Give Peace a Budget

Report of the 18th International Conference on Conscientious Objection to Military Taxation and Peace Tax Campaigning

Brussels, Belgium | 4–6 September 2026



The Brussels gathering brought together campaigners in the room and online.

Executive summary

The story of Brussels was not that a small international movement met to remember better days. It was that a movement with 40 years of accumulated experience examined, with unusual honesty, whether it still had the people, structures and language needed for the next stage of its work. The answer was neither easy optimism nor defeat. It was a set of practical openings.

What emerged	Why it matters
A living history. Klaus Waiditschka, Monica Frisch, Wolfgang Steuer, Jan Birk and others connected the present campaign to the people, translations, court cases and conferences that built it.	Institutional memory became a resource for action rather than an anniversary exercise.
Renewal is possible. Belgium reported a revived 11 per cent redirection campaign; the United States reported striking digital growth and a new generation of enquiries.	Neither example transfers mechanically to other national contexts, but both show that a clear moral issue plus an accessible next step can find an audience.
Campaign assumptions were tested. Delegates questioned how digital attention becomes participation, how active resisters can be identified and supported, how legal and political opportunities differ, and what organisations can realistically sustain with limited capacity.	The exchange sharpened the questions the campaigns must answer as they turn attention into organised support.
A peace budget became concrete. Participants identified diplomacy, mediation, peace education, unarmed protection, conflict prevention, climate action and just transition as infrastructure that requires public funding.	The campaigns can speaknot only about money withheld from war, but about the security and justice that redirected money could build.
UN work was defended and challenged. Delegates valued the protection of conscientious objectors to military service while insisting that objection to military taxation remain visible.	The discussion produced a more honest strategic balance between immediate human-rights defence and CPTI's founding purpose.
Governance and follow-up were addressed. Accounts, board appointments, UN succession, communications and the next conference were considered, with an online follow-up proposed within two to three months.	The conference did organisational work as well as exchanging ideas, although several proposals still require formal confirmation and capacity.

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Conference at a glance

The 18th International Conference gathered participants from national campaigns, international peace organisations and allied movements. Some joined throughout by video, bringing experience from the United States, Britain, continental Europe and elsewhere into a single hybrid room. The central question was how conscientious objection to military taxation can be made publicly meaningful at a time of expanding military budgets, renewed conscription debates and shrinking capacity in many peace organisations.

Friday evening was reserved for welcome and social contributions. Saturday combined country reports with CPTI's formal General Assembly and an extended discussion of the theme 'Give Peace a Budget'. Sunday examined work at the United Nations and Human Rights Council, the organisation's strategic direction, cooperation with international partners and the Global Days of Action on Military Spending.

1. A movement remembers itself

Robin Brookes's welcome

In his opening address, CPTI chair Robin Brookes marked forty years since the first international conference in Tübingen in 1986. He recalled that CPTI grew out of cooperation between national movements and was founded in Hondarribia in 1994 to take their concerns to the United Nations. He noted that Eleanor Forman and Ruth Benn had begun engaging with the UN in New York. Robin traced "Give Peace a Budget" to the Norwegian peace-tax campaign and invited participants to consider how redirected taxes could support institutions and skills for resolving conflict without violence.

Informal gatherings started from Friday evening. The programme called what followed a social evening. In practice, it became a members' remembering: an improvised oral history told by people who had not merely witnessed the peace-tax movement, but had made it. The stories travelled through Zambia, Seattle, Tübingen, Brussels, the Basque Country, Britain, Bogotá and Geneva. They showed how international campaigning survives: somebody notices an idea, translates it, carries it home, convenes others, loses a case, keeps the records and tries again.

Klaus Waiditschka: a newspaper on a table in Lusaka

Klaus Waiditschka, a pioneer of Netzwerk Friedenssteuer and later an editor of the German Peace Tax News, began with an image from the early 1980s. While visiting educational projects in Zambia, he was invited to the home of a Canadian couple in Lusaka. On their table lay a Catholic newspaper containing a pastoral letter from Seattle Archbishop Raymond Hunthausen, who had announced that he would withhold half his federal income tax in protest against nuclear weapons and military spending.

The idea arrived, as Klaus put it, 'out of the blue'. He took the paper back to Germany, translated the letter and helped publish it through an organisation then known as Living Without Armaments. It became one of several roots from which the German peace-tax movement grew. Local groups formed; campaigners who had independently reached the same moral conclusion found one another; and an organisation took shape.

Klaus then helped organise the first International Conference on War Tax Resistance and Peace Tax Campaigns in Tübingen in 1986. He remembered the multilingual labour behind it, especially the interpreters who allowed people to deliberate across English, German, Spanish and other languages. In 2002 he again carried organisational responsibility when the ninth conference met at Hirschluch near Berlin, with around eighty participants and guests from German public institutions. The conference later entered the published history of the centre itself: a small example of movement work passing into a more durable public record.

Jan Birk: from international service to organisational responsibility

Jan Birk described a different path into the same movement. After voluntary work in Africa from 1985 to 1988, he was sent by International Christian Service for Peace to the 1992 Brussels conference to explore cooperation. Two years later, at Hondarribia in the Basque Country, he was one of the German signatories present when CPTI was formally founded. His national involvement deepened later, after family responsibilities changed; when the future of the German organisation became uncertain, he volunteered to take over. He now chairs Netzwerk Friedenssteuer.

That account mattered because it disrupted the idea of a single heroic founding story. People entered through religious networks, development work, opposition to nuclear weapons, conscientious objection, legal resistance and peace education. Leadership was inherited, sometimes reluctantly, when somebody decided that allowing the organisation to disappear would be worse than accepting another responsibility.

Monica Frisch: the moral logic that did not go away

Monica Frisch became involved with the British Peace Tax Campaign around 1980. She remembered the fourth international conference in Brussels in 1992, when meeting others who were concerned specifically with ‘taxes for peace, not war’ felt remarkable. The British peace movement was larger than this one campaign, CND addressed nuclear weapons and many organisations worked against war, but the question of forced financial participation was unusually personal.

> *“It seemed so obvious: if you’re opposed to war, you don’t want to be paying for it.”*
>
> **Monica Frisch, long-standing Conscience campaigner**

Monica also recalled the 1994 conference at which CPTI became a formal entity and the commitment that led Conscience to host the 1996 conference at Hoddesdon. Hosting moved between national campaigns; finding the next organiser was often difficult. Her memories placed the current UK organisation within a long chain of staff, trustees, volunteers and resisters who had kept the argument in public life even when political opportunity was limited.

