

PEACE IN MOTION

An Exploration of Innovation & Peace

EVENT REPORT

APRIL 2026



Peace
Innovation
Initiative



OVERVIEW...

On April 15, 2026, the Peace Innovation Initiative introduced Peace in Motion, an inaugural online webinar marking the public launch of the Cooperative for Humanity and the formal articulation of the DNA OF PEACE framework.

More than just a gathering of minds, the event served as the launch for a broader movement. It brought together leaders from science, peacebuilding, energy, and artificial intelligence to explore a central proposition: peace is not simply the absence of conflict, but something that must be intentionally designed, built, and sustained across systems.

In her opening remarks, Ms. Barbara Winston, President & Founder of PII situated the event within a longer arc of work that began with the organization's earlier convening at the United Nations, where she first introduced the idea of constructing the DNA OF PEACE. Since then, through dialogue, research, and cross-sector collaboration, four foundational and interdependent pillars have emerged: **Health and Wellbeing**, **Education and Culture**, **Environment and Energy**, and **Innovation and Infrastructure**. Together, these pillars form the structural conditions necessary for durable peace.

Moderated by Ms. Lyndsay Howard of Bloomberg LP, the panel, was comprised of Dr. Bruce Stillman, President and CEO of Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, Liz Hume, Executive Director of the Alliance for Peacebuilding, Gordon Winston, PII Co-Founder, CEO of Inventive Capital, Inc., and Founder and CEO of QSecGrid, Inc., as well as Mark Minevich, Founder and President of Going Global Ventures.

Each panelist was asked how their respective sector must contribute if peace is to become something operational rather than aspirational, demonstrating that peace is deeply connected to the systems people rely on every day: scientific knowledge, public understanding, civil society, resilient infrastructure, and responsible technological governance.



The event also marked the public launch of the Cooperative for Humanity, envisioned as a growing cross-sector platform through which leaders, practitioners, and institutions can help move peace from theory to implementation. In this sense, Peace in Motion was not only a conversation, but the beginning of an 18-month roadmap of shared inquiry, collaboration, and action.

With the launch of the Cooperative for Humanity, PII is further expanding their work into a broader platform for collaboration among leaders, practitioners, innovators, and institutions across sectors and geographies. The Cooperative is designed to widen the circle of who sees themselves as a peace actor while strengthening the foundations of peacebuilding itself.



THE DNA OF PEACE...

Health & Wellbeing

Dr. Bruce Stillman grounded the conversation in science, human biology, and the shared foundations of humanity. Drawing from his work in DNA, he emphasized that human beings are far more alike than different, and that this scientific reality offers an important basis for peace. He challenged assumptions that difference is biologically deterministic, underscoring instead the deep connectedness of the human family. “All of us in the entire population on Earth are 99.9% related in our DNA sequence. We are all part of one humanity,” states Stillman.

He also highlighted the practical ways science can serve peace: from identifying victims of war crimes, to reconnecting communities through ancestry, to advancing accountability and justice. He pointed to international scientific cooperation as an important model, showing how large-scale collaboration in research has already generated profound benefits for human wellbeing, communicating that “the promotion of scientific cooperation is absolutely essential.”

Stillman also connected health and science to sustainability, food security, and public education. In a time shaped by climate stress and social fragmentation, he argued that scientific literacy and a better public understanding of our shared humanity are essential to building peace that is informed, durable, and humane.



Education & Culture

Liz Hume brought great perspective from the peacebuilding field and made the case that peacebuilding is rigorous, evidence-based, and urgently necessary. She rejected the notion that peacebuilding is idealistic or naïve, instead describing it as difficult and practical work carried out in fragile and conflict-affected environments around the world, stating that “this is really, really hard work... but we’ve been through tough times before and have shown that we can navigate them together.”

