

**Pugwash Conferences on Science and World Affairs**  
*1995 Nobel Peace Prize*

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**Principles, Structure and Activities of Pugwash  
For the Twelfth Quinquennium: 2013-2018**

**Preamble**

The 2013 Pugwash Quinquennial Conference adopted the document entitled *Principles, Structure and Activities of Pugwash* which has served as a guideline for the organization and activities of the Pugwash Conferences since then. Some modifications to that document have been introduced below, in light of experience and the changed political, governance, and security conditions of the early 21<sup>st</sup> century. While grounded in the founding rationale of Pugwash, the current document is intended only as a guideline. Traditions of flexibility and unconventionality, built up over several decades, should continue to be the hallmark of Pugwash.

**Principles**

1. The Pugwash Movement is the expression of the awareness of the social and moral duty of scientists to help to prevent and overcome the actual and potential harmful effects of scientific and technological innovations, and to promote the use of science and technology for the purpose of peace.

Its main objective is the elimination of all weapons of mass destruction (nuclear, chemical and biological) and of war as a social institution to settle international disputes. To that extent, peaceful resolution of conflicts through dialogue and mutual understanding is an essential part of Pugwash activities, that is particularly relevant when and where nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction are deployed or could be used.

More generally, Pugwash goals encompass all issues that lie at the interface between science and world affairs, on which the committed and competent intervention of scientists can play a useful role.

2. The characteristics of Pugwash, governing its activities, are:
- a) participants are invited in their personal capacity and represent no one but themselves;
  - b) participants are primarily scientists, academics and public policy specialists;
  - c) participants cover a wide spectrum of geographical, social, cultural, religious and political groupings of the international scientific community;
  - d) there is no formal membership and a minimum of formalized structure;
  - e) debates in Pugwash are conducted in a spirit of scientific inquiry, objectivity, and open-mindedness.

Pugwash carries out its activities independently or together with kindred organizations, provided that the principles and *modus operandi* of Pugwash are respected.

3. The various Pugwash activities (general conferences, workshops, study groups, consultations and special projects) provide a channel of communication between scientists, scholars, and individuals experienced in government, diplomacy, and the military for in-depth discussion and analysis of the problems and opportunities at the intersection of science and world affairs. To ensure a free and frank exchange of views, conducive to the emergence of original ideas and an effective communication between different or antagonistic governments, countries and groups, Pugwash meetings as a rule are held in private. This is the main *modus operandi* of Pugwash. In addition to influencing governments by transmitting the results of these meetings, and by involving decision makers in joint discussions, Pugwash also may seek to make an impact on the scientific community and on public opinion through the holding of special types of meetings and through its publications.

### Structure

4. **Participants.** All participants in Pugwash activities are individually invited on behalf of the Pugwash Executive Committee. Pugwash is not a mass movement, but an organization of scientists, academics, and policy specialists. Others may also be invited to provide expertise in specific areas. In order to ensure that Pugwash findings are received with respect and make an impact, efforts are made to involve the participation of eminent figures in all Pugwash activities. To help ensure the continuity of Pugwash, young participants should also be involved, particularly those who show promise of scientific and public policy achievement.

### 5. Governance.

The **Pugwash Council** is a high level policy forum which provides guidance and direction to the organization, with membership drawn from several geographical regions and areas of expertise, which meets approximately every 18 to 24 months at the general meetings. In addition, it advises on the scope of the activities of the organization, on the programme of meetings and helps Pugwash set the agenda.

Membership of the Council should reflect adequately the diversity of the international scientific, academic and public policy communities, including age and gender. Once elected, a member of Council acts as an individual and not as a representative of a national group, a nation or any organization. The Council will elect a Chairperson from among its members.

The Council is affirmed by the Quinquennial Conference at a plenary session and serves for a period of five years. A slate of candidates is prepared by the outgoing Council, taking into consideration suggestions received from the National Groups. The Council's selections for the slate from the pool of nominees will be based on the individual's capability and willingness to actively contribute to the work of Pugwash, with attention paid as well to professional, geographical, and cultural considerations.