Wolfgang Steuer: experience, court action and the human infrastructure

Wolfgang Steuer, a retired general practitioner, traced his involvement to work in Tanzania and to his growing conviction that politics in the global North was trapped in military thinking. He joined the German peace-tax movement in 1983 and brought a case against his regional revenue authority. It did not succeed, but the attempt placed his conscience on the legal record and joined a sequence of cases that continues to shape the German campaign.

His recollections ranged beyond his own case. He remembered interpreters such as Konrad Borst, shaped by Gandhian experience in India and social work in Peru, and he described the difficult but vivid Bogotá conference: young participants, work on conscience, visits to parliamentarians and a consequential debate over where CPTI’s administrative responsibility should sit. These memories showed that organisations are held together not only by policies, but by relationships, translation, hospitality, dispute and the willingness to carry out administrative work after the exciting part of a conference has ended.

Making the conference history visible

Before the conference, Fay prepared a digital display tracing forty years of international conferences, from Tübingen in 1986 to Brussels in 2026, using surviving photographs and conference records. It was intended to accompany Friday evening’s remembering. In practice, the hybrid arrangements left no suitable space for an additional digital display, while the limited time and cost of producing good-qualityprinted photographs made a physical version impractical. Once finalised and checked for image permissions, the display is intended to be circulated with the report and made available through the CPTI and Conscience websites.

The display was therefore not shown during the conference.

Greetings from friends unable to attend

After the conference, Hannelore Morgenstern asked that messages received beforehand, but not conveyed during the programme, should be included in this record. Gertie Brammer sent her greetings. Kanhaiya Joshi wrote from Nepal amid devastating flooding, sending his best regards to CPTI friends and urging the movement to renew how it works, communicate more effectively online and attract younger generations.

Kanhaiya also noted that he had not received invitations to several previous conferences and was uncertain whether he could join this one online. His message combined affection for longstanding friends with a practical challenge that closely matched the weekend’s discussions about communication, participation and organisational renewal.

> *“My idea is we have to be able to attract more and more people and especially those who are of new generations.”*
>
> **Kanhaiya Joshi, message sent before the conference**

WHY FRIDAY MATTERED

The people in the room were not names to decorate an anniversary. Their lives contained the movement's methods: translation, conscientious refusal, legal challenge, education, international organisation and patient succession. Preserving their accounts is part of preserving CPTI's capacity to act.

2. Country reports: six very different political realities

The country reports were the working heart of Saturday morning. They made clear that 'peace tax' does not describe one uniform tactic. A Belgian can interact with an annual tax assessment in ways that a British worker under PAYE generally cannot. A US campaign can teach people how to adjust the amount of federal income tax withheld from their pay; a Russian campaigner may face serious danger simply for making an anti-war position public. The value of comparison was therefore not to copy a mechanism, but to identify the political choices, communication practices and forms of support beneath it. Written country reports and supporting documents supplied by contributors will be made available separately with the final report, subject to their agreement.

Belgium: turning a revived campaign into public action

Paul Blondeel introduced a Belgian campaign that had moved from preserving an older legacy to designing a new action. Earlier campaigners had asked who would carry the work forward; an initial 'vigilance committee' achieved little, but a smaller working group returned to the task and developed materials in Dutch, French and English. The revival was not presented as complete. Its success depends on relationships still being negotiated with trade unions, peace coalitions and civil-society bodies. That incompleteness made the report more useful: participants could see a campaign in the act of being built.

The central proposal is that citizens redirect 11 per cent of their personal income tax into a provisional peace-tax fund, pending the creation of an official Belgian peace fund. The percentage was calculated from the campaign's estimate of Belgian military and defence-related expenditure in 2026, using expenditure across both national and regional levels of government and excluding social-security spending. The campaign's initial ambition is to involve around 1,000 people, enough, it hopes, to create a public debate that scattered individual actions would not.

Two lower-risk routes were explained. People expecting a tax refund could ask that the relevant 11 per cent be directed to the provisional fund. People with tax still to pay could initially withhold that portion and place it in the fund, then pay the authority after a formal demand and receive the redirected sum back. A third route, continuing refusal after the formal demand, would carry greater legal consequences. The current group does not intend to promote that route without the capacity to give appropriate support.

Paul insisted that this was political action, not only private moral witness. The target is the allocation of public money and the disappearance of peaceful alternatives from political perception. Carla Goffi added the complexity of Belgium's linguistic regions and the political weight of arms-industry employment, particularly where unions fear job losses. The discussion therefore moved quickly to conversion: research suggesting that civilian sectors can create more work per unit of public spending; production of buses, renewable-energy equipment or health infrastructure rather than weapons; and a just transition in which workers and unions help decide how skills are redirected. A supporting paper circulated by Jan Hellebaut expands on this discussion and is intended to be made available with the final report.

Ria Verjauw pressed the group to identify Belgium's spending on diplomacy, mediation and conflict prevention, not only its military percentage. The difficulty of finding those figures became evidence of the problem: governments can describe military budgets in great detail while peaceful capacity remains fragmented or obscure. The Belgian report thus combined a concrete act of redirection with a wider educational demand, show people the alternatives and the public choices that make them possible.

United States: contraction, digital resurgence and a new generation

Lincoln Rice reported for the National War Tax Resistance Coordinating Committee (NWTRCC). The organisation marked forty-four years in 2026. Its history contains both substantial contraction and recent resurgence: in 1990 it had eighty national and local affiliates and forty local “alternative funds”—escrow bank accounts used by war-tax resisters to hold money withheld from tax payments, with access governed by agreed conditions; by 2026 it reported around thirty-six affiliates and two remaining funds, with most redirection now undertaken individually.

Its strongest recent opening has been online. Before the war in Gaza, NWTRCC’s website received around 40,000 unique visitors a year. Lincoln reported nearly 150,000 in 2024, almost 400,000 in 2025 and more than one million already in 2026. Instagram grew from roughly 600 followers before Gaza to more than 42,000. ‘War Tax Resistance 101’ sessions are offered at least monthly and sometimes weekly near the US tax deadline; they can attract around thirty-five people out of season and hundreds at the peak. Sixty-three new donors had been recorded so far in 2026, apart from literature orders and meeting registrations.

The people making contact also appear to be changing. Younger people and people of colour have approached NWTRCC in larger numbers, often motivated by US support for the war in Gaza. Other enquiries have been driven by fear of authoritarian overreach, immigration enforcement or particular military actions rather than by an established identity as absolute pacifists. Lincoln treated that breadth as significant: opposition to complicity can become a route into deeper consideration of conscience.

