



*Working for a world without war*

## IPB NEWSLETTER

July 2012

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### New IPB website and logo

In June, IPB launched its new website. In addition to jazzing up the look of the website and making it more user-friendly, we have emphasized the focus on our main program Disarmament for Sustainable Development. It was also the opportunity to reveal our new logo. We hope you like the new site and welcome your feedback!

### 1- DISARMAMENT FOR DEVELOPMENT



From June 20 to June 22, more than 190 countries gathered in Rio for the United Nations Summit on Sustainable Development, more widely known as Rio +20. A few days before the beginning of the official Summit, the People's Summit for social and environmental justice was held during which more than

200 NGOs aimed at seeking proposing a new way of living on the planet. According to the organizers, the People's Summit attracted about 15,000 people a day.

The outcome document of the UN Conference, *The Future We Want*, has been criticized by the civil society and experts for its lack of ambition and its inability to tackle sustainable development challenges. The absence of key leaders such as Obama, Merkel and Cameron

was also disappointing. Nevertheless, even if the final document did not succeed to concretely resolve current development issues, it provided guidelines for the adoption of a new set of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

For IPB, Rio +20 was the opportunity to bring in its disarmament for development perspective. Indeed, disarmament, and more precisely the reduction of military spending are key elements to foster development efforts.

### IPB and partners' activities at RIO +20 Summit

IPB hosted two side events on disarmament for development and the links between food security and armed conflicts at the official Summit. An itinerant exhibition comparing the costs of weapons to the ones required to finance social and ecological projects were prepared.

Together with World Future Council, the International Network of Engineers and Scientists for Global Responsibility, Viva Rio, Mayor for Peace, Foreign Policy in Focus, World without Wars and Violence, and Better World Links, IPB took part in the Bread Tank Project. The full-size tank, fully covered by bread, represents how the world's military budget should really be used (i.e. to fund development programmes). It was first presented to the public on June 19 in the Favela Santa Marta. It also took part in the civil society march and was stationed in front of the Rio+20 Global Town Hall. The tank received a lot of attention and tremendous media coverage.



As part of this project, the appeal "Sustainable Disarmament for Sustainable Development" was officially delivered to the Brazilian Minister for Development. You can still sign this appeal [here](#).

### Post-2015 development agenda

During the preparatory process of the Rio +20 Summit, the idea of adopting a new set of goals, namely the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), has emerged. These goals aim at addressing and incorporating in a balanced and broader way all the key dimensions of sustainable development. They also reaffirm the past political commitments of all actors. SDGs are mentioned in paragraphs 245 to 251 of the Outcome Document under the title IV: Framework for action and follow up. During the Conference, states agreed to develop SDGs through a process under the supervision of the UN, but failed to define the different themes that should be considered.

By September, the UN General Assembly will appoint a group of representatives from 30 countries to develop the SDGs and define the UN's overall Post-2015 development agenda. The group will submit its recommendations to the 68th session of the GA. The new programme is planned to enter into force in 2015 as an immediate follow up to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), which, some say, should not be retired before their targets have been reached. Some IPB partners are working on promoting a SDG on peace and security, an issue that was excluded from the MDGs. Meanwhile the [UN System Task Team has published its Report to the Secretary-General](#) on the Post-2015 Development Agenda. This makes reference to the Rio commitments, and does incorporate a peace and security dimension. However the military spending aspect is completely excluded. IPB is now planning a post-Rio project focusing on this crucial missing issue. Watch this space!

## A- MILITARY SPENDING

*"The world is over armed and peace is under-funded [...] sixty years of United Nations peacekeeping operations have cost less than six weeks of current military spending."*  
Ban Ki-moon, July 2012

### **Europe and the impact of austerity on military spending and government development aid**

The European debt crisis has led to cuts in government development aid to poor countries. 11 states have reduced their budgets in 2011 and at least 9 of them are planning to do the same this year. The biggest cuts are in the most affected countries: in 2011 Greece's aid budget dropped by 39%, Spain's by 33%, and Cyprus by 28%. The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) is concerned at the possibility that the European countries will yet again miss their target of allocating 0.7% of their Gross National Income in aid due to austerity. Only Denmark, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, and Sweden have reached this target. The Organisation reports that the value of OECD aid in 2011 dropped for the first time in 15 years. Regarding military spending, the figures are essentially unchanged compared to 2010. In 2011, the European military bill reached \$407 billion. The trends within Europe are varying: indeed, SIPRI, in its last Yearbook, reports a drop in military spending of 1.9% in Western and Central Europe, and an increase of 10.2% in Eastern Europe (which is mainly due to Russian expenditure).

Relevant resources to go further: [Aid budgets fall victim to EU austerity cuts](#), [Eurozone crisis causes aid cuts to poor](#), [Aid to developing countries falls because of global recession](#), SIPRI Yearbook.

