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Yannick Glemarec, Executive Director  
Green Climate Fund  
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Co-chairs  
Nauman Bashir Bhatti  
Victoria Gunderson

**Re: Public Appeal to Call for the Reduction of Military Spending and  
Re-Allocation to Climate Finance**

Dear Executive Director Glemarec and Co-chairs Bhatti and Gunderson,

We are writing to you with urgency as global warming is accelerating and wars are raging in many counties including Gaza, Ukraine, Yemen, Ethiopia, Democratic Republic of Congo and Sudan. People around the world especially in the Global South are greatly suffering from climate-related natural disasters and food and water insecurity. In the lead up to the Conference of the Parties (COP) 28 in the United Arab Emirates this month, our organizations – the International Peace Bureau, World BEYOND War, the Women’s International League for Peace & Freedom-Canada and the Canadian Voice of Women for Peace - are writing this open letter to you because we are gravely concerned that rising military expenditures for weapons and war are diverting public funds away from climate finance and

the Green Climate Fund (GCF). We are urging the GCF to publicly call on countries reduce and re-allocate military spending to help countries mitigate and adapt to the climate crisis.

Your web site states, “Limiting global warming to 1.5°C is still narrowly possible and will be determined by the investment decisions we make over the next decade. The Green Climate Fund (GCF) – a critical element of the historic Paris Agreement - is the world’s largest climate fund, mandated to support developing countries raise and realize their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) ambitions towards low-emissions, climate-resilient pathways.” However, the most recent High-level Pledging Conference for the GCF’s second replenishment in Bonn, countries pledged only \$9 billion for four years. By contrast, the members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) increased their military budgets combined by an additional \$92 billion last year, which is 10X more than the second GCF replenishment.

According to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute’s (SIPRI) latest report, *Trends in World Military Expenditure*, global military spending rose last year to reach a new high of \$2,240 billion (USD). The five largest military spenders are the United States, China, Russia, India and Saudi Arabia. In 2022, the U.S. spent \$877 billion on its military, which accounted for 40% of world military expenditures. Seventeen developed countries including the U.S., United Kingdom, Canada, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Belgium, Norway, Denmark, Finland, Poland, Czechia, South Korea, Japan, Australia, Canada, Israel and Switzerland have bought or are buying a new fleet of F-35 fighter jets, the most expensive fossil fuel-powered weapon system in history at a cost of \$1.7 trillion, which represents an opportunity cost of not investing climate finance. These countries could instead spend public funds in the GCF, the Adaptation Fund or the Loss and Damage Fund.

NATO members are increasing their military spending to meet the alliance’s 2% GDP target. NATO’s latest defence expenditures report shows that military spending has risen dramatically since the Paris Agreement. The thirty-one NATO countries spent \$896 billion on military spending in 2015 and they spent over \$1.1 trillion USD (Chart 1) in 2022. This increase is more than \$276 billion per year, which is more than double the climate finance pledge (\$100 billion) for developing countries that Western countries have failed to meet. A new report, *Climate Crossfire: How NATO's 2% military spending targets contribute to climate breakdown*, also argues against the target and for a reduction of military spending (see references below).

**Chart 1**

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
<b>Total NATO Military Spending (US dollars)</b>	\$896 billion	\$911 billion	\$918 billion	\$972 billion	\$1,031 billion	\$1,107 billion	\$1,153 billion	\$1,172 billion
	<i>*Paris Agreement</i>							

**Source:** Defence Expenditure of NATO Countries (2014-2023), July 2023.

[https://www.nato.int/nato\\_static\\_fl2014/assets/pdf/2023/7/pdf/230707-def-exp-2023-en.pdf](https://www.nato.int/nato_static_fl2014/assets/pdf/2023/7/pdf/230707-def-exp-2023-en.pdf)

We are troubled that many countries are increasing military spending and investing in militarism and not on climate mitigation and adaptation. This month, the UN Environment Programme released its annual Adaptation Gap report entitled *Underfinanced, Underprepared: Inadequate investment and planning on climate adaptation leaves world exposed* that found that countries are not adequately investing in adaptation and are not prepared for extreme weather events. UNEP estimated that the adaptation finance needed to implement domestic adaptation priorities is approximately US\$387 billion per year. The \$9 billion pledge for the Green Climate Fund does not come close to meeting the climate needs of vulnerable developing countries.

We bring to your attention that during the opening of the 78<sup>th</sup> Session of the General Debate at the United Nations this September, many leaders denounced military spending for how it deprives the international community of having the resources needed for achieving the Paris Agreement and the UN Sustainable Development Goals. The Foreign Affairs of Costa Rica Arnaldo André-Tinoco declared,

Almost fifteen years ago, military spending slightly exceeded \$1 trillion. Today, world military spending has more than doubled, surpassing \$2 trillion despite Article 26 of the Charter of the United Nations that mandates the pursuit of peace and international security through the minimal spending on weapons.