Growth in enquiry has not translated straightforwardly into visible membership. New resisters may fear the Internal Revenue Service, criminal prosecution or surveillance and are often reluctant to attend public gatherings. NWTRCC therefore combines practical education about filing, withholding, collection and penalties with mutual support, including links to a penalty fund. The report did not present resistance as consequence-free, and the discussion underlined that legal and financial circumstances differ sharply from country to country.

Hybrid organisation was another practical lesson. Since 2015, NWTRCC gatherings have included online access; after the pandemic, one annual gathering became fully online and the other in-person with hybrid elements. Participation widened geographically and became more accessible to disabled people and those for whom travel cost was prohibitive. This was particularly relevant at the conference in Brussels, where online contributors were not an audience watching the conference but active participants questioning speakers, supplying workshop proposals and joining decisions.

The strategic distinction between US war-tax resistance and peace-tax legislation was explicit. NWTRCC prioritises supporting people who resist; the National Campaign for a Peace Tax Fund (NCPTF) is a separate US organisation focused on federal legislation. Because NWTRCC works by consensus and includes members opposed to legislative campaigning, Lincoln did not expect it to absorb that role. The US report therefore offered communication and support lessons for Britain, not a tax mechanism that can be transplanted into PAYE.

Germany: strong arguments, small numbers and a legal dead end

Jan Birk described a markedly harder public climate since Russia’s full-scale invasion of Ukraine. Many people in Germany feel directly threatened, and support that peace organisations once received cannot be assumed. At the same time, pressure has pushed parts of the peace movement into closer cooperation. Rethinking Security, an umbrella process involving roughly 160 organisations, has created space to ask what security actually means and to challenge the assumption that it can only be delivered militarily.

Netzwerk Friedenssteuer continues to seek a Civil Tax Act that would allow tax to be directed towards non-military defence and peace. Jan reported that 15,000 signatures had once been presented to the president of the German parliament and that a further 6,000 were later collected, without decisive parliamentary movement. The campaign has produced a new introductory film, holds several national and online meetings each year, engages at large Protestant Church gatherings and has opposed measures that normalise military presence in schools and universities. A €1,000 peace prize was passed to the alternative international peace conference held alongside the Munich Security Conference.

Legal action remains central but constrained. Jan estimated that campaigners had brought around one hundred court cases over the years. A person can initially approach a regional tax court without a lawyer, but further appeal requires legal representation that the network has been unable to secure. Earlier constitutional challenges failed; the present lack of a lawyer makes the route feel like a dead end before the argument can reach the higher court.

The next hope is coordinated public action. Netzwerk Friedenssteuer was seeking the support of the German Peace Society for a group of perhaps ten to twenty people prepared to make their objection together and take it into court and public debate. The modest scale was deliberate. The US numbers impressed Jan, but Germany's task was to build an action its actual network could sustain.

> *"There is a frightening difference between the force of our arguments and the force of our numbers."*
>
> **Jan Birk, chair of Netzwerk Friedenssteuer**

The sentence became one of the conference's clearest strategic diagnoses. Good arguments do not organise themselves. They require people, money, communication, legal skill, partnerships and a route from agreement to action.

United Kingdom: what Conscience reported, and what delegates asked

Jonathan Maunders presented Conscience's report for the two years since the Lübeck conference. The long-term objective has not changed: a legal right for people with a conscientious objection to have the military portion of their taxes directed to peacebuilding. What changed was the immediate route. Financial pressure, limited organisational capacity and an increasingly militarised political climate made a near-term legislative breakthrough unrealistic. Conscience therefore shifted towards raising awareness, building support, responding to political events and laying stronger foundations for later parliamentary work.

The backdrop is a UK debate in which higher military spending is increasingly treated as the default answer to insecurity. Arguments about unreliable alliances, war in Europe, conflict in the Middle East and renewed national-service or conscription proposals are used to normalise more military capacity. Jonathan described the slow-motion character of this change: if each step is incremental, the public may barely notice how far the political baseline has moved. That makes the campaign more difficult, and more urgent.

Conscience's practical response has several strands. Peace Tax Tuesdays, launched online in 2025, gives weekly structure to short explainers, topical graphics, supporter voices and calls to action. Website, email andsocial-media work connect current events to conscientious objection and try to create clearer routes from first interest to following, joining, petitioning or donating. The monthly ebulletin reaches more than 1,370 people and records an open rate just above 30 per cent. Around 1,200 postal appeals are sent twice a year, and a twelve-page printed Conscience Update continues to reach supporters for whom a wholly digital campaign would be exclusionary.

A Supporters' Panel launched in March 2026 to bring supporters into the organisation's thinking. Its first meetings emphasised practical action, follow-through, younger audiences, especially universities, stronger alliances and positive framing around peacebuilding. New Education for Peace resources have addressed non-military security and the conversion of arms-industry skills. Conscience has also focused on promoting the considerable material that already exists instead of assuming that every campaigning need requires a new publication.

The report placed Conscience within the wider UK peace movement. An online public meeting brought together voices from CND and War Resisters' International. A petition launched with partner organisations around International Conscientious Objectors' Day, opposing conscription proposals and defending objectors' rights, passed 1,000 signatures. Conscience strengthened relationships with War Resisters' International, the Fellowship of Reconciliation and Pax Christi; joined fifty-four other organisations in a public letter against increased military spending; and worked with Sir Mark Rylance, whose public letter connected the war in Gaza with conscientious objection to the use of his taxes.



Jonathan and Fay represented Conscience and the UK campaign

The report was candid about limits. Conscience has two part-time staff members. Legislative progress is slight, the supporter and donor base is ageing, and a small number of generous people contribute a large share of the organisation's income. Digital attention does not automatically become membership, action or money. People may arrive through opposition to a specific war or injustice without yet seeing their concern as conscientious objection to military taxation. The strategic task is to build that bridge without narrowing the movement's moral and political breadth.

Delegates did not respond with polite applause alone. Jez Smith asked how many people were actively resisting in Britain, whether donor numbers were rising or falling, how much cross-party support existed, whether early parliamentary wins were possible and whether Conscience had the capacity for more proactive media work. Jonathan's answers exposed real gaps. The UK tax system makes resistance difficult to track; enquiries do not necessarily become confirmed actions; donor numbers have declined; some political relationships cannot yet be made public; and media ambitions have been constrained by capacity.

That questioning was one of the most valuable outcomes for Conscience. It sharpened the need for a better map of active and potential resisters, clearer next steps after an enquiry, disciplined political relationship-building and timely media interventions. It also surfaced opportunities: a participant from Wales urged engagement with the Welsh Government and Plaid Cymru; online participants requested Conscience materials and asked to remain connected. The UK report therefore did two jobs. It shared work that other campaigns could use, and it subjected Conscience's own assumptions to international scrutiny.

