

Canadian Pugwash Group

Chair: Dr. Adele Buckley, Toronto, ON; Vice Chair: Dr. Walter Dorn, Toronto, ON; Secretary: Prof. Sergei Plekhanov, Toronto, ON; Treasurer: Dr. Erika Simpson, Victoria, BC; Directors: Prof. (emeritus) Peter Meincke, Ottawa, ON; Prof. Peter Walker, Wolfville, NS; Prof. (emeritus) Derek Paul, Toronto, ON

G8 Summit – Gleneagles, July 2005 **Intervention by the Canadian Pugwash Group – June 24, 2005**

Climate Change

We wish to register our distress at the news (June 17 05) that the Climate Change Action Plan has been altered by the United States, with the effect of weakening the plan. Global warming has already led to changes in the Earth's climate. Recent observed conditions could well be informing us that climate change is presenting itself at the more extreme end of its projected range of effects. We urge the G8 meeting not to deny reality, but to make concrete plans to both mitigate and adapt to climate change for the benefit of the earth's population, and the whole ecosphere. The degradation of our environment is only partially addressed through action on climate change. Unsustainable use of resources is diminishing vital supplies of food, water and energy to the world's people, and is leading to irreversible changes in our environment. The end point of this degradation is an uninhabitable Earth, our only home. For this reason we urge the G8 nations to have constantly before you that this is the context of your climate change deliberations. One useful step to address this situation is by putting a topic such as "Environmental Degradation and Sustainability" on the agenda for the next G8 meeting.

HIV/AIDS and African Development

Africa's problems are far from homogeneous, and require country and region-specific planning. Extreme debilitation of large segments of the population by HIV/AIDS is, however, common to virtually all African countries. This has the effect of negating progress in development, and is generating a multiproblem environment. Unfortunately, one very serious result is an erosion of stability and security. This intersects with the specific concerns and interests of Canadian Pugwash, and international Pugwash (www.pugwash.org). We commend to your attention a new report from the Control Arms Campaign, from Oxfam Canada, Amnesty International, and Project Ploughshares. The G8 should not persist in selling weapons that oppress the world's most vulnerable people, including those in Africa. Therefore, we urge the G8 to support an international Arms Trade Treaty.

CONTACT:

Dr. Adele Buckley, Chair, Canadian Pugwash Group

Canadian Pugwash Group, 6 Tepee Court; Toronto, ON M2J 3A9
416-491-9307 (res); adele-buckley@rogers; abuckley@oceta.on.ca

Past Chairs

The Hon. Douglas Roche, O.C.; .M.Gen.(ret) Leonard Johnson; Dr. William Epstein; Prof. John Polanyi C.C.