

Preface

Within the pages of the International Student/Young Pugwash (ISYP) Yearbook 2006, the reader will find deliberations on a variety of topics, ranging from those that inspired the establishment of the Pugwash Conferences on Science and World Affairs in 1957 (namely, the perils of the nuclear era and the social responsibility of scientists) to those that are now in the minds of many global citizens (that is, terrorism and environmental degradation).

Unifying these topics is the need to understand the conflictive situation of our societies from a yet-to-form integrated and reflexive analytical approach. Such approach, however, will require a bold reassessment of the state of our planet, linking different spheres of social and political action with the constraints and realities of a shared material world.

The contents of this volume are a modest, yet useful, contribution to the construction of a new approach to human conflict. Derived from ISYP activities that took place between 2004 and 2006, the articles contained in the ISYP Yearbook 2006 touch upon different dimensions of conflict while illustrating a multidisciplinary approach through several cases. They are, furthermore, an example of the interaction between generations, incorporating the views of established scholars and future researchers, professionals, and policymakers.

Both in its title and spirit, the ISYP Yearbook 2006 *A world without war* continues to honour the memory of Sir Joseph Rotblat, a long time supporter of the involvement of youth in the elimination of nuclear weapons and the prevention of war. 'A world without war' was the last speech he delivered at a Pugwash Conference. It is published here for the first time. This edition also furthers the quest of ISYP to engage young scholars in a deep reflexion on the state of affairs of our planet and, more importantly, on the possible avenues that our societies might take to achieve a peaceful future.

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