Switzerland: an unusually direct tax-to-military link

Jez Smith offered a shorter Swiss report from the perspective of CPTI's Geneva work rather than a domestic peace-tax campaign. Men who do not complete military or civilian service can be charged a military-service exemption tax. For a conscientious objector, this creates an unusually explicit link: the state is not merely allocating general revenue to defence; it is imposing a named military charge because the person did not serve.

The discussion noted that individuals have challenged the system and that one European human-rights case succeeded on particular disability and discrimination facts, without creating a general right to refuse the tax on grounds of conscience. Fay asked whether any challenge had focused directly on compelled financing of the military. The question matters beyond Switzerland because a clearly labelled military tax may expose the moral connection that governments deny when revenue is pooled.

Jez also described a forthcoming Swiss referendum on neutrality as an opening for public discussion of military spending, diplomacy and what genuine security requires. He was careful not to claim a national campaign that did not exist. The contribution was an invitation to notice a strategically useful legal and political moment.

Russian Federation: when public advocacy itself is dangerous

A participant from the Russian Federation described the collapse of already narrow space for peace-tax campaigning after 2022. Earlier attempts by two individuals to begin a dialogue with public authorities between 2018 and 2020 produced no change. Russia's departure from the Council of Europe removed access to the European Court of Human Rights for subsequent violations; new criminal and administrative provisions make public anti-war expression dangerous; and there is no organised constituency for a peace-tax law.

The report distinguished between private correspondence with officials and public advocacy, where the risk of fines or imprisonment is much greater. It also described organisations that assist young people facing conscription or seeking civilian alternatives, even though those organisations do not generally address the financing of war. For many people committed to non-participation, emigration has become the only available act, an option that carries severe personal cost and removes skilled, economically active people from the country without producing a domestic campaign.

Participants connected this reality to international work: accurate evidence for asylum claims by conscientious objectors; opposition to forced return; and the need for post-conflict amnesties so that resisters can eventually return without imprisonment or loss of civil rights.The Russian Federation report has deliberately not been attributed to a named contributor because of safety concerns.

The transferable lessons

Context	Reported development	Lesson carried across borders
Belgium	A provisional fund and synchronised 11 per cent redirection action are being developed with a target of around 1,000 participants.	Make the moral claim tangible, collective and political; build legal and coalition support before escalating risk.
United States	Digital reach and introductory training expanded dramatically amid war and political crisis.	Connect a live moral concern to a clear next step; combine information with practical support and accessible hybrid participation.
Germany	Petitions, legal action and security-reframing continue despite a harder climate and limited numbers.	Strong arguments need organised allies, lawyers, succession and actions scaled to real capacity.
United Kingdom	Conscience is building awareness, education, alliances and supporter participation while retaining a long-term legislative goal.	Measure the path from attention to action; use international challenge to identify missing evidence and sharper asks.
Switzerland	A named military-service exemption tax creates a direct link between conscience and military finance.	Look for legal and political moments where the connection between an individual payment and military purpose is unusually visible.
Russian Federation	Public anti-war organising and access to external legal remedy have contracted severely.	Risk determines tactics. International documentation, asylum protection and secure relationships may be more realistic than domestic campaigning.

3. What was decided, and what was not

The General Assembly met on Saturday afternoon under the chairing of Robin Brookes. It accepted the minutes of the previous General Assembly held on 5 October 2024 and received the board's report. The report described an organisation sustained by a small international board, with members in several countries, and underlined that CPTI's effectiveness depends on the engagement of its member campaigns and individual supporters.

Succession was an immediate concern. Changes in board members' health and availability had reduced active capacity. Derek Brett had stepped down as treasurer, with Robin taking on that responsibility, while Jan Birk continued as secretary. Klaus Waiditschka had been co-opted to the board and was learning CPTI's United Nations work; Jez Smith had begun volunteering in Geneva. Personal medical details discussed in the meeting are deliberately not repeated here.

Item	Recorded status	Narrative record
Previous minutes	Approved	The minutes of the 5 October 2024 General Assembly were accepted without recorded objection.
2024–25 accounts	Approved	The examined accounts were approved. Monica Frisch had undertaken the independent examination.
2025–26 accounts	Draft / further action	A date/carry-forward point was identified. The corrected draft was to be examined by Monica before later approval.
Late filing penalty	Reported / review under way	A £375 Companies House penalty had been issued. Evidence of an attempted timely filing was being used to seek reconsideration, and safeguards had been put in place.
2027 expenditure	Board discretion agreed	No detailed annual budget was adopted. The meeting accepted that the board would monitor probable expenditure and act within available funds, principally for UN work, basic administration and necessary development.
Board membership	Approved	Klaus Waiditschka's CPTI membership and co-option to the board were approved, and he was elected as a company director. Derek Brett was re-elected to the board and as a company director. Eleanor Forman and Jan Birk were also elected as company directors, as recorded in the draft General Assembly minutes appended to this report.
Website	Need accepted; action not specified	Participants agreed that information must be easier to find and current material more visible. They did not authorise a particular redesign or amount of expenditure; purpose, audience and coordination with national sites require clarification first.
UN representation	Continuity supported	Derek's long service, Klaus's succession work and Jez's new Geneva contribution were recognised. Expansion beyond present capacity remained a strategic question rather than a funded decision.
Next conference	Promising lead; not confirmed	Jan offered to explore a German host for the conference in two years. The meeting deliberately recorded 'promising leads' rather than a confirmed venue or organiser.
Conference statement	Taken into informal session	A public statement or call to action was proposed but not drafted during the General Assembly. A short closing formulation emerged on Sunday.

CPTI's combined bank and PayPal balance at 31 May 2025 was £5,782.76, rounded to £5,783 in the General Assembly minutes. The £4,631.21 balance relates to 31 May 2026.

The website discussion was really about organisation

The call for a refreshed website was not a cosmetic complaint. Participants could not easily tell which of the national campaigns listed online were active, how to find recent UN submissions, what CPTI offered a first-time visitor or how somebody moved from interest to membership. Jan cautioned that an earlier redesign had been commissioned without sufficiently precise instructions; repeating that process would waste goodwill and money. Jonathan observed that the site felt designed for insiders who already knew where everything was. Jez connected the issue to a broader absence of regular internal updates, onboarding and an agreed external narrative.

The useful conclusion was therefore to define the communication job before buying a design: map the network, decide which audiences matter, distinguish the international site from national campaign sites, make current work visible and create a simple path for a new person. That work later appeared in the proposed first-year strategy.

