

TARGETING MILITARY SPENDING:



DISARMAMENT, DEVELOPMENT AND THE POST-2015 DEVELOPMENT AGENDA

A Discussion Paper for the IPB Triennial 2013



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Introduction

A major debate is underway concerning the future of the worldwide development agenda. The Millennium Development Goals will expire in 2015, to be replaced by the Post-2015 Development Agenda (or Sustainable Development Goals). Participating in these discussions provides a wonderful opportunity for the International Peace Bureau to help shape development policy for the next 15 years and to advance our work on military spending.

« ...A truly open conversation on [avoiding conflict] should include discussion of the security agendas of developed countries. There is a need to critically examine current approaches to counter-terrorism and stabilization, and talk through alternative, less militaristic and more developmental approaches to solving these issues. »

-Safer World Briefing: Addressing Conflict and Violence from 2015

Discussions are currently in progress to:

- Design and implement the new SDG agenda
- Build on the successes of the MDGs and learn from their failures
- Foster sustainable, equitable development for everyone

The discussions have been greatly influenced by the Rio +20 conference and its final document, entitled « *The Future We Want* ». Produced in Rio de Janeiro in June 2012, the conference and paper were intended to begin discussions on the SDGs. It focused on proactive, tangible actions countries and groups could do to help promote sustainable development. Following the conference, a much wider consultation is now in progress.

IPB believes that an important key to

solving the funding problems lies in **redirecting exorbitant military funding towards achieving the SDGs** and other development initiatives. This would decrease the potential for conflict and provide a much-needed boost to development finances. However, the international community has thus far failed to recognize this opportunity.

For more detailed information about IPB's position, please refer to our previous publication, *Opportunity Costs: Military Spending and the UN's Development Agenda*.

Post-2015 Debate Overview: The Future We Want?

High-level Panel Report: « A New Global Partnership: Eradicate Poverty and Transform Economies Through Sustainable Development »

The current debate centres on the recent release of the « *A New Global Partnership: Eradicate Poverty and Transform Economies Through Sustainable Development* » report. The paper was produced by the High-Level Panel on the Post-2015 Development Agenda, a group created by Ban Ki-Moon to guide the General Assembly's and his own thinking about the post-2015 development debate. Their report focused on what it refers to as "**Five Transformative Shifts**" necessary to create a sustainable future:

- an end to extreme poverty
- sustainable development
- job-centred and inclusive economic growth
- peacebuilding and accountable institutions
- developing a "global partnership" among states.

The report does echo IPB's argument that creating a sustainable peace is an important aspect of the development process, and could have far-reaching transformative effects across all of the 5 categories outlined above. However, this conclusion is stated in very general terms.

Civil Society Makes the Link

Civil society organizations are getting increasingly involved in the discussions surrounding the post-2015 agenda, as the United Nations recognizes the need for greater civil society engagement. Many of these organizations are **making the link between peace and development**, though greater emphasis on the consequences of military expenditures is needed.

Military Expenditures and the Post-2015 Discussions

The discussions following the release of the High-Level Panel's report, including among civil society and international organizations, have been promising but there is room for improvement. The IPB would like to highlight a few of the key facets of the discussion so far:

1. The inclusion of peace as a necessary condition for sustainable development

Several major reports, in addition to that of the High-Level Panel, have emphasized the inclusion of peace in development discussions. Civil

society and international organizations alike recognize the absence of peace-related goals in the MDGs as a large flaw in the programme, and are attempting to rectify this in the post-2015 agenda.

2. 'Milex' largely ignored

Despite progress by the international community in recognizing the need for a peaceful society, there is still a noticeable lack of dialogue about exorbitant military spending by governments worldwide (1.7 trillion USD) and its link to peace. UN-affiliated reports, meetings and events are often blind to the ramifications of military expenditures for their sustainable development agendas.

3. Civil society recognizes linkage between arms and peace

Discussions by the wider civil society community are promoting the linkage between arms and conflict, which should be seen as a stepping stone towards increasing visibility for our military expenditures position. The global arms trade has been shown to exacerbate conflict and inhibit development in unstable regions, and we should build on the Arms Trade Treaty breakthrough to include military expenditures. By reducing military expenditure by high-spending countries and redirecting it towards funding the new development agenda, peacebuilding measures could be ensured adequate funding and the threat of the arms trade undoing the work of development would be lessened.

