

**Report international meeting preparation anti-NATO summit 2017, Brussels.
December 17th, 2016 - 11.11.11, Brussels.**

Present: Julie Van Ham (Ecolo), Felipe Ferreira (CPPC), Gabi Bieberstein (Attac Germany), Kristine Karch (No to Nato), Reiner Braun (IPB - NtN), Paula Polanco (intal - WPC), Lars Van Densen (intal), Antoine Baguet (intal), Gerard Halie (Mouvement pour la Paix France), Eric Brune (CGT France), Nur Devrin (CSO), Joris Verhuyck (Planet Life), Karina Knight (Stop Fueling War France), Andrew Lane (QCEA), Bob Brown (PASCF), Wouter Hillaert (Hart boven Hard), Thierry (Agir pour la Paix Belgique), Naïma Regueras (CNAPD), Quinten Vanheuverzwyn (intal), Jérôme Peraya (Agir pour la Paix Belgique), Ilse Grieten (intal Leuven), Lene Jacobs (Vredesactie), Ludo de Brabander (Vrede vzw), Jeanne Babar (Quinoa), Roisin Antoine (JOC), Maxime Vanlaere (Comac), Kees Kalman (VD Amok - Vredesmagazine), Ingela Martensson (Women for Peace), Jan Schaaque (Oorlog is geen Oplossing), Gerard Halie (Mouvement pour la Paix), Claudine Polet (CSO Otan), Lucas Wirl (NotoNato), Michael Youlton (PANA), Matt De Vlieger (United for Peace and Justice USA), Marc-Antoon De Schryver (intal), William Donni (intal), Ria Verjauw (Belgische en Internationale Coalition to ban nuclear weapons), Friederike Benda (Die Linke), Carla Goffi (Mouvement Chrétien pour la Paix, Belgique), Christian Pierrel (PCOF France), Natalie Eggermont (Climate Express), Luisa Meneses (Parti Humaniste Belgique), Marlène Tuininga (Comité Abolition armes nucléaires), Yves-Jean Gallas (Mouvement pour la Paix), Luis Tinoco (Agir pour la Paix / intal), Kate Hudson (CND), Samuel Legros (CNAPD), Lieve Franssen (Hart boven Hard), Veronique Coteur (intal).

Agenda:

- Welcome word host organizations
- Introduction word with foreign guests
- Discussion on the Appeal (proposal Belgian organizations)
- Working groups : Brainstorm on different actions for counter summit
- Practical organizations

0. Welcome word : Naima Regueras (CNAPD : Belgian coordination of peace movements) welcomes all participants in name of the Belgian organizations.

1. Introductory word with the participation of Reiner Braun (IPB), Kristine Karch (No to Nato Network) and Felipe Ferreira (Portuguese Council for Peace and Development - CPPC)
Kristine Karch: The threat of NATO is worse than ever. They also try to involve social society movements so they would be supportive for militarization. For the activities it would be important to have a broad range and also organize direct actions.

Reiner Braun: what we should consider is the election of Trump and the effects on militarization. Europe wants to develop itself as military power, with own drones, a European army. Europe wants to emerge as superpower, with an own nuclear arsenal. With regards to Russia: peace in Europe is not possible without Russia. NATO is present all around the world. The confrontation with China should worry us all. There is a big danger for war in the Asia Pacific. We should not wait for the summit to take action, but act for peace in all our countries.

Felipe Ferreira: we send our solidarity to the Belgian organizations and the activities they plan to put up during this summit. When the summit took place in Portugal, we worked during one year to build up a mobilization with the slogan 'Yes to peace, no to Nato'. We

launched our call to all Portuguese organizations, and had a large platform of more than 100 organizations from all kinds. For the mobilization we got the support of tens of organizations from around the world. We will set up activities in Portugal in 2017 against NATO. The Belgian organizations can count on our solidarity and participation.

2. Discussion on Appeal text developed by the Belgian organizations. Group input:

- too general - detail more the text
- we need concrete examples + concrete demands
- mention the wars where NATO was involved: Yougoslavie, Afghanistan, Syria, Libya, Iraq ..
- demand the withdrawal of troops
- bilateral partnerships NATO and countries
- explicit more the nuclear threat > Trump wants to modernize the nuclear arsenal
- include the demand for the dissolution of NATO (long term objective)
- we have to open up to other sectors - broaden the text:
- Put sharper what NATO proposes : aggression, militarization, ... versus what we want : solidarity, peace, social justice, ...
- NATO and the refugee crisis, migration : include that in the text
- impact of NATO on daily life : militarization of society / of Europe - military on the streets
- the war on terror?
- the call has to engage people to action
- economy is missing in the text. We should get other movements with us (TTIP, Attac, ...). war is waged for economic interests.
- What is missing in the text: people. War and bombs make victims. We talk about people.
- The life (and culture) around military bases. Bases that open up at special occasions for large public. Military exercises that are dangerous for population.
- integrate aspect of security
- we should mention North Africa, where there is a lot of NATO activity currently
- Can we include Guantanamo ? (US imperialism)
- Where is the peace movement? In the 80's there was a big anti-nuclear movement and afterwards a big movement against the war in Iraq. We need to have the trade unions with us: our governments are investing in war, and cutting in social services. Do other countries have good practices working with the TU?