A possible US–UN connection

The Assembly also explored whether NWTRCC might formally support CPTI's presence at the United Nations in New York. Lincoln explained that any change in NWTRCC's role would require consensus and was unlikely to be straightforward, given the organisation's focus on direct support for resisters and the views of members sceptical of institutional advocacy. He nevertheless offered to place a written proposal before NWTRCC's November meeting if it reached him by 15 October 2026 for circulation to members. This was an opening for follow-up, not an agreement by either organisation.

4. Give Peace a Budget: from slogan to programme

Saturday's session tested the conference theme rather than treating it as a finished line. Robin Brookes began with a small piece of evidence: when he wore a 'Give Peace a Budget' badge, people stopped him in shops and asked what it meant. A slogan that invites a real question can do more than a statement that only confirms the beliefs of people who already agree.

Klaus had proposed the theme because he wanted a positive vision. 'I refuse to pay for war' remains morally clear, but it begins with refusal. 'Give Peace a Budget' asks what public money should make possible. Paul supported the line while naming its difficulty: peace means different things, can sound soft, and is routinely claimed by militaries themselves.

> *"Peace is harder than war. It demands more than waging war."*
>
> **Paul Blondeel, Belgian peace-tax campaign**

The difficulty was productive. Monica argued that most people understand a budget because governments constantly debate one; disagreement about peace can open the conversation. For her, peace is more than an absence of shooting. It involves a sustainable life, a habitable world and institutions able to resolve conflict before violence becomes the only publicly visible option.

> *"Can't we cut out the killing stage and go straight to diplomacy?"*
>
> **Monica Frisch**

Jan agreed that campaigners did not need to settle one final philosophical definition before speaking. They needed a range of credible answers, examples and materials that allowed a short conversation to continue. Hannelore pushed for a practical outcome: decide whether the common badge was useful, then let campaigns adapt the supporting argument to their countries. The session did not record a formal adoption of a shared design, but broad support emerged for the slogan as a common point of entry.

Security without conceding the argument

Penny Heymans, joining from Norway, proposed 'security' as a stronger bridge to people who have been told that weapons keep them safe. Jan described Germany's Rethinking Security process as precisely that kind of invitation: not a ready-made answer exported to other countries, but a national conversation about what the military promises and whether it can deliver. Jonathan explained how Conscience increasingly makes the link in Britain. Peacebuilding is not the opposite of security; it is one of the means by which durable security is created. The useful question is whether record military spending has made people safer from war, climate breakdown, poverty or political instability.

Klaus suggested that the adjective 'unarmed' could keep the meaning clear: unarmed security, not a military institution calling itself a peace force. Jan took that thought into the harder field of defence. Many people are not opposed to defending communities; they are opposed to killing. Research and preparation for social defence, unarmed civilian protection and organised non-cooperation therefore belong inside a peace budget rather than being left as moral improvisation after a crisis begins.

Money, responsibility and agency

Robin connected the positive budget to conscientious objection. During the debate about the 2003 Iraq war, he felt that the state already possessed money he had contributed and could use it for violence he opposed. The common response, that money is fungible and no individual pound can be traced to a bomb, did not remove responsibility. Paying into a fund whose known purposes include war is still participation in those purposes.

> *"Money actually does things. We have a responsibility. We have agency. It matters where we get our money from, and it matters where we put our money."*
>
> **Robin Brookes, CPTI chair and member of Peace Tax Seven**

Robin compared the present-day military-tax objector with the ‘absolutist’ conscientious objectors of the First World War, people who would accept neither armed service nor work that materially supported war. Monica stated the modern UK contradiction simply: if conscription returned, British law would recognise a right to refuse to fight, but not a corresponding right to prevent one’s money from funding the war one would refuse to join.

What would a peace budget fund?

The discussion became most persuasive when it named institutions and skills rather than an abstract good. Participants’ examples formed a practical programme.

Investment	What participants meant
Diplomacy and mediation	More diplomatic capacity, professional mediators, quiet engagement before positions harden, and support for locally legitimate peace processes.
Conflict prevention	Early analysis, country expertise, relationship-building and rapid non-military response before a political problem becomes an armed confrontation.
Peace education	Nonviolent communication, conflict-resolution skills in schools, alternatives-to-violence programmes and public understanding of how conflicts have been prevented.
Unarmed protection and social defence	Prepared civilian structures that can defend people and democratic life without depending on lethal force; research, training and institutions rather than improvised courage.
Justice and human security	Programmes addressing poverty, displacement, social exclusion and rights violations that create or intensify conflict.
Climate and development	Investment in adaptation, food and water security, development and international cooperation where climate shocks and inequality are drivers of violence.
Conversion and just transition	Public planning with workers and unions to redirect arms-industry skills and facilities towards transport, renewable energy, health and other socially useful production.
Evidence and public learning	Independent research, accessible case studies, peace institutes able to challenge government, and communication that makes alternatives politically imaginable.

Robin proposed a structured problem-solving unit associated with the UK Foreign Office. Country specialists would combine their knowledge with mediation and conflict-resolution expertise, bring all sides and relevant factors into view and work through a disciplined process before ministers reached for military options. Ria’s Belgian example supplied a warning: a peace institute tied too closely to government may be prevented from promoting the education its research supports. Independence and public accountability therefore matter as much as a budget line.

Jez offered another line that linked peace to justice and gave the workshop a sharper edge: ‘Fund the tools of justice. Defund the tools of violence.’ He also pressed CPTI to think beyond the global North and to create low-barrier actions meaningful to people whose immediate experience may involve militarised police, displacement or ecological insecurity rather than the same history of conscription.



The workshop wall turned the slogan into propositions: budgets are political choices; unarmed security needs a budget; fund the tools of justice. Photograph supplied by Conscience.

Jonathan left post-it notes in the room and online to add



beside a flip chart and invited people messages.

Monica read the results into the record: ‘Budgets are political choices’; ‘Peace is right relationship’; ‘Prepare for peace’; ‘A conflict is a problem to be solved, not a war to be fought’; ‘Peacebuilding is not passive’; ‘We need to direct money to tackle the causes of conflict’; ‘Unarmed security needs a budget’; ‘Security is more than military security’; and ‘Fund the tools of justice. Defund the tools of violence.’

WORKSHOP OUTCOME

The slogan gained broad support as a shared conversation starter. Participants did not formally adopt one definition, badge design or international campaign plan. What they did produce was the beginning of a content

framework: conscience and agency, unarmed security, concrete peace infrastructure, justice, education and democratic budget choice.