In 1949, Costa Rica abolished its military, which has allowed the country to prioritize and invest in peace, environmental protection and social welfare. Costa Rica's path of demilitarization over the past 74 years has led it to be a leader in decarbonization and biodiversity conversation, which is an example for other countries.

At the UN General Debate, the Presidents of Brazil, Bolivia and Honduras also raised their concerns about rising military spending. In his speech, Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula Da Silva emphasized "that military spending has totalled \$2 trillion, with nuclear spending reaching \$83 billion — 20 times higher than the regular UN budget." Leaders of Global South countries and civil society are calling for the reduction of military spending to invest in ensuring that we limit global mean temperature rise to 1.5C and have a liveable planet.

Finally, we are appealing to the GCF publicly advise countries to decrease their military budgets for climate finance. Reductions in military expenditures are possible by stopping wars, ending arms transfers and pursuing peace to cooperate on climate change. We are also requesting a meeting with you at your convenience in the new year to discuss our concerns. We look forward to your reply. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



**Sean Conner**  
Executive Director  
International Peace  
Bureau

**David Swanson**  
Co-Founder and Executive  
Director  
World BEYOND War

**Co-chair Patsy George**  
On behalf of co-chair Ellen  
Woodsworth and board  
the Women's International  
League for Peace &  
Freedom (WILPF) Canada

**Co-chair Lyn Adamson**  
On behalf of co-chair  
Hannah Hadikin and  
the board the  
Canadian Voice of  
Women for Peace  
(VOW)

## **ABOUT OUR ORGANIZATIONS:**

**International Peace Bureau (IPB):** The International Peace Bureau is dedicated to the vision of a world without war. Our current main programme centres on Disarmament for Sustainable Development and within this, our focus is mainly on the reallocation of military expenditure. We believe that by reducing funding for the military sector, significant amounts of money could be released for social projects, domestically or abroad, which could lead to the fulfillment of real human needs and the protection of the environment. At the same time, we support a range of disarmament campaigns and supply data on the economic dimensions of weapons and conflicts. Our campaigning work on nuclear disarmament began already in the 1980s. Our 300 member organisations in 70 countries, together with individual members, form a global network, bringing together knowledge and campaigning experience in a common cause. We link experts and advocates working on similar issues in order to build strong civil society movements. A decade ago, the IPB launched a global campaign on military spending: <https://www.ipb.org/global-campaign-on-military-spending/> calling for a reduction and re-allocation to urgent social and environmental needs. More information about the IPB: [www.ipb.org](http://www.ipb.org)

**World BEYOND War (WBW):** World BEYOND War is a global nonviolent movement to end war and establish a just and sustainable peace. We aim to create awareness of popular support for ending war and to further develop that support. We work to advance the idea of not just preventing any particular war but abolishing the entire institution. We strive to replace a culture of war with one of peace in which nonviolent means of conflict resolution take the place of bloodshed. World BEYOND War was begun January 1, 2014. We have chapters and affiliates around the world. Last year, WBW has a global petition "Stop Excluding Military Pollution from Climate Agreement": <https://worldbeyondwar.org/cop27/> More information about WBW can be found here: <https://worldbeyondwar.org/>

**Canadian Voice of Women for Peace (VOW)** is the largest national feminist peace organization with members and chapters across the country. VOW was established in 1960 and is a non-partisan, non-governmental organization comprised of a network of diverse women. VOW's main office is in Toronto. VOW runs many campaigns related to women, peace, disarmament and anti-militarism. VOW has consultative status at the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and every year brings a delegation of Canadian women to the UN Commission on the Status of Women conference. For over 60 years, VOW has tirelessly advocated for a world without war. VOW stands for a feminist peace based on nonviolence, disarmament, diplomacy and common security with gender equality. Web site: <http://vowpeace.org>

**Women's International League for Peace & Freedom (WILPF) Canada** is a membership-led organization committed to a feminist peace, social justice, and gender equality. We are a non-partisan, non-governmental organization members across the country. We are the national section of WILPF International, which is the world's longest standing women peace organization founded in 1915, with 32 Sections and 13 Groups across Africa, the Americas, Asia, Europe, and the Middle East. Two of our leaders, Jane Addams and Emily Greene Balch, won the Nobel Peace Prize. WILPF International is headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland and has a disarmament program called Reaching Critical Will in New York. Our Peace Women program monitors the United Nations' Women, Peace & Security agenda and we have an international Environment Working Group. Web site: [wilpfcanada.ca](http://wilpfcanada.ca)

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