Given the importance of the rotation of membership on the Council, members will normally serve no more than two five-year terms.

Prior to being elected, a candidate should agree to serve on the Council, attend its meetings, participate in the subcommittees which the Council may wish to create, and



actively further the goals of Pugwash. If a Council member fails to attend more than two consecutive meetings, Council may appoint a new member in his/her place for the remainder of the Quinquennium, respecting the criteria noted above. The Council can co-opt new members for the rest of the Quinquennium, provided that this is needed in order to promote Pugwash activities in some particular area.

The President and Secretary General are members of the Council *ex-officio*. Former Secretaries General will be invited to serve as ex-officio members of the Council for the duration of the 12<sup>th</sup> Quinquennium.

The *Pugwash Executive Committee* is the executive decision-making body of Pugwash, and takes decisions on major policy matters within the general framework laid down by the Quinquennial Conference, and in the light of advice from the Pugwash Council

The Executive Committee of the Council consists of up to twelve members, including the four officers of Pugwash (President, Secretary General, the Chair of the Executive Committee, and the chair of the Pugwash Council), plus up to eight other members selected by the Pugwash Council. The Executive Committee will select the chair of the Executive Committee, and may co-opt other members of Council to meet special needs.” A slate of candidates for the Chair and membership of the Executive Committee is prepared by the outgoing Executive Committee.

The primary tasks of the Executive Committee are to assist the Secretary General in the implementation of the policies and activities of Pugwash, to help in fundraising, to act in matters of policy and take up such other matters as directed and authorized by Council. It will have oversight over the finances of Pugwash and approve the budget as well as the annual statement of financial accounts. The Executive Committee can approve Pugwash activities and issue (under its own name) public statements.

Council meetings are normally held on the occasion of the general conference, or as needed. The Executive Committee meets as often as needed between Council meetings, but no less than once a year to approve the budget and financial statements. Subgroups of the Council are encouraged to meet on a regional basis together with the main representatives of the national or local Pugwash groups.

The *President* is the titular head of the Pugwash Conferences. The function of the President is to represent Pugwash on formal and public occasions, in addition to participating in the decisions and discussions of the governing bodies.

The *Secretary General* is the chief executive officer of Pugwash and has responsibility for the organizing of activities, the international offices, financial transactions, and official correspondence of the Pugwash Conferences. The Secretary General has the responsibility for formulating decisions related to the proposed agenda, nominations of chairpersons, speakers, and authors, and lists of participants for Pugwash conferences, workshops, meetings and consultations. The Secretary General will keep the Executive Committee and/or the Council regularly informed on a timely basis of his/her decisions and actions, and in all aspects the Secretary General is ultimately accountable to the Executive Committee.

The *Executive Director* works with the Secretary General in managing the day-to-day activities of Pugwash, including the organizing of workshops and conferences, publications and website, outreach to national groups, and fundraising and budgetary issues.

The President and Secretary General are elected by the EC and confirmed by the next Council whenever a vacancy occurs. National Pugwash Groups and the broader Pugwash

community should be invited to suggest candidates for these positions and endorsement of such appointments should be obtained at the next Quinquennial Conference. The Executive Director is appointed by the Pugwash Council for the duration of the 12<sup>th</sup> Quinquennium, through 2018, subject to renewal at that time.

**6. National and Local Groups.** National or local Pugwash Groups are formed because they contribute to Pugwash by:

- a) stimulating the interest of scientists and experts of their country in Pugwash activities;
- b) influencing their governments and public opinion, through individual meetings and other forms of outreach;
- c) organizing national programs consisting of seminars, lecture courses, public and private meetings, and other activities (sometimes jointly with other groups) to further the objectives of Pugwash;
- d) suggesting participants for international Pugwash activities;
- e) submitting to Council suggestions for organizing and hosting international meetings, including the selection of participants, invited papers, chairpersons, rapporteurs;
- f) providing hospitality and facilities to international Pugwash meetings;
- g) raising money for Pugwash activities;
- h) contributing to the travel of participants from their country to international Pugwash activities.