5. Holding the line at the United Nations

CPTI has held special consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council since 1999. For much of that period, Derek Brett has supplied research, submissions and patient institutional memory. The conference took place during a handover: Klaus had begun shadowing Derek in Geneva, while Jez had recently joined as a volunteer and obtained a UN grounds pass. The work was therefore discussed as both a human-rights responsibility and a succession problem.



The Sunday discussion combined long institutional memory with new volunteer capacity

Defensive, forensic and vital

Jez opened with a deliberately unsentimental assessment: twenty-seven years after gaining UN consultative status, CPTI is not visibly closer to international recognition of a general right to conscientious objection to military taxation. That does not make the Geneva work empty. Its immediate role is ‘defensive, forensic and vital’: defending the established right to conscientious objection to military service, documenting violations, supplying reliable information to UN mechanisms and keeping the issue in the minds of diplomats and special procedures.

The presentation described a landscape in which states are reactivating or expanding conscription and pushing military activity into schools. CPTI’s work follows court decisions, treaty-body findings, Universal Periodic Review recommendations, repeated detention, reservists’ rights and gaps in protection for women and professional soldiers. It also asks what happens outside the country of origin. European asylum decisions for objectors are inconsistent; accurate UN documentation can become evidence that helps a tribunal understand the risk of return. Post-conflict planning should include amnesties for both recognised and unrecognised objectors so that people who fled are not met by military trials or stripped rights when they go home.

Carla connected the legal language to young Eritreans living in a Belgian migrant house. They may have fled indefinite military service without knowing the phrase ‘conscientious objection’, and their families may face pressure if they organise publicly abroad. Jez noted that CPTI had already delivered an oral statement on Eritrea and highlighted the diaspora tax and family consequences. The exchange was a reminder that rights language is useful only if it reaches people whose lives fit the right even when they do not know its name.

The strategic tension: service first, tax later?

Jez argued that CPTI must protect the credibility earned through technically rigorous work on military-service objection. Walking into every diplomatic meeting with an immediate demand for a peace-tax right could close doors in an era of rearmament. His proposed approach was opportunistic: raise military taxation where the legal connection is strong, where punitive financial measures are used against resisters or where quiet discussion can explore accommodation of conscience.

Robin and Monica accepted the value of the defensive work but resisted any strategy that allowed taxation to fade into an indefinite future. Robin’s analogy with the absolutists made the moral sequence explicit: a right to refuse the weapon is incomplete if the state can force the same person to finance it. Monica’s formulation for Britain connected the two rights rather than setting them against each other.

Derek placed the disagreement in time. When European conscription was receding, objection to taxation seemed capable of becoming more central. International developments reversed that progress. The objectives had not changed, an end to compulsory service, then to obligatory military taxation, and ultimately to the military resolution of international problems, but the pace and sequence had. The conference did not erase the tension. It named it and established a more credible basis for strategy: protect people under immediate coercion, retain the tax claim explicitly, and choose the moments and forums in which it can advance.

A three-year framework, and a first-year test

Jez circulated a first draft of a three-year strategy for 2027–29. It linked Geneva and New York advocacy, quiet diplomacy, alliances with climate and tax-justice movements, expansion beyond Europe and a clearer public story. Klaus welcomed the ambition but asked the decisive question: could a small volunteer network finance and staff it? Jan described the gap between CPTI’s formal access at the UN and its actual personnel and money. Katharina reduced the problem to four needs, money, people, communication and action.

Rather than ask the conference to endorse every future ambition, Jez read ten first-year propositions. They provide the most concrete strategic agenda produced during the weekend.

Area	First-year propositions	Status after Brussels
Internal network	Create a central digital community and a briefing digest every two months; audit member campaigns, priorities, legal capacity and data gaps; establish a shared library of legal briefs and UN templates.	Widely regarded as necessary. No platform, timetable or responsible team was formally appointed.
Quiet diplomacy	Map friendly or neutral missions in Geneva and New York; hold three to five listening meetings with diplomats; formalise coordination for upcoming Universal Periodic Reviews.	Supported in principle, subject to volunteer capacity and identifying a workable New York presence.
Narrative	Produce an updated guide to the campaign’s language and refreshed, accessible public materials focused on constructive alternatives and peace investment.	Strongly connected to the website and ‘Give Peace a Budget’ discussions; not yet commissioned.
Recruitment	Design a prompt welcome and pathway for students, legal researchers and individual supporters; identify ten target NGOs in tax justice, human rights and allied fields for exploratory conversations.	Seen as feasible first steps, but requiring follow-up, division of labour and realistic deadlines.

Participants suggested that more time was needed to read and review the entire three-year framework; Klaus proposed beginning with the essential first-year work and reviewing capacity before later phases. The clearest recorded outcome was an intention to convene CPTI and interested participants online within roughly two to three months, assess what the board and volunteers could realistically carry, and decide the first steps. In a public document, the distinction matters: Brussels produced a serious draft and a follow-up commitment, not a fully resourced strategic plan.

6. Cooperation beyond CPTI

The final scheduled discussion asked how CPTI should work with larger and better-resourced international organisations without duplicating what they already do or losing its own distinctive purpose. The answer was partly reassuring: cooperation exists. It is also fragile, often carried through the overlapping memberships and personal relationships of a very small number of people.

European Bureau for Conscientious Objection

Sam Biesemans, representing the European Bureau for Conscientious Objection (EBCO), described it as a Brussels-based legal network rather than a physical bureau. Its members include national and international organisations and individual experts. Its annual report surveys the position of conscientious objectors across the countries of the Council of Europe and has supported lobbying at the European Parliament, engagement with European Union accession standards and cases before the European Court of Human Rights.

The report also described a more difficult new phase. When conscription was suspended in much of Europe, conscientious objection receded as a political issue. As states restore or expand military service, the right must be defended again in national laws and practice. EBCO sometimes holds its General Assembly in a country where objectors face particular problems so that a press conference and parliamentary meetings can accompany the formal business. CPTI uses EBCO's evidence in United Nations submissions; Derek has helped connect the organisations over many years.

Existing UN partnerships

Jez named active cooperation with the Quaker United Nations Office, War Resisters' International and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. CPTI was a co-sponsor of a Human Rights Council side event following the OHCHR's periodic report on conscientious objection, even though none of its current Geneva representatives could attend that particular event in person. The example captured both the benefit and the vulnerability of partnership: CPTI's name and expertise remained present, but its ability to contribute depended on a few volunteers' time.