"Freedom from conflict and violence is the most fundamental human entitlement, and the essential foundation for building peaceful and prosperous societies."

- "A New Global Partnership: Eradicate Poverty and Transform Economies Through Sustainable Development", Annex 1

Key Opportunities

SEPTEMBER 2013

- PRESENTATION OF OUTCOMES OF « MY WORLD » SURVEY
To the General Assembly in New York, tentatively set for September 9th
- SECRETARY-GENERAL BAN KI-MOON SUBMITS HIS REPORT TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
To be delivered sometime in September in New York
- OPEN WORKING GROUP ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS
Comprised of 30 member-states of the GA; final report to be published sometime in September
- SPECIAL EVENT TO FOLLOW UP EFFORTS MADE TOWARDS ACHIEVING THE MDGs
Hosted by the UN General Assembly in New York, September 25th

NOVEMBER 2013

- OPEN WORKING GROUP ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (INTERSESSIONAL MEETING)
Major groups, civil society and stakeholders can participate
22 November, New York

FEBRUARY 2014

- OPEN WORKING GROUP ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (8TH SESSION)
Meeting covers conflict prevention, post-conflict peacebuilding, promotion of durable peace and rule of law, 3-7 February (location TBA)

SEPTEMBER 2014

- OPEN WORKING GROUP SUBMITS FINAL REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE GA
Final date to be confirmed, New York

JANUARY-DECEMBER 2015 (To be confirmed)

- INTERGOVERNMENTAL NEGOTIATIONS ON POST-2015 AGENDA
United Nations General Assembly negotiations in New York

JANUARY 2016

- NEW DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK PUT IN OPERATION

What We Can Do

Despite the promising inclusion of references to the need for peace in the post-2015 dialogues, **the pressure must be kept on to ensure mainstream discussion of these ideas.**

Specific Activities:

- Reach out to development groups in your area to discuss military spending and jointly lobby your government
- Develop longer-term strategy to promote the argument
- Plan for Global Day of Action on Military Spending (GDAMS) 2014
- Write articles about military expenditure and the post-2015 development agenda and publish them in your own newsletters and publications
- Write letters to the Editor
- Link to the IPB website

Themes to Highlight:

- Urge all involved in the post-2015 development agenda to discuss the security-development nexus and its effect on development initiatives
- Encourage discussion of innovative methods for funding the new agenda, including diverting military expenditures
- Continue to highlight evidence showing the link between poverty and conflict
- Show how military expenditures of all countries can exacerbate conflicts

« Ensuring that governments are investing in and budgeting for peace and not increasing militarization is key. A target to reduce military spending and increase social spending would be of singular value [...] the effects of militarism, military spending, and the arms trade erode gender equality and the realization of women's rights. »

-Feminist Reflections: UN'S High-Level Panel Report on the post-2015 Development Agenda, by the Post-2015 Women's Coalition

More Information

- Feminist Reflections: UN's High Level Panel Report on Post-2015 Development Agenda: http://www.wilpfinternational.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/06/HLP_rpt_WC_review-6.17.13.pdf
- A New Global Partnership: Eradicate Poverty and Transform Economies Through Sustainable Development (Report of the High-Level Panel): <http://www.post2015hlp.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/UN-Report.pdf>
- Consulting the Evidence: How Conflict and Violence can be Best Included in the Post-2015 Development Agenda: <http://www.odi.org.uk/publications/7622-conflict-violence-post-2015>
- Africa's Missing Billions: International Arms Flow and the Cost of Conflict: <http://www.oxfam.org/sites/www.oxfam.org/files/africas%20missing%20bils.pdf>
- Addressing Conflict and Violence from 2015: From the High-Level Panel report to an Accountability Framework: <http://www.saferworld.org.uk/downloads/pubdocs/From-the-High-Level-Panel-report-to-an-accountability-framework.pdf>
- « My World » Survey: <http://www.myworld2015.org/>

For more information about IPB's position, please refer to
**Opportunity Costs: Military Spending and the UN's Development Agenda (A
View from the International Peace Bureau):**

[http://www.ipb.org/uploads/tbl_contingut_web/227/documents/
Opportunity%20Costs%20web](http://www.ipb.org/uploads/tbl_contingut_web/227/documents/Opportunity%20Costs%20web).

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