

## **UN Security Council calls for reduction in global military spending**

(Costa Rica President Oscar Arias presiding over the UN Security Council debate on military spending )

On Wednesday 19 November the United Nations Security Council, under the Presidency of Costa Rica, held an historic open debate

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<http://ent.groundsring.org/EmailNow/pub.php?module=URLTracker&cmd=track&j=250270804&u=2658027>, which calls for the regulation of armaments in order to ensure the least diversion of human and economic resources from global needs.

The debate was held against a background of increasing global military expenses despite a global economic crisis, and a lack of commitment by governments to meeting the UN Millennium Development Goals

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The perverse logic that leads a poor nation to spend excessive sums on its armies, and not on its people, is exactly the anti-thesis of human security, and a serious threat to international security.

(- Oscar Arias, UN Security Council, November 19 )

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, in a speech to the Security Council

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urged countries to fully support new international transparency measures relating to military expenditures as steps towards confidence building and multilateral disarmament.

Costa Rica President and Nobel Peace Laureate Oscar Arias presented a concept paper to the Security Council

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which discusses the development of regional security mechanisms that can assist countries relinquish their reliance on militarism. Costa Rica abolished its armed forces in 1948 and has been instrumental in the development of peace and demilitarisation in Central America. In his speech to the Security Council

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which he initiated in 2006 and which calls for debt relief to developing nations that commit to reducing their military expenditures. In a presidential statement

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issued at the end of the day-long gathering, the Council expressed concern at rising military expenditure worldwide, and urged appropriate levels of spending and continued commitment to achieve the eight anti-poverty Millennium Development Goals, and announced that it would continue to consider the issue.

PNND Co-Presidents Senator Abacca Anjain-Maddison (Marshall Islands), Marian Hobbs MP (New Zealand), Mikyung Lee MP (Republic of Korea), Alexa McDonough MP (Canada) and Uta Zapf MP (Germany) released a statement

<http://ent.groundspring.org/EmailNow/pub.php?module=URLTracker&cmd=track&j=250270804&u=2658034> earlier this year appealing "to world leaders and all citizens to re-dedicate themselves to implementing the goals of the United Nations for a world of peace and security through disarmament, the non-violent resolution of conflicts, and the reallocation of resources from military budgets to meet social and development goals." The statement entitled "The priority of peace and disarmament for the global community"

<http://ent.groundspring.org/EmailNow/pub.php?module=URLTracker&cmd=track&j=250270804&u=2658035> was released on May 24 to commemorate "International Women's Day for Disarmament."