Participants also named the International Fellowship of Reconciliation, Pax Christi International, World BEYOND War, the Quaker Council for European Affairs and the German organisation Connection. Monica and Jan asked CPTI to distinguish personal overlap from organisational cooperation: who is formally in relationship with whom, what does CPTI contribute and how are members told about it? The proposed member audit, briefing digest and ten exploratory NGO conversations were practical answers.

Global Days of Action on Military Spending

The German campaign had already linked one of its actions to the Global Days of Action on Military Spending (GDAMS). Participants saw an obvious fit: a network concerned with compulsory financing of war can add conscience, tax choice and peace investment to a global challenge to military budgets. The conference did not settle a CPTI programme. Jan proposed that the board put the question on its agenda; Klaus offered to translate a German history and overview of the campaign into English for wider use.

7. Outcomes and next steps

The closing mood was neither triumphalist nor resigned. Derek was encouraged by the revival of the Belgian campaign after a period in which successive international meetings had seemed smaller. Robin described the new US interest and Belgian activity as 'green shoots'. The useful synthesis was that renewal exists, but only organisation will turn it into durable capacity.

Follow-up	Status	What should happen next
Participant review of this report	Immediate	Confirm names, quotations, figures, photographs, decision wording and any missing Monday outcomes before public release.
Formal General Assembly minutes	Separate authoritative record	Circulate the revised draft minutes in Appendix B for chair approval and retain the approved financial detail in the formal record.
Online CPTI meeting	Intended within 2–3 months	Choose a date, include conference participants and use it to agree a realistic subset of first-year strategy actions.

Follow-up	Status	What should happen next
Member and campaign map	Proposed / widely supported	Check which organisations and contacts are active, what they need, what legal capacity exists and what should appear on the website.
Internal communications and shared resources	Proposed	Test a simple briefing rhythm and common repository before commissioning a major website redesign.
UN work	Continuing	Support the Derek–Klaus–Jez handover, report activity back to members and keep military-tax objection explicit when a credible opening exists.
External relationships	Existing but uneven	Map formal and informal ties; pursue a manageable number of conversations with EBCO, WRI, Quaker bodies, IFOR, Pax Christi and tax/climate justice organisations.
GDAMS	For board follow-up	Clarify a distinctive CPTI contribution; receive and circulate Klaus's proposed English translation where useful.
Next international conference	German lead to explore	Confirm the host only after Netzwerk Friedenssteuer has discussed capacity; prepare a public statement before the next gathering rather than during its final minutes.
Give Peace a Budget materials	Framework created; no common design adopted	Develop a short narrative guide, specific examples of peace investment and low-barrier actions that national campaigns can adapt.

A closing statement in substance

The conference did not have time to negotiate a formal communiqué. Monica proposed a brief statement that approximately eighteen people had met in Brussels, joined by participants online; that discussion of military spending, peace and security had been stimulating and constructive; and that people left recommitted to reducing militarism and military taxation while promoting a more peaceful and secure world. Robin supported that direction and added the image of green shoots.

Jan recommended that the next conference prepare a publishable declaration in advance. That is a small but important organisational lesson. A public statement should not be an afterthought once participants are packing for trains and flights; it should be part of the planned work, drafted early enough for meaningful participation and translated where possible.

> *"War already has budgets, departments, recruitment systems and industrial strategies. Peace needs institutions, skills, public investment and democratic choice too."*
>
> **Report synthesis of the Brussels discussion**

That is the report's central conclusion. The conference did not ask that peace be left to goodwill after the spending decisions have been made. It asked that the methods capable of preventing violence, protecting people and resolving conflict be treated as serious public work, and that people of conscience should not be compelled to finance the opposite.

Appendix A. Final programme

Date	Scheduled work
Friday 4 September	Arrivals; supper; welcome and social evening with participant contributions. The evening became an informal oral history and movement-memory session.
Saturday 5 September, morning	Country reports: activities and developments since the previous conference.
Saturday 5 September, afternoon	CPTI General Assembly: formal meeting, elections and decisions under the statutes; followed by informal discussion of ‘Give Peace a Budget’ and attracting new and younger supporters.
Saturday 5 September, evening	Informal gathering celebrating participants’ time together.
Sunday 6 September, morning	Report from CPTI’s United Nations/Human Rights Council representation; discussion of goals and strategy for the coming period.
Sunday 6 September, late morning	Cooperation with international peace organisations and participation in the Global Days of Action on Military Spending.
Sunday 6 September, afternoon	Lunch, guided tour of Brussels, farewell and departure.
Monday 7 September	Scheduled picnic lunch and meeting with NGOs and MEPs hosted by the Quaker Council for European Affairs. This report has no verified outcome record for that meeting.

Conscience: Taxes for Peace not War gratefully acknowledges the UK supporters whose donations enabled Conscience UK representatives to attend the Brussels conference, represent the UK campaign and contribute to this report and the conference follow-up.

Appendix B. General Assembly minutes

CONSCIENCE AND PEACE TAX INTERNATIONAL

General Assembly Minutes

18th International Conference Peace Tax Campaigning
Saturday 5 September 2026 | 14:00-15:00
House N.-D. Chant d'Oiseau, Brussels, Belgium & Zoom (Hybrid)

Attendance

Robin Brookes (Member) (Chair) Monica Frisch (Member) Alexander Andrevich Suslin (Member) Hannelore Morgenstern (Member) Jan Birk (Member) Jean Michel Delire Wolfgang Steuer Jonathan Maunders Beatrice Lemaire Klaus Waiditschka Katharina Rottmayr-Czerny	Paul Blondel Jez Smith Damadar Acharya Derek Brett (online) Penny Heymans (online) Eleanor Forman (Member) (online) Sian Cwper (online) Lincoln Rice (online) Fay Salichou (minutes)
Apologies: None received	

1. Welcome and apologies

Robin Brookes welcomed all attendees to the General Assembly. No apologies had been received.

2. Quorum

The Chair confirmed that at least four members were participating and that the meeting was quorate. The meeting was declared quorate.

3. Appointment of Chair and minute taker

• Robin Brookes was appointed Chair.

4. Minutes of the previous General Assembly

The circulated minutes of the previous General Assembly, held in Lubeck in October 2024, were considered. The previous minutes were approved without amendments as an accurate record.

5. Report of the Board

5.1 Board capacity and administration

The Board has continued to meet by Zoom and is seeking to meet weekly where possible. The Chair stressed that CPTI's work depends on the active engagement of members and invited further participation.

- Derek Brett has stepped down as Treasurer following ill health. Robin Brookes has taken over the treasurer role.
- Anne McCullagh D'Lyske retired from the Board in February 2026 because of ill health.
- Milena Romero has temporarily stepped back from active Board duties while receiving medical treatment but has not resigned from the Board.
- Klaus Waiditschka was co-opted to the Board in April 2026, subject to ratification by the General Assembly.

