



Working for a world without war

IPB NEWS

September 18th, 2012

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[IPB Annual Conference To Be Held In Dublin, Nov 16-18](#)

We are delighted to announce that IPB will hold its first ever conference in Ireland on November 16 – 18, 2012. The programme is co-organised by the IPB Secretariat and AFRI (IPB member organisation) in Dublin. We are especially pleased that the President of Ireland, Michael D. Higgins (the first winner of the Mac Bride Peace Prize, 1992) has kindly agreed to present the Prize to this year's winners. The conference title is: **Joining the Dots: Disarmament, Development and Democracy -- The Dublin Dialogue**. The annual Council meeting will also be held during the weekend. All are welcome! Please spread the word.

1- DISARMAMENT FOR DEVELOPMENT

A- MILITARY SPENDING

[IPB Secretary-General on TV](#)

September 9, 2012: The Swiss current affairs programme 'Geopolitis' tackles one contemporary issue per edition. In the latest programme the theme is the Arms Trade where Geopolitis deciphers the mechanisms of this huge arms industry which is worth \$ 400 billion. The programme also analyses the geopolitical implications that result with the presence of a huge arms industry. IPB Secretary-General Colin Archer is the guest interviewee. The interview starts approx. 7 minutes into the film (15 min). The programme is networked around the world via TV5. There are also useful on-line resources, such as video clips, web links, diagrams etc.

Ban Ki-Moon: [The World Is Over-Armed And Peace Is Under-Funded](#)

August 30, 2012- "Last month, competing interests prevented agreement on a much needed treaty that would have reduced the appalling human cost of the poorly regulated international arms trade. Meanwhile, nuclear disarmament efforts remain stalled, despite strong and growing global popular sentiment in support of this cause. The failure of these negotiations and this month's anniversaries of the atomic bombings at Hiroshima and Nagasaki provide a good opportunity to explore what has gone wrong, why disarmament and arms control have proven so difficult to achieve, and how the world community can get back on track towards these vitally important goals..."

This opinion piece by Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon appeared in leading newspapers in Bangladesh, Burundi, China, Germany, India, Iran, Italy, Lebanon, Malaysia, Republic of Korea, Turkey, and Ukraine and has been translated into 10 languages. A UN exhibit on this topic has also recently been unveiled in New York.

UNITED STATES

Jim Lobe / AntiWar.com & Inter Press Service, [US Public Satisfied With Less Militarized Global Role](#)

September 11, 2012- Disillusioned by wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, the US public is becoming increasingly comfortable with a more modest and less militarized global role for the nation. According to the latest in a biennial series of major surveys, the so-called Millennial Generation, citizens between the ages of 18 and 29, are generally much less worried about international terrorism, immigration, and the rise of China and are far less supportive of an activist US approach to foreign affairs than older groups.

Miriam Pemberton and Gabriel I. Rossman, [A Glimmer Of Military Budget Sanity – OpEd](#)

September 11, 2012- In July, for the first time since 1998, the House of Representatives voted to maintain the current military budget rather than increase Pentagon spending. It's the first step toward bringing the budget down. 89 Republicans joined most Democrats in shaving a billion bucks off the budget that House Republican leaders had proposed. Also, Congress voted to block Rep. Hal Rogers (R-KY), the chair of the House committee in charge of spending, from steering a contract to his district in Kentucky to buy \$17,000 drip pans for Black Hawk helicopters. As conservative lawmakers make speeches in the coming months about their belief that Pentagon spending must be preserved at the expense of everything else, the \$17,000 drip pan offers a handy rebuttal.

New York Times, [How big should the defense budget be? 6 views](#)

September 9, 2012- In the presidential campaign, much of the debate over fiscal priorities has centred on social spending — Medicare, Medicaid, Social Security, welfare. But, as Mitt Romney made clear on Sunday, the two candidates also have widely divergent views on the amount we should be spending on the military.

President Obama has proposed about \$500 billion in cuts over the next decade. (If a budget impasse leads to the “fiscal cliff,” about \$500 billion more would be automatically cut.) Mitt Romney would keep defence spending at 4 percent of the gross domestic product.

What is an appropriate level of defence spending, when the federal budget is strained and the United States faces few major military threats?

Read the 6 opinions...

