

The 53rd Pugwash Conference on Science and World Affairs

The 53rd Pugwash Conference on Science and World Affairs will take place in Halifax, NS, July 17 -21, 2003. The conference theme is "Advancing Human Security - The Role of Technology and Politics". There will be a one day visit of the 170 persons attending to the Thinker's Lodge in the village of Pugwash, Nova Scotia, where the Pugwash movement started. In 1957, scientists from 10 countries were called by Bertrand Russell and Albert Einstein's *Manifesto* to discuss the means of ridding the world of nuclear weapons. Since then, Pugwash participants, acting on their own as individuals, have played an important role by entering into discussions with analysts and policy makers to deal with arms control issues of the day, and assisting in the groundwork for international treaties. In 1995, the Nobel (Peace) Prize was awarded in equal parts to Joseph Rotblat, founder, and the Pugwash Conferences.

In the Pugwash Conferences, the participants are called to participate in a multi-day event that seeks new ways to grapple with international problems of peace and security. Over the years, while retaining the focus on avoidance of nuclear war, Pugwash discussions have broadened to include a full spectrum of peace and security issues, including small arms, terrorism, prevention of conflict, threats and promises of science and technology, environmental degradation, and, of particular interest at this time in history, human security. This conference will cover conflict prevention, public protection from weapons of mass destruction, peace support operations and governance methodology that would assist in advancing these goals. New technology for human development and mitigation of global environmental change will complete the agenda. Human security and national security are complementary concepts that have always been on the Pugwash agenda. This conference will concentrate on the human security side; it is understood that security, environmental sustainability and development tend to converge. Therefore the path to development, for both war-affected regions and regions that are currently stable, must simultaneously address these three facets. The Pugwash Conferences have, in addition, a multi-dimensional view of these human security problems by virtue of the multi-disciplinary background of the group, together with representation from over 40

countries. High-level support for the conference, in other venues, has always been shown by the participation of senior government officials as keynote speakers. The Honourable Susan Whelan, Minister of International Cooperation has been invited to be the keynote speaker at the opening plenary. In addition, Dr. Jill Sinclair, Director General, International Security Bureau, DFAIT was the keynote speaker at the preparatory seminar held by the Canadian Pugwash Group, in July 2002, and has been invited to be a panelist for a session at the Halifax 2003 meeting.

The established pattern of the Pugwash Conferences is that the Pugwash Council¹ (the governing body) meets immediately before the conference and its members continue their work as conference attendees. About 30 students and young persons, early in their careers, but already showing promise of their contribution to society, are invited to the conference, 10 from Canada. All of this will provide opportunities to engage a wider Canadian audience as the address of the Minister Whelan will be noted by the media, the Pugwash Council will issue a post-conference statement, and the student participation will ensure that connections are made with the next generation of Canadian and international experts in the field.

The general theme of the Conference is approved by the Pugwash Council, the governing arm of the international body, and the conference organization and theme details are implemented by the Canadian Pugwash Group. The Secretary General and the President of Pugwash will both address the conference. Jayantha Dhanapala, Under-Secretary-General for Disarmament Affairs, United Nations, will give the Dorothy Hodgkin Lecture, a central event of the Conference. A Public Forum will be held; at this writing, the keynote speaker is to be determined. The first return of the conference to its place of origin in Pugwash, Nova Scotia is a major one-day event in the conference. Traditionally these conferences consist of plenary sessions (individual eminent speakers and expert panel discussions) and breakout meetings of Working Groups. The Working Groups meet over several days, about 25 people to a Group, which enables them to

¹ The official name of the Pugwash Council is the "Council of the Pugwash Conferences on Science and World Affairs".

discuss their agenda in depth, in preparation for reporting to the final Plenary Session.