New Companies House identity-verification requirements and reduced director capacity contributed to late filing of CPTI's annual accounts. A GBP 375 penalty was imposed. The Chair has identified evidence of a possible Companies House system problem and is challenging the penalty. All filings currently due have now been completed.

Measures have been put in place to ensure all Companies House email notices are directed to the chair.

5.2 Activities and United Nations representation

Most of CPTI's substantive activity since the previous General Assembly has centred on submissions to the UN Human Rights Council. Derek Brett has continued to provide experience and continuity, while CPTI has begun widening the group able to undertake this work.

- Klaus Waiditschka has been shadowing Derek and visited the UN in 2025. A planned visit in March 2026 could not proceed because UN grounds passes were issued too late.
- Jez Smith joined CPTI's UN work in May 2026 and obtained a grounds pass. CPTI now has three representatives able to support this work, with Derek continuing to provide guidance.

6. Financial report and accounts

6.1 Accounts for 2024/25

The accounts for 2024/25 had been examined by Monica Frisch. CPTI's combined bank and PayPal balance at the end of May 2025 was reported as GBP 5,783.

The examined accounts for 2024/25 were approved without objection.

6.2 Draft accounts for 2025/26

The draft 2025/26 accounts were received but were not presented for approval because they had not yet been examined. They included costs connected with the Lubeck conference, Klaus Waiditschka's UN travel and the deposit for the Brussels venue, together with modest interest and donation income.

Jez Smith identified incorrect dates in the opening balance and balance carried forward entries, which have been corrected on Robin Brookes' working copy. Monica Frisch agreed to examine the accounts, check continuity between years and distinguish conference expenditure from CPTI's general operating expenditure, including costs falling into 2026/27.

ACTION: Monica Frisch was appointed to examine the 2025/26 accounts, which will be submitted for approval at a future General Assembly.

7. Budget, communications and advocacy priorities

7.1 Spending approach

No detailed budget was proposed. Anticipated expenditure remains modest and is expected to relate principally to UN advocacy, including representative travel and accommodation, alongside banking, website and other administrative costs. Members also identified possible future expenditure on website development, communications, promotion and advocacy in other institutions.

The meeting discussed the balance between General Assembly oversight and Board discretion. It was confirmed that the General Assembly could set spending guidelines but could also delegate day-to-day decisions to the Board.

No fixed budget was adopted. The Board was authorised to manage expenditure prudently within CPTI's available funds and purposes, while monitoring affordability.

7.2 Website and communications

There was broad agreement that the website remains useful as an archive but is difficult for new visitors to navigate and does not consistently carry current conference material and reports. Members cautioned against another piecemeal redesign without first agreeing what the website is for, who it serves and how it fits into a wider communications approach.

- A broader approach could include regular updates or an email newsletter, clearer routes for new supporters and better coordination of material already published by Conscience on its website.

- Any redesign should avoid duplication, define responsibilities for maintenance and identify whether paid technical support or promotion would add value.
- Paid advertising was suggested as a possible future option; no decision was taken.

7.3 Wider advocacy

Members discussed possible advocacy beyond the UN Human Rights Council, including European institutions, the OSCE, the UN in New York and other international forums. The steer was to map what partner organisations already do, avoid duplicating their work and identify the distinctive contribution CPTI can make.

8. Board and director elections

The Chair explained the constitutional requirement for the appropriate proportion of directors to retire by rotation. As Milena Romero had stepped back rather than resigned, Derek Brett retired by rotation and offered himself for re-election. Jan Birk indicated that he would be willing to step aside if another member wished to join the Board, but no further volunteers came forward.

- **Klaus Waiditschka's CPTI membership and co-option to the Board were approved, and he was elected as a company director.**
- **Derek Brett retired by rotation and was re-elected to the Board and as a company director.**
- **Eleanor Forman, already a Board member, was elected as a company director.**
- **Jan Birk, CPTI Secretary and Board member, agreed to become and was elected as a company director.**

The meeting's working position was that Board members would normally also serve as company directors. It agreed that any future case in which a Board member did not wish to become a director could be considered if and when it arose.

9. Representation at the UN in New York

Wolfgang Steuer asked whether the National War Tax Resistance Coordinating Committee (NWTRCC) might formally represent CPTI at the UN in New York. Lincoln Rice explained that individual NWTRCC members, including Eleanor Forman and Ruth Benn, may be willing to support relevant work, but that formal organisational participation would require consensus and was unlikely to be straightforward.

Lincoln Rice offered to place a written proposal before NWTRCC's November 2026 meeting, provided it was received by 15 October 2026 so that it could be circulated to members in advance.

10. Next international conference

The meeting considered responsibility for the next international conference, expected in two years. Jan Birk indicated that the German group might be able to host, subject to discussion within that group. No host or location was formally confirmed, but the meeting noted that there were promising leads.

11. Any other business

Jez Smith proposed that the conference should produce a shared statement or call to action. It was agreed that this could be developed during the informal discussion following the General Assembly and reflected in the substantive conference synthesis or report, rather than in the formal GA minutes.

The Chair closed the formal General Assembly and thanked participants.

Actions

Ref	Action	Owner	Timing
A1	Continue the challenge to the GBP 375 Companies House late-filing penalty and report the outcome.	Robin Brookes	Ongoing
A2	Continue knowledge transfer and development of CPTI's UN advocacy capacity.	Board; Derek Brett; Klaus Waiditschka; Jez Smith	Ongoing

Ref	Action	Owner	Timing
A3	Provide the corrected 2025/26 accounts for examination; examine them and clarify the treatment of conference costs.	Robin Brookes; Monica Frisch	Before future GA approval
A4	Develop a communications and website proposal covering purpose, audiences, content, responsibilities and likely costs.	Board; Jez Smith; Alexander Andrevich Suslin; Conscience representatives	Not specified
A5	Complete Companies House identity verification, provide personal codes to Robin Brookes and complete director registrations.	Eleanor Forman; Klaus Waiditschka; Jan Birk; Robin Brookes	As soon as possible
A6	Decide whether to seek formal NWTRCC involvement at the UN in New York and, if proceeding, send a written proposal to Lincoln Rice.	CPTI Board	15 October 2026
A7	Explore the feasibility of the German group hosting the next international conference and update the Board.	Jan Birk; German group	Not specified
A8	Reflect any agreed conference message or call to action in the wider conference synthesis/report.	Conference report lead/organisers	With conference report

CPTI company details

NGO in Special Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the UN

International non-profit organization Company Number 8514742

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