### **GDAMS final report**

On April 25, IPB and IPS released the final report on GDAMS 2.0. This report sums up the variety of actions organised on April 17 and their impact.

### **Fredrik Dahl, IAEA cash gap may hinder its nuclear role**

June 13, 2012 - The [Center for International Governance Innovation](#) (CIGI), a Canadian think tank, has recently reported that the UN nuclear agency is underfunded. The report describes the IAEA as a "veritable bargain for international peace and security," but

points out that the Vienna-based agency needed to be reformed and better financed. Indeed, the lack of adequate funding is hindering the ability of the IAEA to effectively control States' atomic activity. **Read the report "Unleashing the nuclear watchdog" [here](#).**

### **Cluster Munition Coalition (CMC) campaigners have launched global disinvestment report**

June 14, 2012 - FairFin and IKV PaxChristi have launched their annual report on investments in cluster bombs. It shows that since 2009, banks and other financial institutions from 16 countries have invested more than \$43 billion in companies producing cluster munitions. The bulk of these investments come from states that have not yet joined the Convention on Cluster Munitions.

### **Nomination of a new director of SIPRI's Military Expenditure and Arms Production Programme**

As from July 1, Dr Sam Perlo-Freeman will take over as Director of SIPRI's Military Expenditure and Arms Production Programme. Dr Elisabeth Sköns, who was the programme's Director for many years, will continue to work at SIPRI full-time in her capacity as a Senior Fellow. Read Dr Perlo-Freeman's biography.

### **BRAZIL**

#### **United Press International, Brazil leads region in defense spending**

June 29, 2012 - Business analysis firm Frost and Sullivan reports that ongoing and upcoming Brazilian defense programs translate into the highest defense expenditures in Latin America over the next decade with an amount of \$69.1 billion for the period 2011-2020.

### **UNITED STATES**

#### **Kate Brannen, Further defense cuts could reach \$100 billion**

June 12, 2012 - According to Carl Levin, Senate Armed Services Committee chairman, the Pentagon could face up to \$100 billion in cuts over the next decade under a deficit-reduction deal. It would be in addition to the \$487 billion that the Pentagon is already shaving off its projected spending over the next 10 years.

#### **David Alexander, Pentagon chief urges Congress to block new defense cuts**

June 29, 2012 - Leon Panetta, US defense secretary, demands that Congress act soon to stop a new round of defense budget reductions next year. According to him a \$500 billion additional cut would threaten military families and defense workers.

## **B- IMPACTS OF WEAPONS ON DEVELOPMENT**



### **ARMS TRADE NEGOTIATIONS**

The UN conference on the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT), which is taking place in New York from 2 to 27 July, has officially opened with a strong statement from the UN secretary general Ban Ki Moon.

## **Related items:**

### **The European Parliament calls for a robust UN ATT**

June 13, 2012 - The European Parliament has adopted a strong position on the ATT in its resolution on the negotiations on the UN ATT (2012/2636) It notes that transparency and accountability are both key elements to a robust treaty. It also highlights that an effective treaty should cover ALL aspects of the trade in conventional weapons, and the widest spectrum of these weapons including small arms and light weapons and munitions, as well as intangible transfers, the components and technologies associated with their use, and manufacture or maintenance. It stresses the importance of reporting measures to ensure an effective and credible implementation of the treaty.

### **Mohammed Abbas, ATT: New global arms treaty must set tough rules - Oxfam**

May 29, 2012 - According to [Oxfam](#), states must set legally binding global rules on weapon and ammunition sales ahead of a United Nations summit to agree an arms treaty to prevent arms reaching human rights violators. The aid agency cites the examples of Syria, which has continued to receive arms shipments even as it is accused of killing more than 9,000 civilians in a crackdown on the popular uprising.

### **Amnesty International, Infographic: who supplies the world's weapons?**

74% of the world's weapons are supplied by only 6 countries: the USA, Russia, Germany, the UK, China, and France.

### **New Campaign: Breaking the Nuclear Chain**

The [Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict](#) (GPPAC), [IKV Pax Christi](#) and [Peace Boat](#) have initiated a new campaign to inform, motivate, and activate people to prevent the looming humanitarian catastrophe represented by the nuclear chain (from uranium mining to power, weapons and nuclear waste). The campaign aims at bringing together people that have been affected by any aspects of the nuclear chain and those who are committed to disrupt this chain. The idea is to put a human face on the abstract debate on nuclear issues.

### **Kristen Iversen, Under the "nuclear shadow" of Colorado's Rocky Flats**

Iversen spent her childhood in the 1960s in Colorado near the Rocky Flats nuclear weapons factory, playing in fields that now appear to have been contaminated with plutonium. Weapons production ended there after FBI agents raided the plant in 1989. Its operators later pleaded guilty to criminal violations of environmental law. In her new book, *Full Body Burden: Growing up in the Nuclear Shadow of Rocky Flats*, she investigates the environmental scandal involving nuclear contamination in and around Rocky Flats.

