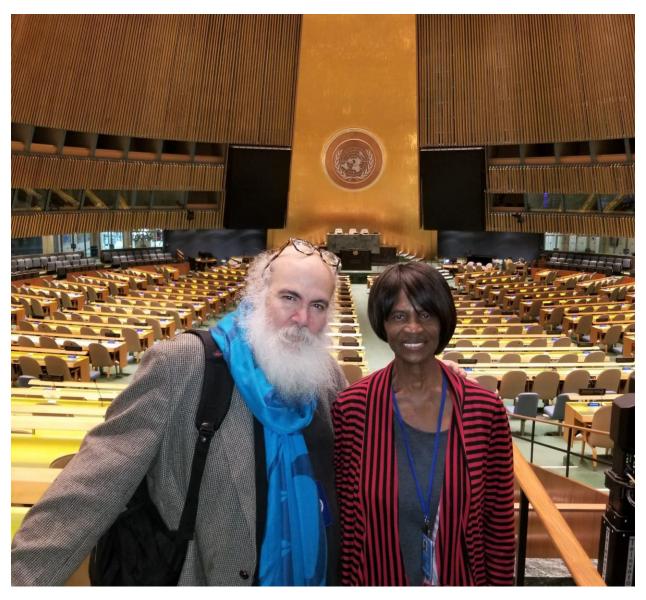# IPRA and the United Nations

IPRA Secretary General Matt Meyer and UN Team member Francis Peterson, United Nations General Assembly (2019)

IPRA Secretary General and UN Team member Matt Meyer discussing 21st Century decolonization with the President of the General Assembly

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One-on-One with the President of the General Assembly

18 Nov 2019 - The President of the General Assembly, H.E. Mr. Tijjani Muhammad-Bande

IPRA Secretary General and UN Team member Matt Meyer with President of the General Assembly H.E.Tijjani Muhammad-Bande (Nigeria)

How is IPRA related to the UN?

IPRA has a long-standing relationship with the United Nations, registered as a non-governmental organization (NGO) with the UN Department of Public Information. IPRA has also served for decades as an NGO with special consultative status with the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). Our fraternal relationship with the UN Economic, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has included deep connections with IPRA co-founder Elise Boudling, and the awarding to IPRA of the UNESCO Prize for Peace Education in 1989. With an ongoing New York-based IPRA UN Team working in a number of UN priority areas, IPRA was singled out by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon for our pioneering work especially around disarmament and an end to nuclear weapons.

Who is the IPRA UN Team?

A Main Representative and several Alternate Representative members have served as part of the IPRA UN Team for many decades.

The current IPRA UN Team is headed by IPRA SG Matt Meyer and includes:

Cyril Obi, Program Director of the [Social Science Research Council](#)'s [African Peacebuilding Network](#) and the [Next Generation Social Sciences in Africa](#)

Emily Welty, Pace University Director of [Peace and Justice Studies at Pace University](#), former UN representative of the World Council of Churches, and a co-founder of the [International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN)](#), a 2017 Nobel Peace Prize-winning organization, where she works on faith-based engagement in nuclear disarmament
Resource: [Dr. Emily Welty, Peace and Justice Studies Association](#)

Garret Fitzgerald, Pace University Assistant Professor of [Peace & Justice Studies](#) in the [Department of Women's and Gender Studies](#), scholar-practitioner working at the [Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies](#) at the University of Notre Dame, and an associate of the [International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War](#), a 1985 Nobel Peace Prize-winning organization dedicated to promoting disarmament as a matter of public health.
Resource: [garrettrfitzgerald.com](#)

Francis Peterson, Retired Professor of the City University of New York

The 2020-2023 Team included (l to r):
Cyril Obi, Program Director of the Social Science Research Council
Alejandro Molina, National Boricua Human Rights Network
Heidi Boghosian, Executive Director of the AJ Muste Foundation
Sekou Odinga, co-founder of the Black Panther Party International and the Spirit of Mandela coalition, and
Matt Meyer, IPRA Secretary-General
Francis Peterson (not pictured)

This photo from 2017 shows IPRA UN Team members (l to r)
Meyer, Francis Peterson, Matthew Bolton, and Emily Welty.

Current and Ongoing Work

Of the six Main Committees of the UN, Emily Welty and Garret FitzGerald work primarily with the First Committee, *Disarmament and International Security*. Matt Meyer works with the Fourth Committee, *Special Political and Decolonization*. And all IPRA representatives work to implement the UN Sustainable Development Goals and to promote peace education everywhere! Several IPRA current and recently former IPRA Council Members also hold UNESCO Chair positions, including from China and South Africa.