A central theme of her remarks was the danger of cynicism. Hume observed that cynical thinking deepens social problems because it stops people from asking how systems can be repaired and how conflict can be prevented. By contrast, peacebuilders work from the premise that prevention is possible and that sustainable peace can be built when societies are willing to invest in it.

She also underscored the real-world consequences of disinvestment. Referencing recent global funding cuts, she noted that reductions in peacebuilding support are already correlating with increases in violent conflict. Her remarks made clear that peacebuilding is not peripheral to global stability; “it is one of the disciplines that must be integrated more intentionally into broader systems of policy, governance, and civic life,” states Hume.



THE DNA OF PEACE CONTINUED...



Environment & Energy

Gordon Winston framed peace not as an abstract ideal, but as a systems-level outcome shaped by the design, governance, financing, and trustworthiness of infrastructure. He argued that peace must be embedded in the everyday systems on which societies depend, and that resilience, inclusion, legitimacy, and long-term durability must be built in from the outset rather than treated as secondary considerations.

His remarks emphasized that energy is foundational because nearly every institution, public service, and economic activity depends on reliable power. As he stated, “As infrastructure fails, society becomes fragile. Therefore peace must be designed into systems that people rely on every day.” From this perspective, peace cannot be separated from questions of infrastructure reliability, affordability, access, and fairness. Nor can it be separated from the stewardship of critical systems in a world where resilience, technology, and security are increasingly interconnected.

Winston underscored the role of investment and capital allocation, noting that these forces shape what gets built, what is neglected, and who ultimately benefits. His perspective reinforced the broader message of the session: that peace is inseparable from the design, management, and legitimacy of the systems that structure daily life.

Viewed in this way, peace is not only a humanitarian or developmental objective, but also a strategic one, because the strength and credibility of infrastructure systems help determine social stability, institutional capacity, and the ability of societies to absorb disruption without fracture.

Innovation & Infrastructure

Mark Minevich brought a future-facing perspective focused on artificial intelligence and the rapidly expanding role of digital infrastructure. He stressed that “AI is already transforming the lives of billions of people, while also generating widespread concern and instability when governance, ethics, and public understanding fail to keep pace.”

His remarks made clear that peace must become a design principle in technological systems. He pointed to the vulnerabilities of global supply chains, the interdependence of infrastructure, and the destabilizing effects of conflict on advanced technology ecosystems. He also highlighted broader concerns around AI, including disinformation, geopolitical tension, and the fragility of systems that are increasingly interconnected.

Minevich’s contribution underscored the urgency of building frameworks that are international, practical, and resilient. His perspective extended the central argument into the digital age, stating that “peace must be engineered into the infrastructure of the future before instability is amplified at scale. “When we talk about peace, we unfortunately have to talk about conflict.”



SPECIAL THANKS TO...

Moderator



Lyndsay Howard is senior analyst for foreign policy for Bloomberg News and Bloomberg Economics' Geoeconomics team. She was senior foreign policy advisor to Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg, on his personal staff for a decade, and co-architect of the Bloomberg New Economy Forum.

Panelists



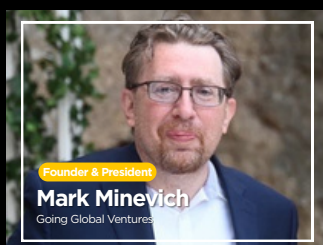
Dr. Bruce Stillman was born in Melbourne, Australia and graduated from the University of Sydney and the Australian National University. He is the President and CEO, and Oliver R. Grace Professor at Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, a research and education institute in New York state.



Elizabeth Hume is the Executive Director at the Alliance for Peacebuilding. She is an international lawyer and conflict expert with more than 25 years of experience in senior leadership roles at bilateral, multilateral institutions, and NGOs. She has extensive experience in policy and advocacy and overseeing sizeable and complex peacebuilding programs worldwide.