EUROPE

EDITORIAL Defense News, [Bae-Eads Merger](#)

September 17, 2012- British defence group- BAE Systems and European aerospace giant-EADS have yet to formally announce their merger plans, but the mere confirmation that talks are underway will fundamentally reshape the global defence and aerospace industrial base. If approved by regulators in Britain, France, Germany, Spain, the U.S. and the EU, the new company would have combined sales of \$96 billion, leaving Boeing, the current No. 1 in aerospace and defence, in distant second place with \$68 billion. The sheer size and political weight of the new company already has governments assessing the deal and its implications on the defence industry to determine whether, first, to oppose the transaction, and later how best to respond.

TAIWAN

AFP, [Opposition queries budget cuts to defense spending](#)

September 10, 2012- Opposition lawmakers voiced concern over Taiwan's decreasing defence budget as the island forges closer ties with Beijing. Taiwan's defence ministry has slashed spending in recent years, proposing to set aside NT\$314.5 billion (US\$10.5 billion) for next year, compared with NT\$317.2 billion in 2012. China, on the other hand, has been increasing its military spending by double digits for most of the past decade as its economy, now the world's second largest, grew at a rapid pace. In 2012 alone, its military budget will rise 11.2 percent to 670.27 billion Yuan (US\$106.41 billion). The opposition claims that this slash in Taiwan's military expenditure showed the government's ignorance of the perceived Chinese threat.

RUSSIA

[Russia's Putin calls for army modernization drive](#)

September 3rd, 2012- Russian President Vladimir Putin has demanded a new armament drive. His goal is to modernise the defence industry of Russia as comprehensively as it was done in the 1930s by Stalin. Frustrated at the military, churning out products such as tanks and weapons system that cost more than their Western rivals while often failing in reliability tests, Putin added that efficiency might be improved if private players were allowed to acquire stakes in military production. Putin would like to make military purchases a focal point of his third term. This plan of modernising the military has put pressure on the other sectors of Putin's budget.

JAPAN

Kiyoshi Takenaka (Reuters), [Japan to boost isle defense capability despite cuts](#)

September 7th, 2012- Japan's defense budget will post the biggest drop in more than half a century next year but Tokyo will make new investments in equipment to help defend remote islands, the defense ministry said on Friday. The focus on defense of remote islands comes as Japan's ties with neighbouring China and South Korea have deteriorated sharply over competing sovereignty claims for tiny islets in the seas between them. The ministry said it requested 4.57 trillion yen (\$58 billion) in budget appropriations for the year starting next April 1, down 1.7 percent from the current year. That would mark the 11th consecutive year of decline in the defense budget and the largest percentage drop in 58 years. The fall will be significant next year due mainly to across-the-board pay cuts for government workers, a measure aimed at helping finance reconstruction following last year's earthquake and tsunami.

SLOVENIA

AFP, [Cash-strapped Slovenia slashes defence order](#)

September 5th, 2012- Slovenia's government currently on an austerity drive, has sharply reduced an order for armoured vehicles from the Finnish defence firm Patria. The 2006 contract which was signed during Prime Minister Janez Jansa's first term (2004-2008) was part of Slovenia's efforts to modernise its military after joining NATO in 2004. But the country now amidst financial crisis has decided to reduce the number of armoured vehicles from the initially agreed figure of 135 to just 30. The value of the deal has been slashed to 74.5 million euros (\$93.9 million) from the original 278 million euros.

B- IMPACTS OF WEAPONS ON DEVELOPMENT

[ICBL Afghan campaigner wins Emerging Peace Champion award 2012](#)

Geneva, August 2 - N-Peace which is a multi-country network to strengthen the role of women in building and restoring peace, declared Ms. Amina Azami from Afghanistan as the winner of the *Emerging Peace Champion Award 2012*. Ms. Azami is the co-founder of the ICBL Governance Board member-organisation called Afghan Landmine Survivors Organisation (ALSO) and founder of the Women with disabilities Advocacy Committee (WAAC) which is engaged in the promotion and protection of the rights of women and girls with disabilities in Afghanistan.

The award aims to support the emerging leadership of young women who can motivate other young people to get involved.

