior to the 2012 conference to commence formal negotiations towards an ATT. Ambassador Roberto Moritan of Argentina, chair of the PrepCom, skillfully assumed his leadership role and circulated three 'non-papers' covering scope, parameters/criteria, and international cooperation and assistance respectively.

These non-papers supplied the framework for a week of vigorous discussions by Member States. Ambassador Moritan subsequently distributed a revised paper on Thursday morning after all three substantive issue areas had been sufficiently vetted.

Despite a wide set of concerns and disagreements, Member States were able to reaffirm their common desire for an ATT to regulate the trade in conventional arms. Opinions varied on scope—which weapons are to be included in the treaty—as well as the criteria to be used to evaluate the

legality of transfers. There was much debate on the issue of ammunition with the majority of delegations favoring the inclusion of ammunition in the scope, but also with some vocal dissenters.

International assistance and cooperation was also debated insofar as how much and which type of assistance would be provided to fellow signatories to ensure the implementation of the treaty's provisions. Also addressed was the question of an ATT secretariat for which some delegates and NGOs advocated. What functions would a secretariat perform and how robustly would it be able to 'flag' suspicious arms trade activities?

The week concluded with a genuine sense of optimism as diplomats seemed anxious to meet again in July 2011 in NY for the third and final PrepCom. The questions that remain to be answered are difficult and complex indeed, but delegates have already shown their dedication to resolving obstacles towards an ATT. Under the very able leadership of Ambassador Moritan, an actionable treaty according to schedule is still well within the realm of possibility.

For all editions of the daily *ATT Monitor* as well as the blog, please consult our website <http://www.globalactionpw.org/?p=2676>.

For further commentary on the ATT from GAPW and the NGO community, please consult our website.



Presentation to the Secretary-General's Disarmament Advisory Board

February 25, 2011

The Secretary-General's Disarmament Board met at UN Headquarters during the last week of February to consider how to 'revitalize' the much-maligned Conference on Disarmament (CD), which has been in a virtual state of stalemate for the past 12 years.

This year, GAPW was asked to prepare a presentation for the board focused on the UN's disarmament architecture and the ways in which capacity deficiencies in disarmament machinery can imperil general progress in the disarmament field, progress which, in some important cases, appears to be much closer at hand. The presentation built on findings from a fall 2010 workshop on the 'Future of the CD' that GAPW organized with Reaching Critical Will and the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung of Germany. The GAPW presentation also commented on the SG's proposal to establish an 'eminent persons panel' to work out a solution to the CD's impasse, urging the SG to balance eminence with skills and commitment

to produce and 'sell' recommendations on the CD to sometimes wary governments.

GAPW stressed the relationship between a robust UN structure and sustainable progress on key security issues. It was important for us to remind the SG, through the board, that progress on security can be sustained only with adequate structure. Disarmament treaties are only as reliable as their levels of funding support and oversight capacity.



To access Dr. Zuber's presentation as well as RCW's recommendations for the CD, please consult our website <http://www.globalactionpw.org/?p=2648>.

The Impact of World Order Values:

World Order Models Project

**PEACE • ECONOMIC WELL-BEING •
SOCIAL JUSTICE • ECOLOGICAL
BALANCE • POSITIVE IDENTITY**

*Workshop featuring the launch of
updated article on US military
spending by Randall Forsberg and
Alex Carlin*

January 28, 2011

Once considered Utopian, the five core World Order Values have found their way into common use in a wide range of contemporary human security policies and practices at the UN and beyond. While there is some contention about the importance of having more robust forms of global governance, there is little debate about the relevance of world order values to all who work in settings where the peace and well-being of communities and nations are a core objective.

For four hours on January 28, a group of diverse and well-known scholars and

policy advocates representing different sectors of the 'word order' agenda came together to examine the deep and direct impact of world order values on their teaching and research, policy and practice. The panels discussed tangible activities and outcomes that have inspired their own and subsequent generations to think more expansively, negotiate more successfully and act with more integrity towards a more peaceful, sustainable, abundant and respectful world.

This discussion took place in a larger context that of honoring the legacy of the late Randall Forsberg, co-founder of the GAPW project. Part of this honoring involved the launch (with commentary from GAPW) of an article originally written by Randall and Alex Carlin, and recently updated by Carlin, entitled: "US Military Spending: Hundreds of Billions for Foreign Wars-How Much for Self Defense?"

The central contention of the article, that a shockingly small portion of our military budget is actually allocated for the defense of national territory, is as relevant today as when the original article was penned in 1999.



For the full agenda, speaker biographies, please consult our website <http://www.globalactionpw.org/?p=2632>

A full PDF version of the 2010 updated article by Randall Forsberg and Alex Carlin is also available on our website.

