



59th Pugwash Conference on Science & World Affairs *European Contributions to Nuclear Disarmament & Conflict Resolution*

About the Pugwash Conferences on Science and World Affairs

The first historic Pugwash Conference was held in Pugwash, Nova Scotia in 1957 at the height of the Cold War, bringing senior scientists from across political divides to discuss in a cooperative setting ways to diminish the nuclear dangers facing society. The meeting resulted from the 1955 Russell-Einstein Manifesto. Adding his name to this manifesto was the last public act of Albert Einstein's life.

Throughout its more than 50 years' of experience, Pugwash has proven its ability to promote arms control, disarmament and security through a range of mechanisms including small consultations, larger workshops and study groups, publications and other outreach. The importance of this work was recognized when Pugwash and one of its founders, Joseph Rotblat, jointly received the 1995 Nobel Peace Prize *"for their efforts to diminish the part played by nuclear arms in international politics and, in the longer run, to eliminate such arms"*

Pugwash continues to focus on the need to decrease the salience of nuclear weapons, to promote further significant reductions in and elimination of existing arsenals, and to avoid the further proliferation of nuclear weapons. Today, Pugwash also focuses on the need to promote conflict prevention and resolution in areas of nuclear risk, including its groundbreaking work in South Asia (including historic meetings in Kashmir, and current high-level Track II meetings between senior Indians and Pakistanis) and the Middle East (featuring high level meetings on peace in the region, the WMD Free Zone in the Middle East, and other topics). Pugwash has national groups in some 50 countries, and offices in Rome, London, DC and Geneva.

Pugwash is structured to respond quickly and professionally to moments of opportunity as they arise, while working under this overarching strategy. This requires a very nimble organization and highly professional and focused staff who can mobilize at short notice to pull together some of the world's leading policy makers and experts for cutting-edge discussions. This dexterity is well-recognized and feedback indicates it is widely appreciated.

Pugwash workshops engage current and former policy makers, experts, and opinion shapers who participate in their personal capacities, according to Pugwash/Chatham House rules (the substance can be reported out but not attributed to any one person). Because of this arrangement, our meetings tend to produce insightful and targeted recommendations that often find their way into the corridors of power through reports and personal post-workshop meetings and briefings.

This 59th Pugwash Conference includes a series of open plenary sessions and a series of private workshops that build upon our programmatic areas.

We are indebted to those organizations who have helped in the organization of this meeting, including the European Leadership Network, the German Pugwash Group (VDW), and International Student/Young Pugwash.

We also greatly appreciate the support of our current and recent funders who make these and related events possible, including: German Federal Foreign Office (who provided significant financial and logistical support that made this meeting possible), Carnegie Corporation, Connect US, Eaton Foundation, German Peace Foundation, the Heathside Charitable Trust, Royal Norwegian Government, Oxfam, Ploughshares Fund, Simons Foundation (especially for their support of the Simons Symposium), US Department of State, and national Pugwash groups (who also provide significant financial and logistical support for our various meetings).

www.pugwash.org



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