> Conclusion: Samuel (CNAPD) will adapt the Appeal text. It will be hard to include all remarks. We prefer to keep the text short. We can always work with background articles. There is a consensus that the call has to come from Belgian organizations if we want it to become a success. See how we can work closely on international level.

3. Different working groups (feedback from the groups cf. 4)

- Demonstration by Veronique Coteur (intal)
- International Conference by Ludo De Brabander (Vrede)
- Non-Violent Direct Action framework by Jérôme Peraya (Agir pour la Paix)
- Decentralized Actions by Michael Youlton (PANA)

4. Feedback from different working groups and practical organization

- Demonstration

Our objective is to have a mass mobilization reaching out to as many sectors as possible of Belgian society, strengthening the Belgian peace movement. We want it to be accessible for families with their children. A creative march, for which we want to work with Hart Boven Hard.

We propose to organize the manifestation in the center of Brussels, and not in the area of NATO HQ because that is very isolated. Starting and finishing near a train station for accessibility and squares. Start at Luxembourg Square. As 'targets' we propose to pass the European parliament (militarization in Europe), the US embassy and the Belgian Ministry of Defense. If the manifestation is big, we can easily continue until Midi train station. For us it is very important to have the Belgian trade unions on board with us, to ensure a large mobilization. We had a good experience with the [fighter jets mobilization](#), that is the basis for us. A weekend day (preferably a Sunday - if the summit ends on a Saturday, we plan the mobilization on a Saturday) is the best for the manifestation. If the summit is during the week, we propose to organize the manifestation the Sunday of the weekend before. We need a concrete message (not a vague "Against NATO", because many people don't know NATO). We want to have a positive message also (Invest in peace, not in war). We will organize the mobilization as close as possible with the real summit.

- International Conference: Proposal in annex

We could organize the conference in an evening and a day session.

Ideal is to have the thematic conference with plenary sessions and workshops during day time, and an opening meeting with VIP speakers the previous evening with the intent to attract a large audience and the attention of the media (for ex. with well known people ... mentioned are Jeremy Corbyn, Naomi Klein, Noam Chomsky, Medea Benjamin, Ann Wright, John Pilger, Arundhati Roy,...).

The opening meeting/conference can focus on: "Why we should oppose war!"

For the day program we can start the morning plenary session with a large panel that is broader than the peace movement : people from the trade unions, etc. on the militarization of our society.

In the afternoon we would organize two sessions of Working Groups to go more into detail on certain aspects of NATO (like nuclear arms, military spending, interventions, EU-NATO,). This could be divided into an analytical and a strategic part.

The late afternoon plenary session would be more a discussion between peace activists focusing on how to resist NATO, how to act!

We could end the day with a cultural program or movie showing (for ex. Shadow World).

We hope to attract a large section of civil society movements (people from the peace movement, but also other movements like trade union, climate movement, ...). How to do this? > You find the concrete proposal for the conference and workshops in the annex.

Remarks from the public:

- We can do a live stream.
- we should integrate testimonies of victims from war.
- We can invite organizations that work on depth, austerity measures, ...
- proposals are made for other key issues to be discussed in the Workshops: NATO enlargement (will be important subject at next summit), Woman and NATO, MoU with Sweden and Finland, NATO and Africa (Drone base in Niger), NATO and refugees, Military bases and environmental problems, media and war,...

- Non-Violent Direct Action framework : (Agir pour la Paix)

Introduction with the experience of certain direct actions such as TTIP Games and Climate Games, which were organized recently. Organizing 1 big direct action is difficult (security wise). The proposal would be to create a framework in which different actions are possible. We can also create scenarios, so the actions can take place in different countries. Link up the direct actions to the mobilization, because it can reinforce. For the framework it is important to work with targets. We can work with story telling.

We can organize a week of action, but also a day of action and use social media to raise mobilization. For the message: many young people don't know what is NATO, so we have to communicate about the crimes committed by NATO, and promote Peace.

Needed:

- Framework
- Week(s) of action
- Diversity of action
- ... of Targets
- ... of messages
- Opportunities
- Visibility
- Social Media
- Link to mobilization, media
- Daily live actions
- Increase awareness, education

Needed:

- Call to action (Linked to the appel)
- Training Week-end beforehand for trainers(?) > Vredesactie and Agir pour la Paix give trainings for non-violent direct actions.
- Training by social media
- Camp ?
- Website (to centralize informations)
- Action consensus framework
- Target List (Belgium/ international)

General remark: It's important the participants are trained and stay within the frame. We don't want negative media coverage.

We should also foresee a variety of actions that is accessible for everyone who wants to act: sing same song, actions people can do from home, ... to broaden the possibilities for activism. Involve celebrities (helps to reach out into the media).

- Decentralized Actions:

(1) The need for the creation of a shared webpage built to inform all members and friends about activities likely to happen in the future and incorporate suggestions and thoughts about such activities .

(2) We need to have a specific approach to reach out to African and black American organizations to integrate them. They don't seem to be particularly active in the anti-NATO movement and pro-peace activities.

(3) Michael explained the activities of the Peace and neutrality Alliance, the Irish Anti War Movement and Shannonwatch which since 2002 continues to organize pickets outside Shannon Airport to oppose the use of the airport by US Forces. He would like to invite all European friends to join them in the next few months .

5. Conclusions:

We will bring back the inputs to the Belgian organizations. They will work on new proposals. Another meeting will be planned on February 4th.