Women, Peace and Security Update

Celebrating the 55th Commission on the Status of Women

February 22-March 4

GAPW celebrated CSW 55 by hosting a networking reception with our partners Soka Gakkai International (SGI) and the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF)/ Peace Women for the second consecutive year.

This year, the reception was well-attended with CSW participants from around the world coming to the GAPW office. The reception, titled "Voices of Activism: An Informal Networking Reception to Discuss the Women, Peace & Security Agenda with Women Leaders in the Movement," aimed at stimulating dialogue and movement on youth leadership by bringing together leading women's rights activists, policymakers, and women's groups to network. Bearing in mind the theme, the discussion focused on young women's leadership and participation in women, peace and security and disarmament issues. Gillian Kitley, UN Senior Adviser for the Special Representative for the Prevention of Genocide, and Felicity Hill, activist and former Vice President of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF), were the guest speakers.

GAPW, along with Femmes Africa Solidarité and WILPF, analyzed the priority theme of the 55th Session of the CSW "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century" and submitted a written statement. Our statement, which strongly emphasizes that the inclusion and participation of women and girls in all aspects of communal life, including education and training as being vital to the creation and maintenance of peace, was distributed at the reception.



A copy of the CSW statement is available at <http://www.globalactionpw.org/wp/wp-content/uploads/gapw-statement.pdf>

GAPW Members followed closely other CSW side events. A report on several of these events is also available on our website.

Exploring Human Security Needs in Guatemala

January 20-21, 2011

Global Action was recently honored to share in important conversations in Guatemala about the future of that country's indigenous populations and security sector. Through the skillful and generous hospitality of a local representative of Friendship Bridge, we were able to make contact with representatives in communities along Lake Atitlan.

The women and men with whom we spoke have made extraordinary progress in both preserving local culture and in seizing opportunities for economic development. While the local leaders we met were extremely kind to us, they were also appropriately reluctant to get too involved with the policy concerns of 'northerners' with whom they had not gained sufficient trust.

Back in Guatemala City, we met with the extraordinary Luz Mendez, a contributor to our book, "Promoting Women's Participation in Conflict and Post-Conflict Societies." Luz is currently promoting the participation of women in electoral politics ahead of the next Guatemalan elections in September.



Highlighting DDR Programs for Women in the UN System

GAPW has chosen to focus on Disarmament, Demobilization, Reintegration (DDR) as a vital component of the Women, Peace and Security agenda, due to the organization's growing expertise in the disarmament field, and because there is a relative scarcity of gender-focused

DDR perspectives informing the UN policy system. We feel that there is a clear opportunity to contribute valuable time and expertise on DDR for advocacy aimed at the Security Council member states, and government in conflict and post conflict states, as well as influential donor governments that are focused on more gender-sensitive and inclusive DDR processes, in conformity with the Security Council resolutions 1325, 1820, 1888, 1889, and 1960.

The focal point of this project would be a mapping out existing programs and policies at national (government, NGO) and international (multi-lateral and UN system/agency) levels. Our research team is currently surveying developments in DDR and have already uncovered significant gaps including: the limited focus on women at all levels of DDR, lack of valid statistical data on women and DDR at all levels, a lack of coordination amongst UN agencies involved in DDR, and a lack of information on the impact of local civil society working on DDR.



Civilian Protection Update

Canadian Leadership on Conflict Prevention, R2P, and UNEPS: New Tools for Diplomatic and Civilian Engagement

February 16-17, 2011

In moving forward with this project we hope to develop a coherent, gender based, UN centered approach to women's participation in DDR as well as both qualitative and quantitative methods to accurately collect and assess DDR data on the field and at the high-policy level. Foremost, our goal is to generate greater advocacy focused on the importance of DDR to the broader Women, Peace and Security agenda.

For more information on the DDR program, please consult <http://www.globalactionpw.org/wp/wp-content/uploads/ddr-brief-march-2011.pdf> or contact jenneth@globalactionpw.org

GAPW was privileged to take part in several events in Ottawa, including a meeting with some of the leadership of the renowned Pearson Peacekeeping Center; a one day workshop entitled "Developing a Path for Young Peace Professionals" organized by Civilian Peace Service Canada, YOUCAN, the Canadian Institute for Conflict Resolution and other partners; and a luncheon event organized by the Group of 78 and the World Federalist Movement of Canada. Dr. Zuber of GAPW was the keynote speaker at the G-78 luncheon on the topic, "The United Nations and the Responsibility to Protect: The Current State of Play and Options for Expanding the R2P "Toolkit".

