

Geneva, 26 January 2011

Dear all

Please find attached the new IPB brochure '*What does development cost?*' (+ poster) which is a contribution to the planning for the first-ever **Global Day of Action on Military Spending (GDAMS)**, to be held on April 12. You will also find here the *Invitation to Participate* which we hope you will pass on to any other organisations who might be interested to join in this action.

NOTE: The text of the invitation letter is now available in : Arabic - Dutch - French - German - Italian - Spanish at our dedicated website: <http://demilitarize.org/background-information/>

As you can see from the map and listing featured at: <http://demilitarize.org/action-events/>, the idea is spreading far and wide and we are excited to see that many different events are being planned in a large number of cities. The coming GDAMS newsletters will give details of these.

One issue that has been raised is the varying estimates of the resources needed to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. While the figure of '10% of the annual total of world military spending' has often been used, the 2009 study published by IPB suggested a more reliable figure would be just over \$300 bn, i.e. about 20%. You can see the calculations (based entirely on UN and other official figures) at: http://ipb.org/i/pdf-files/MDG_Costings_03.03.09.pdf However it should be noted that the MDGs have been framed in a very general way and are open to many different interpretations. The fundamental point remains that the world is investing vastly more in weapons and warfare preparations than in tackling poverty or climate change, for example. This is a perception shared by all kinds of organisations, not only those in the peace and security fields.

We look forward to exchanging news with you in the run-up to April 12, and indeed in the years to come.

I wish you the best of luck with your own work.

Colin Archer
Secretary-General