The form of organization of the national groups could vary from country to country, but each national group should contain prominent members of the scientific community. With respect to nominations of individuals for Pugwash activities, final selection of participants will be made by the Pugwash officers in close consultation with the Executive Committee and the local Pugwash groups that may be involved in the specific issues involved, based on qualifications for the task at hand.

**7. Student/Young Pugwash.** The International Student/Young Pugwash movement, with its own agenda and goals, helps introduce the younger generation to the principles and objectives of the Pugwash Conferences. Liaison with Student/Young Pugwash groups is maintained by inviting their active participation in the Pugwash general conference and other Pugwash activities.

**8. Relations with Other Organizations.** Pugwash as an independent entity does not affiliate itself with other organizations. *Ad hoc* collaboration with other groups is encouraged, provided that the principles and modus operandi of Pugwash are respected. Financial support from outside bodies is acceptable, and indeed essential for the work of Pugwash, but no strings may be attached. No funds should be accepted if it compromises the freedom to invite individual scientists, the choice of topics for discussion or of meeting venues, or the issuing of public statements.

### Activities

**9. The General Conferences:** The general conference plays a central role in Pugwash activities in several important ways. These conferences are normally organized at a time interval of 18 months to 24 months. It allows a larger number of participants to come together on a periodic basis to meet and share information and expertise on a wide variety of



scientific and policy issues, thus providing continuity for the organization. The general conference also has an important function in reviewing work carried out in the smaller Pugwash workshops, and of identifying new and appropriate topics for Pugwash to focus on in the year ahead. Finally, the general conference is also the occasion for meetings of Pugwash Council members with representatives of national Pugwash groups and Student/Young Pugwash.

The format of these conferences should be kept flexible, to be decided on by the Executive Committee in consultation with the national/local group hosting the meeting. Traditionally, the conferences have consisted primarily of large plenary sessions and smaller working group meetings, but these can be supplemented by special panel discussions, more time to review ongoing Pugwash work, and above all adequate time for discussion of future Pugwash activities. The Executive Committee and the host country should be encouraged to explore new formats for the general conference (including size, duration and types of conference activities) that can attract the highest quality participants from the scientific, academic and public policy communities.

A sufficiently high proportion of participants suggested by the national groups should be ensured, taking into account the need for new participants as well as adequate geographical, gender, age distribution, and financial affordability. Above all, the emphasis should be on the quality of the participants rather than the number of countries from which they come. National Pugwash groups and Council members will be asked to suggest participants at an early date and the final selection will be made by the Executive Committee.

Adequate representation from regions in conflict, and where Pugwash activities are substantial, is of the essence. Financial help for travel should be sought for this.

The national Pugwash group hosting the general conference must make every effort to ensure that all those invited will be allowed entry into the country.

At the conclusion of the general conference, the Pugwash Council could issue a statement, on its own behalf, on important security issues facing the international community. Such statements will be disseminated widely to national groups, international organizations and NGOs, national governments, and the media.

**10. Quinquennial Conference.** Held every five years, the Quinquennial Conference is the occasion for deciding organizational issues such as election of the Council, of the Executive Committee, confirmation of the President and Secretary General and appointment of the Executive Director, as well as the revision of the documents on the goals and principles of Pugwash.

**11. Workshops, Consultations and Study Groups.** The primary analytic and substantive work of Pugwash occurs in the workshops and study group meetings held during the year. These are typically 2-3 day meetings of between 15 and 40 people, selected on the basis of their knowledge and understanding of the subject under discussion. The initiative for organizing international workshops and special meetings rests with the Secretary General and the national/local Pugwash Group hosting the meeting, with the Secretary General satisfying himself/herself that conditions ensuring a high quality of discussion will be met. Every effort should be made to commission high quality papers and to generally ensure the widest possible dissemination of workshop summaries, papers, and policy recommendations.

The Secretary General may also take advantage of special opportunities for convening private meetings (Consultations) between scientists and policy specialists on

particularly urgent and sensitive matters, including consultations with parties to national and international conflicts that fall within the priority areas of Pugwash. Although Pugwash normally avoids secret meetings, occasionally such non-publicized, private meetings can play a particularly useful role in advancing the objectives on which Pugwash was founded.