The Working Groups are:-

WG 1: Nuclear Weapons

- Status of and prospect for nuclear disarmament. Prospects for the 13 steps decided at the 2002 NPT Review Conference
- Recent developments in nuclear proliferation
- Current strategies and postures of nuclear-armed states. No first use

WG2: Weaponization of Space and Missile Defense

- Weaponization of space and its impact on civil activities. Preventing weaponization of space
- Missile defense
- Negotiating and verifying limits on missiles

WG3: International Cooperation and Human Security

- Role of international institutions in the prevention of armed conflict. Civilian protection and humanitarian assistance
- Multilateral actions and unilateral initiatives
- Post-conflict reconstruction; governance; assistance to democratization

WG4: Terrorism

- Terrorism: its roots and its divisive effects on the world community
- Technology and the prevention of terrorism. Antiterrorism and limitation of civil liberties
- Preventing terrorists from obtaining weapons of mass destruction

WG5: New Technology for Human Development and Security

- Communications, monitoring and information technology for human protection
- Agricultural biotechnology
- International cooperation to promote equity in human development: access to and availability of water, energy, food

WG6: Mitigation of Global Environmental Change

- Advances in modeling and long-term projections

- Initiatives and technology to limit human-induced global changes
- Protecting forests and biodiversity

For many years, the annual Pugwash Conferences have been financed by the national Pugwash Group — in the host country. A long-standing tradition of Pugwash is that people (in 2003 - 170 or more persons from more than 40 countries) coming to the Conference shall not have expenses in the host country. Participants pay only their travel; in some cases (particularly for attendees from developing countries) travel subsidy is provided.

The Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT) has responded to the application to its Human Security Fund, by the international Pugwash Council, with a Contribution Agreement that funds 50% of the conference. A key element in Canadian foreign policy recognizes that "lasting stability cannot be achieved until people are protected from violent threats to their rights, safety, or lives."² The Conference is also sponsored by the Government of Nova Scotia, The Regional Municipality of Halifax, the Ploughshares Fund, the Pugwash Parks Commission and the Cyrus Eaton Fund.

²DFAIT's website www.humansecurity.gc.ca



Fundamental Considerations on Human Security

When the organization and its founder were awarded the Nobel Peace Prize, in two equal parts, the citation noted that "The Pugwash Conferences are founded in the desire to see...a vision of other solutions to international dispute than war. "

Prominent scientists from around the world gathered in Pugwash, Nova Scotia, in 1957, in answer to the call of philosopher Bertrand Russell and scientist Albert Einstein, who had written in their 1955 Manifesto:

"In the tragic situation which confronts humanity, we feel that scientists should assemble in conference to appraise the perils that have arisen as a result of the development of weapons of mass destruction ...

Here, then, is the problem which we present to you, stark and dreadful and inescapable: Shall we put an end to the human race; or shall mankind renounce war?"

Today the Pugwash movement continues to seek ways to end war and to bring about nuclear disarmament. But its agenda is now broader. It examines not only the global nuclear threat but also threats posed by conflict, terrorism, environmental degradation and underdevelopment in the world. Pugwash now includes experts in the social as well as the biological and physical sciences, and the Conferences often hosts political leaders.

From the start, Pugwash emphasized the need to consider our common humanity, our responsibilities as individual human beings to each other and the imperative of finding common approaches to solving global problems. The Manifesto declared:

"We are speaking on this occasion, not as members of this or that nation, continent, or creed, but as human beings, members of the species Man, whose continued existence is in doubt ...

We appeal, as human beings, to human beings: Remember your humanity, and forget the rest. If you can do so, the way lies open to a new Paradise; if you cannot, there lies before you the risk of universal death."

The recent focus on human security, in which the primacy of the individual is upheld—no matter the race, creed, colour or nationality—is welcomed by the Pugwash movement because it is in harmony with the most

basic goal: creating security for people. The theme allows Pugwash to view its agenda from the most important of point of view, the individual human being.

It also brings the traditional strength of Pugwash—knowledge of science and technology—to bear on the pressing challenges for human security. There are a great many links between science, technology and human security. Science and technology provide keys to either a better, more peaceful world or to greater destruction, even "universal death." Pugwash has always sought to explore the possibilities to enhance the positive aspects and reduce the negative applications of science and technology. On the one hand, technology can bring people together through more rapid and inexpensive communications and travel. On the other hand, technology provides new means to increase the power of terrorism, weaponize space and even end civilization.

Which keys are used depends on human choice, both individually and collectively. For this reason the organizers of this conference have a title that brings the important dimension of politics into the discussions. The theme, "Advancing Human Security: The Role of Technology and Politics", is in keeping with Pugwash's long-standing tradition of providing analysis that is policy-relevant and helpful to governments, analysis that is aimed at advancing human security.

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