[New Slide Show on UNODA Homepage - Making Ammunition Stockpiles Safer with UN Safeguard](#)

There has been a rise in the number of accidental explosive events in ammunition depot worldwide. 46 such events were reported in 2011, as compared to the 18 events reported in 2001. Therefore, the accumulation of conventional ammunition stockpiles in surplus is of great concern as resulting explosions invariably result in the loss of many lives. In addition, high rates of diversion of ammunition from poorly secured stockpiles in or close to conflict or high crime areas have been taking place. Diverted ammunition are primarily being used by groups involved in intra-state conflict and for making improvised explosive devices (IEDs) which are used in acts of terrorism. The United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA), under its UN SafeGuard programme, engaged the assistance of a highly qualified ammunition expert and a Technical Review Panel consisting of experts from United Nations

Member States to develop the [International Ammunition Technical Guidelines \(IATG\)](#) in close collaboration with the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS).

IANSA Report, [UN Small Arms Conference Reaches Agreement on Final Afternoon](#)

September 11, 2012- Second Review Conference of the UN Programme of Action (UNPoA) managed to reaffirm States' commitments to address the illicit trade of small arms and light weapons (SALW). The outcome document (*CRP3 Rev.3*, agreed by consensus on 7th September 2012) reflects some positive developments such as agreement on involvement of peacekeeping missions in the effort to trace illicit SALW and the importance of keeping pace with the developments in SALW. Also, IANSA's call for an effective assessment of the implementation process, rather than an editorial review of an outcome document was echoed by a number of States during the plenary process. However, some improvements such as gender mainstreaming, developing mechanisms to assess the risk of SALW diversion, studying the links between SALW and armed violence and its impact on development were blocked by a few countries.

Aside from the short fallings of the outcome document, the wider Review Conference demonstrated that a considerable valuable work had been done especially the efforts undertaken to develop new mechanisms such as the [International Small Arms Control Standards \(ISACS\)](#).

2. NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT

UNITED STATES

Jeffrey Lewis, [A Steal at \\$10 Billion, The United States is building a nuclear bomb that costs more than its weight in solid gold. Why?](#)

September 12, 2012- The United States has two nuclear bomb designs: the B83 and the B61. New plans to modernise the B61 which is the oldest design in the nuclear stockpile have been proposed. The cost to modify the four different designs of the B61, namely, B61 Mods 3, 4, 7 and 10 into a single modification called B61 Mod 12 will cost \$10 billion. Earlier plans to modify nuclear weapons which were proposed by the George W. Bush Administration were rejected by the Congress. Additionally, President Obama had stated that no 'new' nuclear weapons will be made. However, since 'new' has no technical meaning, the B61 Mod 12 will determine as to how much nuclear weapons could be redesigned while staying within the political guidance as defined by Obama's 2010 Nuclear Posture Review.

But does the U.S. need to spend so much on nuclear weapons modernisation? Senior military and civilian officials have repeatedly stated that these weapons have no military utility and exist primarily to fulfil political needs.

Global Security Newswire Staff, [U.S. Nuclear Arms Due for High-Cost Revamp](#)

September 17, 2012- The United States is to undertake the priciest revamp to date of its 5,113 nuclear weapons and associated infrastructure. Managing and sustaining the nation's nuclear armaments would require no less than \$352 billion in the next 10 years, the Henry L. Stimson Center in Washington said in a June assessment. In spite of the significant cost of revamping nuclear weapons, there is widespread agreement among U.S. government personnel to dole out billions of dollars for this particular purpose. President Obama is seeking more than \$7.5 billion in fiscal 2013 for carrying out atomic-armament updates, \$1.1 billion more than in the current budget year that ends on Sept. 30. The Pentagon has for the first time backed plans to put forward \$8 billion over half a decade for such

efforts. Therefore the question arises whether such expenditure is required at a time when the U.S. is reeling from overwhelming debt and consequently slashing assistance to the needy.

Pat LaMarche, [U.S. Poised to Violate Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty \(opinion piece\)](#)

September 17, 2012- In 1970, the U.S. Senate ratified the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). According to the treaty, countries with nuclear weapons were to move towards disarmament; countries without nuclear weapons were to not acquire them; and all countries could access peaceful nuclear energy. However with the U.S. plan to overhaul its nuclear technology by spending \$352 billion in the next ten years, the question arises as to how the U.S. upgrade of its entire nuclear arsenal with the motive to make it more effective symbolises a move towards disarmament? Not only does this proposal to spend violate the NPT, it also signifies a huge opportunity cost to the society....