Study group meetings are those workshops convened on particular topics, that meet sequentially over a period of time, and that consist of a high proportion of the same participants. Study groups are most often convened directly by the Secretary General and are the preferred format for those core Pugwash issues (nuclear weapons, chemical and biological weapons, conflict resolution, regional security and regional stability) where expertise and analysis need to be built up over time.

**12. Special Projects.** The Secretary General may also commission special projects, carried out by small teams or individuals, on well defined topics. Such sustained projects could be carried out by *ad hoc* groups working under the supervision of the Secretary General, or by one or more national groups, after approval by the Secretary General. Such projects may also be undertaken jointly with outside bodies.

**13. Other Activities: Consultations.** The Secretary General may also take advantage of special opportunities for convening private meetings (Consultations) between scientists and policy specialists on particularly urgent and sensitive matters, including consultations with parties to national and international conflicts that fall within the priority areas of Pugwash. Although Pugwash normally avoids secret meetings, occasionally such non-publicized, private meetings can play a particularly useful role in advancing the objectives on which Pugwash was founded.

## **Publications and Outreach**

**14. Publications.** While based on the premise that free and frank discussions at Pugwash meetings are best served by keeping such meetings private, it is nonetheless of great importance that the results and analysis emanating from Pugwash discussions have the widest possible dissemination to the scientific/research community, policymakers, the media, other non-governmental organizations, and the general public.

Increasingly, the *Pugwash Website* has become the primary source of information on Pugwash meetings, outreach activities, governance, national groups, and other information of interest to the Pugwash and wider scientific communities. Increasing use is also being made of social media (Facebook, twitter, etc) and *PugwashForum* and *PugwashNet*, two email listservers with which to communicate with the international Pugwash community and Pugwash national groups, respectively. Decisions on the functioning of the listservs should be made by the Executive Committee or by the officers.

An Annual Pugwash Report will include coverage of Pugwash workshops, consultations, meetings and other events and list Pugwash meeting reports, other papers and other news. Information on activities and reports will be distributed via Pugwash forum on a rolling basis as appropriate

Other Pugwash publications that seek to inform, educate, and have an impact on the thinking of policymakers, the media, NGOs, policy specialists, and the public: including briefing books, issue briefs, and other formats.



In addition to the above, Pugwash will continue to explore and make use of new publication formats made possible by advances in electronic and internet technology, with the aim of disseminating research and policy analysis to the widest audience possible in the shortest time-frame and at the lowest cost.

**15. Outreach.** As an organization dedicated to informal and informed debate among individuals often having different opinions but discussing issues in the scientific spirit of give-and-take free inquiry, Pugwash also has a responsibility to inform governments, policymakers, and the public of its conclusions. In addition to the publications mentioned above, other ways of achieving this goal are:

- holding open plenaries during the general conference that are open to the media and the public;
- convening press conferences and issuing press releases, when appropriate, at the conclusion of general conferences and specialized workshops;
- holding public events, with special Pugwash speakers, in conjunction with specialized Pugwash workshops and study group meetings;
- encouraging participants in Pugwash meetings to meet and talk with their national policymakers and media, while recognizing that such individuals will be speaking for themselves and not on behalf of Pugwash, and will not be quoting other meeting participants without express permission or otherwise identifying particular individuals or groups with particular views;
- greater use of the internet and the Pugwash website to convey information to policymakers, the media, and the informed public, through targeted email notification of new postings on the Pugwash website.

In view of the sensitive nature of many of the topics discussed at Pugwash meetings, only the Pugwash Executive Committee or the Council are authorized to issue public statements on behalf of Pugwash. When such statements are issued, they should receive the widest publicity, reaching all of the relevant Pugwash constituencies.

When the officers of Pugwash take a public stand, they should make clear whether they are speaking on behalf of Pugwash (according to a mandate received by the Executive Committee) or on their own initiative.

*Adopted at the 60<sup>th</sup> Pugwash Conference on Science and World Affairs*