Gordon Winston is a distinguished leader in innovation, data security, renewable energy, precision medicine, and computational intelligence. He also serves as Chairman and CEO of Inventive Capital, Inc., and Founder and CEO of QSecGrid, Inc., and Co-Founder of PII. Winston is renowned for a human-centered approach to business, integrating cutting-edge technology with impactful investment strategies.



Mark Minevich is a globally recognized digital cognitive AI strategist and expert, a global social innovation and technology executive, a UN advisor, author, columnist, private investor, and venture capitalist. He is a Founding Partner and Chairman of Going Global Ventures (GGV), a New York-based investment, technology, and strategic advisory firm, where he advises public sectors, global enterprises, and prominent brands in the US, EU, Gulf Countries, South America, and Japan.



CONCLUDING REMARKS...

“What we have shared today is more than a conversation. It is more than the launch of a new initiative. It is the public beginning of a shared undertaking: the launch of the Cooperative for Humanity. This moment is deeply meaningful to me because it represents the continued unfolding of a vision we first introduced several years ago: that peace must be understood not only as an aspiration, but as something that can be intentionally constructed.

Since that time, through dialogue, partnership, research, and practice, that vision has become more defined. We have come to understand more clearly that peace endures when the systems shaping human life are aligned with dignity, wellbeing, opportunity, responsibility, and big imagination. That understanding brought us to the framework we have discussed today: the DNA OF PEACE. It is shaped by the health of our institutions, by the quality of our education and culture, by the resilience of our energy and environmental systems, and by the technologies and infrastructures we are building at extraordinary speed.

These are not isolated pillars. They are interconnected conditions that make peace possible. Together, they form an integrated architecture through which peace can move from idea to practice.

This is why the Cooperative for Humanity matters. It is our way of widening the circle of peace leadership: synergy, existential challenge, emotional contagion, the nucleus of a global ethic.

We are developing here a global brainstorm, a fountainhead of a new worldview. So today, with much gratitude and conviction, I invite you to join us. Join us in this Cooperative for Humanity. Join us in helping to build the living architecture of peace. Join us in advancing a vision of peace that is not passive, but designed; not distant, but practical; not fragmented, but shared.



This is the work before us, and this is the chapter we now begin together. How absolutely riveting is this challenge? As Nelson Mandela once said, “Peace is not just the absence of conflict; peace is the creation of an environment where all can flourish.”

We have a shared humanity and a shared destiny, and I pray that we can fulfill this obligation. I know that we can.”

Ms. Barbara Winston
President & Founder, PII



ABOUT PII...

The Peace Innovation Initiative is committed to creating and enabling a global practice of peace by connecting diverse minds and advancing cross-sector collaboration. Comprised of a community of visionaries and practitioners, PII is leading a global movement to accelerate positive disruption and establish active peace as a pillar of innovation worldwide.

PII's work is rooted in the belief that peace must be actively designed, built, and sustained, not treated as a passive aspiration or the responsibility of one field alone.

Founded through the vision and leadership of Barbara Winston, her son Gordon Winston, PII was first presented in 2021 by UN Secretary-General António Guterres as part of the University for Peace (UPEACE) report to the 76th session of the General Assembly. The report subsequently received 126 co-sponsorships from Member States, a record-breaking level of support never before experienced.

Through dialogue, research, partnerships, and public convening, PII has developed the DNA OF PEACE as a practical framework for understanding the structural conditions necessary for sustainable peace in the 21st century. These four pillars — [Health and Wellbeing](#), [Education and Culture](#), [Environment and Energy](#), and [Innovation and Infrastructure](#) — reflect the interconnected systems through which peace must be made durable and actionable.

To continue exploring the ideas and collaborations highlighted in this event, we invite you to learn more [HERE](#).

You can also take the next step by joining the [Cooperative for Humanity](#), a global community that brings together visionary voices across sectors to help construct the DNA OF PEACE. Through unique collaboration this group explores how peace can be intentionally designed, built, and sustained in the 21st century. This is a space to share ideas, strengthen alignment, and amplify a common voice for peace.