According to the [World Hunger Education Service](#) 925 million people in the world went hungry in 2010. Each hungry person in the world could have more than \$380 for food -- all 925 million of them -- for what the U.S. alone will spend on upgrading its nuclear arsenal. But those are only hungry people. The United Nations estimates that 18,000 kids are dying of hunger each day! That means about six and a half million children die of starvation each year. If the U.S. spent the \$352 billion on them, we could spend about \$53,576 per kid.

JAPAN

Hiroko Tabuchi, [Japan Will Try to Halt Nuclear Power by the End of the 2030s](#)

September 14, 2012- Japan seeks to phase out nuclear power by 2039. This energy strategy represents a historic shift away from nuclear power usage which has been prevalent in Japan. However, with the Minister of State for National Policy- Motohisa Furukawa, suggesting that the announcement represented loose guidelines and was open to revision, the critics have blasted this strategy as being vague and long-term. Additionally, lobbyists like Keidenren which represent big businesses in Japan are claiming that if the country moves away from nuclear power, then it will result in higher energy costs and energy shortages. As Japan redrafts its energy policy, it also risks enlarging its carbon footprint. Therefore, the government must use its new energy strategy as a starting point for an ambitious renewable energy policy which would ensure energy efficiency and sustainable green economy.

International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) meets in Hiroshima

More than 100 campaigners from 30 countries took part in an ICAN meeting in Hiroshima on 21 August 2012. Participants focused on the need to reframe the nuclear disarmament debate in humanitarian terms, and developed practical ideas for generating a groundswell of public support – globally, regionally and in Japan – for a treaty banning nuclear weapons. The meeting provided strategic direction leading up to the Oslo conference on the humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons planned for March 2013.

In Hiroshima, ICAN launched a new publication titled Catastrophic Humanitarian Harm (<http://www.icanw.org/files/ICAN-CHH.pdf>), which explains in simple terms the “catastrophic effects of nuclear weapons on our health, societies and the environment”, and outlines why nuclear weapons should be banned just as other inherently inhumane and indiscriminate weapons, such as landmines and cluster munitions, have been prohibited by treaties.

[Source: Abolition 2000 Update September 2012](#)

3. MISCELLANEOUS

In Memoriam: Gerd Greune, Former IPB Executive Board Member

August 29, 2012- IPB is very sad to announce the sudden death of **Gerd Greune** (15 March 1949 - 24 August 2012), former Executive Board member and Secretary General (1979-1981) of the IPB. Gerd graduated as a teacher but discovered politics very early. The right to conscientious objection was his first political issue, developing into a general involvement in the German and international peace movement and campaigning against the stationing of nuclear weapons in Europe and nuclear arms in general. For many years he played a leading role in the German peace movement...

In Memoriam: Dr. Carlos Vargas, IPB Board Member

August 12, 2012- IPB announces with great sadness the death of Dr Carlos Vargas Pizarro, IPB Board member. We will remember his passionate advocacy of nuclear disarmament, his enthusiastic participation in the World Court Project, his dedication and commitment to advancing human rights within the UN system, and his warm and charming personality. See the official message from the [Costa Rican Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#). Condolences can be sent via his colleague [Roberto Zamora](#): robertozamorab@gmail.com

4. RESOURCES

Landmine and Cluster Munition Monitor, Cluster Munition Monitor Media Kit

The Landmine and Cluster Munition Monitor (The Monitor) has released the third *Cluster Munition Monitor* report, the sister publication to the *Landmine Monitor* report, which has been issued annually since 1999. *Cluster Munition Monitor 2012* provides a global overview of efforts to eliminate cluster munitions with a focus on developments in 2011 and the first half of 2012. It covers global developments in cluster munition ban policy, use, production, trade, and stockpiling, and also includes information on cluster munition survey and clearance of cluster munition remnants, victim assistance and casualties, as well as funding support.

Reaching Critical Will, The CTBT: obstacles to entry into force

WILPF's Reaching Critical Will project has released its latest publication on the entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT). It examines the policies of the 38 states that have not yet ratified the CTBT, and highlights why entry into force of the treaty should not be treated as a precondition to nuclear disarmament or to the commencement of negotiations on a treaty banning nuclear weapons completely.

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