



FUNDACION ARIAS  
PARA LA PAZ Y EL  
PROGRESO HUMANO

January 6, 2010

Mr. Colin Archer  
Secretary-General  
International Peace Bureau  
41, Rue de Zurich  
1201 Geneva,  
Switzerland

Dear Mr. Secretary-General,

It is with much enthusiasm that the Arias Foundation for Peace and Human Progress endorses this *Global Call for Action on Military and Social Spending*. We agree strongly that the needs of the world's poor and developing countries are not being met by developed countries and that excessive spending to purchase and stockpile weapons while the most basic human needs of so many in the world go unmet is an injustice that cannot be allowed to continue. We also support you in calling for action to reduce such spending and directing 10% of those funds to meet the UN's Millennium Development goal by 2015. It is time that the nations of the world act on the many promises that have been made throughout the years.

Over 60 years ago, President José Figueres abolished Costa Rica's army and re-allocated military expenditures to provide social and economic development programs for the citizens of this country. His successors have continued to build on this premise, enabling Costa Rica to focus on tackling the threats of everyday security; reducing military spending; developing innovative policies for greater human security; and reducing the effects of climate change in the country.

In this regard, the Arias Foundation has actively supported organizations and international conferences that seek to adopt the five steps that are mentioned in the Call for Action magazine. Most recently we, along with Religions for Peace, hosted the *Global Youth Campaign on Disarmament for Shared Security*, the first global multi-religious youth-led campaign on disarmament. One of the three central goals of this youth campaign is to redirect at least 10% of military expenditure to achieve the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDG's) by 2015. The campaign's youth leaders intend to meet this goal by garnering the support of their members of parliaments, religious leaders and peers and sending a petition with 50 million signatures to the Security Council and General Assembly of the United Nations later this year.

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The Arias Foundation would like to commend your organization for your many years of dedication to the cause of peace within your country and around the world, and to assure you that we will continue to stand with you in this worthy cause. We would be pleased to support your organization in any way we can to ensure that this global call is a success.

Best Regards,

Luis Alberto Cordero  
Executive Director