## **2. NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT**

### **Middle Powers Initiative on nuclear weapons free world**

Several IPB officers and members attended the inaugural meeting of [MPI's Framework Forum, held in Vienna on May 1, 2012](#) with the theme of "Building the Framework for a Nuclear Weapons-Free World: Laying Out the Map". The roundtable brought together

more than 50 representatives from governments and NGOs to examine some of the technical, legal and political requirements for a world free of nuclear weapons.

**[Download the MPI briefing paper](#)**

### **Nuclear Abolition Day 2012: A great success**

This year [ICAN](#)'s international call for action sought to raise public and political awareness about the threats and risks of current nuclear weapons policies, with over 20,000 nuclear warheads in arsenals around the world. In particular, ICAN called on non-nuclear armed countries – the vast majority of the world's states – to lead the process of ridding the world of these lethal weapons of mass extermination. Building upon the successes of previous days of action, Nuclear Abolition Day 2012 focused on the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons. ICAN reports that their "Ten Seconds is all it takes" video (which was translated into 10 languages), went viral reaching 10,000 unique views on Youtube. [Click here](#) to see the video.

### **UNITED KINGDOM**

**Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (CDN), [Relocating Trident would be seismic shock to UK budget](#)**

June 14, 2012 - In the event of Scottish independence, the potential cost of removing UK's Trident nuclear weapons fleet located at Faslane naval base would be huge. The British government is considering alternatives to limit the potential impact of Scottish independence. One could be to pressure the future independent Scotland to retain UK nukes in Faslane against its will.

**RELATED STORY: Rob Edwards, [Blueprint for nuclear-free Scotland two years after independence](#)**

June 17, 2012 - A [practical guide](#) on how to dismantle the Trident nuclear weapons system and remove it from the Clyde has been published by the [Scottish Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament](#). It points out that within 2 years, the warheads could be removed from Scotland, and could be all dismantled within 4 years. The guide has been warmly welcomed by the Scottish government: "We are firmly committed to the earliest possible withdrawal of Trident from Scotland and to the pursuit of a world which is free from nuclear weapons".

### **UNITED STATES**

**Mayors for Peace, [US Conference of Mayors adopts strong new mayors for peace resolution](#)**

June 16, 2012 - At the close of its 80th annual meeting in Florida, the US Conference of Mayors unanimously adopted a strong comprehensive resolution calling for US leadership in the global elimination of nuclear weapons and the redirection of nuclear weapons spending to meet the urgent needs of cities.

## **3. MISCELLANEOUS**

### **[NGO coalition launches Global Peace Campaign](#)**

[Interpeace](#) and [Peace One Day](#) have teamed up to launch the Global Truce 2012 NGO coalition on June 12. This initiative aims at creating the largest ever global reduction of violence on one single day, Peace Day on September 21. Renowned organizations

including ACCORD, BRAC, MAG, Mercy Corps, Viva Rio and War Child have joined the campaign.

### **Dr. Rosalie Bertell, 1929-2012**

It is with great sadness that IPB has learned of the death of Dr. Rosalie Bertell, Grey Nun of the Sacred Heart, founder of the Institute for Concern for Public Health and lifelong campaigner against the humanitarian and environmental impact of military and industrial pollution. For this work, she was awarded the Sean Mac Bride Prize in 2001. She will be sorely missed. Read the [biography of Rosalie Bertell](#).

## **4. RESOURCES**

### **New SIPRI Yearbook**

On 4 June SIPRI launched the findings of *SIPRI Yearbook 2012*, which assesses the current state of international security, armaments and disarmament. Amongst the major findings, upheavals in the Middle East and North Africa in 2011 highlighted the changing character of contemporary armed conflict. At the same time, major powers continued to reduce stockpiles of nuclear weapons, while pursuing weapon modernization programmes. In addition, peacekeeping operations in 2011 illustrated a growing acceptance of the concept of protection of civilians.

**Download a summary [here](#).**

### **UN Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) website launched**

The website serves as the primary information platform regarding the ATT negotiations. The aim is to enhance the quality and accessibility of information available to Member States, experts, NGOs, groups of interest, media, academics and the general public. All the official UN documents related to the process, statements, press releases, photos, and other information are made available on the website. Relevant information will also be transmitted through the Twitter account for the ATT Conference: follow at @ATT\_Conference.

**More on the ATT:** The website [armstreaty.org](http://armstreaty.org) is another important resource. It provides information on the positions of all countries.

### **War Profiteers' News No 34 June 2012**

The main topic tackled in this newsletter is the role of banks as one of the major financiers of the arms trade. It describes the basic ways that banks are involved in the war industry. The newsletter also sheds light on the inspiring campaign led by CODEPINK against drones.

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