



**October 24<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup>  
Disarmament Week  
UN**

## 'The World is over-armed and peace is under-funded'

*A speech by BAN Ki-Moon, UN Secretary-General, 30 August 2012 – has anything changed?*

**“Last year, global military spending reportedly exceeded \$1.7 trillion/£1,060,980 million. ....**

..... This level of military spending is hard to explain in a post-Cold War world and amidst a global financial crisis. Economists would call this an "opportunity cost". I call it human opportunities lost. Nuclear weapons budgets are especially ripe for deep cuts.

Such weapons are useless against today's threats to international peace and security. Their very existence is de-stabilizing: the more they are touted as indispensable, the greater is the incentive for their proliferation. Additional risks arise from accidents and the health and environmental effects of maintaining and developing such weapons.

The time has come to re-affirm commitments to nuclear disarmament, and to ensure that this common end is reflected in national budgets, plans and institutions. .... The solution clearly lies in greater efforts by States to harmonize their actions to achieve common ends. Here are some specific actions that all States and civil society should pursue to break this impasse.

- **Support** efforts by the Russian Federation and the United States to negotiate deep, verified cuts in their nuclear arsenals, both deployed and un-deployed.
- **Obtain** commitments by others possessing such weapons to join the disarmament process.
- **Establish** a moratorium on developing or producing nuclear weapons or new delivery systems.
- **Negotiate** a multilateral treaty outlawing fissile materials that can be used in nuclear weapons.
- **End** nuclear explosions and bring into force the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty.
- **Stop** deploying nuclear weapons on foreign soil, and retire such weapons.
- **Ensure** that nuclear-weapon states report to a public UN repository on nuclear disarmament, including details on arsenal size, fissile material, delivery systems, and progress in achieving disarmament goals.
- **Establish** a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction.
- **Secure** universal membership in treaties outlawing chemical and biological weapons.
- **Pursue** parallel efforts on conventional arms control, including an arms trade treaty, strengthened controls over the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons, universal membership in the Mine Ban, Cluster Munitions, and Inhumane Weapons Conventions, and expanded participation in the UN Report on Military Expenditures and the UN Register of Conventional Arms.
- **Undertake** diplomatic and military initiatives to maintain international peace and security in a world without nuclear weapons, including new efforts to resolve regional disputes.

And perhaps above all, we must address basic human needs and achieve the Millennium Development Goals. Chronic poverty erodes security. Let us dramatically cut spending on nuclear weapons, and invest instead in social and economic development, which serves the interests of all by expanding markets, reducing motivations for armed conflicts, and in giving citizens a stake in their common futures. Like nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, such goals are essential for ensuring human security and a peaceful world for future generations.

**No development, no peace. No disarmament, no security.** Yet when both advance, the world advances, with increased security and prosperity for all. These are common ends that deserve the support of all nations. “

**That was 2012.... the same high spending, and yet more wars since then.  
Just imagine what the UK could do if it didn't spend £44.7 billion a year on Defence!**

**Just imagine what the world could be like if it didn't spend £2.96 billion per day on the military!**

### **Useful websites – for information, tools for action, news and views**

[www.peaceneews.info](http://www.peaceneews.info) [www.ukwilpf.gn.apc.org](http://www.ukwilpf.gn.apc.org) [www.caat.org.uk](http://www.caat.org.uk) [www.cnduk.org/](http://www.cnduk.org/) [www.stopwar.org.uk](http://www.stopwar.org.uk)  
[www.ministryforpeace.org.uk](http://www.ministryforpeace.org.uk) [www.peaceworkers.org.uk](http://www.peaceworkers.org.uk) [www.peacewomen.org](http://www.peacewomen.org) [www.refugeecouncil.org.uk](http://www.refugeecouncil.org.uk)  
[www.widowsrights.org](http://www.widowsrights.org) [www.makepovertyhistory.org](http://www.makepovertyhistory.org) [www.peacebrigades.org](http://www.peacebrigades.org) [www.medact.org](http://www.medact.org) [www.abolishwar.org.uk](http://www.abolishwar.org.uk)  
[www.icar.org.uk](http://www.icar.org.uk) [www.smallarmssurvey.org](http://www.smallarmssurvey.org) [www.unac.org/learn/wwwp/](http://www.unac.org/learn/wwwp/)  
*Gun Control Network, [www.gun-control-network.org](http://www.gun-control-network.org); Bonn International Centre for Conversion, [www.bicc.de/](http://www.bicc.de/)*

**Women in Black, C/o 29 East Bank, London N16 5QS. <[wibinfo@gn.apc.org](mailto:wibinfo@gn.apc.org)>  
[www.london.womeninblack.org](http://www.london.womeninblack.org) <[Twitter@WIB\\_London](https://twitter.com/WIB_London)> <[www.facebook.com/womeninblack.london](https://www.facebook.com/womeninblack.london)>**

*Women in Black holds vigils every Wednesday between 6-7 pm at the Edith Cavell Statue, opposite the door of the National Portrait Gallery, St.Martin's Place, London WC2. The vigils are silent, women-only and if possible we wear black. Donations for leaflets very welcome. **Do come and join us!***