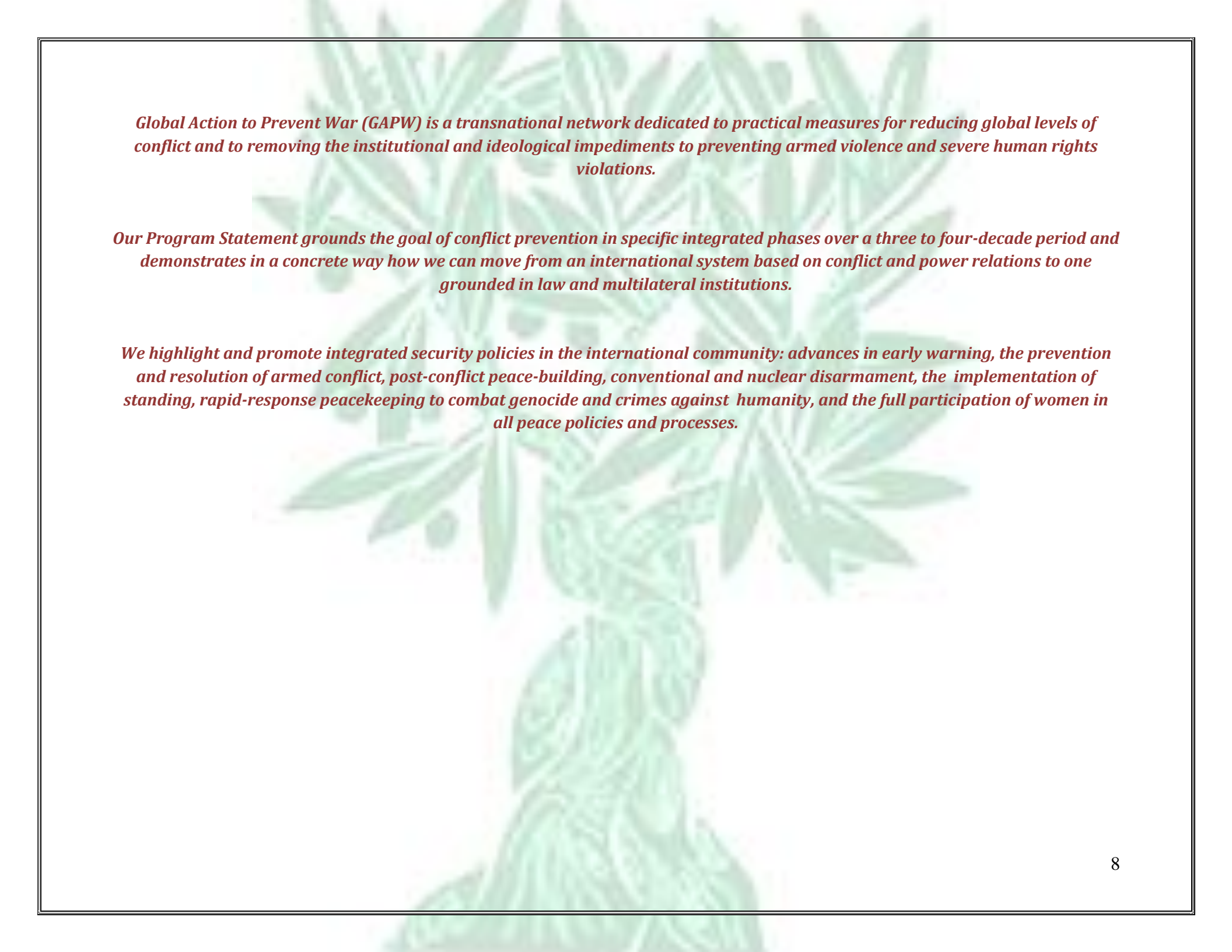
These and other discussions brought together several themes that guide GAPW's work – especially increasing

opportunities for young people to contribute to important peace processes in civilian capacities. We also remain committed to training and advocacy opportunities that can help develop robust regional responses to the 'responsibility to protect' and lead us closer to formal adoption of a UNEPS-style, rapid-response, integrated peacekeeping capacity.

As many of our readers know, Canada has exercised important leadership on rapid-response peacekeeping, the formal adoption of the 'R2P' norm, and on training for civilian peace professionals. We were enlightened, inspired and encouraged by the work of the many Canadian organizations with which we interacted, and look forward to developing more fruitful partnerships with each.



For Dr. Zuber's presentation, please consult our website.



Global Action to Prevent War (GAPW) is a transnational network dedicated to practical measures for reducing global levels of conflict and to removing the institutional and ideological impediments to preventing armed violence and severe human rights violations.

Our Program Statement grounds the goal of conflict prevention in specific integrated phases over a three to four-decade period and demonstrates in a concrete way how we can move from an international system based on conflict and power relations to one grounded in law and multilateral institutions.

We highlight and promote integrated security policies in the international community: advances in early warning, the prevention and resolution of armed conflict, post-conflict peace-building, conventional and nuclear disarmament, the implementation of standing, rapid-response peacekeeping to combat genocide and crimes against humanity, and the full participation of women in all peace policies and processes.