Disarm! For a Climate of Peace

Creating an Action Agenda

World Congress on Military and Social Spending

30 Sept – 03 Oct 2016
Technische Universität Berlin, Germany

SUMMARY

IPB has worked for over 10 years to develop a programme on Disarmament for Sustainable Development. A primary topic within this programme is military and social spending. In 2011 we launched the Global Day of Action on Military Spending and in late 2014 a year-round Global Campaign on Military Spending. The Berlin Congress -- Disarm! For a Climate of Peace - Creating an Action Agenda -- will be the next highlight of this campaign, bringing together a wide variety of experts and advocates from around the world.

INTERNATIONAL SUPPORTERS:

www.ipb2016.berlin
NATIONAL AND LOCAL SUPPORTERS:

Progressive Fraction of TU Senate

COORDINATING FOUNDATIONS:

With research advisory support from the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute
ABOUT THE IPB

The International Peace Bureau (IPB, www.ipb.org), the oldest global peace network with more than 300 organizations in over 70 countries, was founded in 1891/92. We are a Nobel Peace Laureate (1910); over the years, 13 of our officers have been recipients of the Nobel Peace Prize.

The IPB is dedicated to the vision of a World Without War. Our current main programme centres on Disarmament for Sustainable Development and within this, our focus is mainly on the reallocation of military expenditure. We believe that by reducing funding for the military sector, significant amounts of money could be released for social projects, domestically or abroad, which could lead to the fulfilment of real human needs and the protection of the environment. At the same time, we support a range of disarmament campaigns and supply data on the economic dimensions of weapons and conflicts. Our campaigning work on nuclear disarmament began already in the 1980s and continues today in various contexts. We remain committed to the goal of nuclear abolition.

Our network of member organisations, together with individual members, forms a global community, bringing together knowledge and campaigning experience in a common cause. We link experts and advocates working on similar issues in order to build strong civil society movements.

Our photo-exhibition Making Peace has been shown in many cities in Europe and beyond, reaching many thousands of people.

IPB has had Consultative Status with the UN’s Economic and Social Council since 1977. We also have associate status with the Department of Public Information.

IPB plays a central role in the Geneva-based NGO Committee for Disarmament, a committee of CONGO, the Conference of NGOs in Consultative Status with ECOSOC. There are sister committees in New York and Vienna. Together we follow, and try to influence, various disarmament negotiations, within and outside the UN.

THE CAMPAIGN

The Congress will act as a high point in the recently-launched Global Campaign on Military Spending, GCOMS. In December 2014, the IPB announced the beginning of a permanent, global, year-round campaign to tackle the worldwide issue of excessive military spending. In 2014 the world’s governments spent over USD 1700 billion on the military sector. This is money that could instead be spent on creating jobs for young people, feeding the hungry, protecting us all from the effects of climate change, tackling pandemics…and much more. IPB has for several years called for annual reallocations of (as a minimum) 10% from the military budgets of all states; and for a process to be started to reduce arms production as well as the international weapons trade.
The campaign builds on over a decade of work done by IPB and others around the theme of 'Disarmament for Sustainable Development'. It incorporates the Global Day of Action on Military Spending (GDAMS – now in its 6th year), whose goals it shares and which is also coordinated by the IPB.

**Overall Goal of the Campaign is:**
To achieve major re-allocations of military expenditures (especially in high spending countries) to 5 main alternative areas:

a. **Climate change** mitigation and adaptation, preserving biodiversity;

b. **Peace**: disarmament, conflict prevention & resolution, human security;

c. **Sustainable development**: new production and consumption patterns, anti-poverty programs, UN Sustainable Development Goals;

d. **Public services/Social justice**, human rights, gender equality and green job-creation;

e. **Humanitarian programs** to support the most vulnerable groups.

– all the above as part of a wider global transformation towards a culture of peace.

**CONGRESS AIM**
The aim of this congress is to bring the issue of military spending, often seen as a technical question, into the broad public debate and to strengthen our global community of activism. The enormous global challenges of hunger, jobs and climate could be brought closer to a solution by real disarmament steps – steps that need to be clearly formulated and put into political reality. The objectives of the Congress go even beyond these specific challenges: they concern the connection between, on the one hand, the current global militarization and wars, and on the other, the need for a great transformation\(^1\). To put it bluntly, without overcoming militarism, a socio-ecological transformation with the goal of an equitable international social order will be a failure. This dimension of social change has so far hardly been addressed, neither in the peace movements, nor in the transformation sciences nor in the social organizations that have such a transformation as their goal. This is the other specific challenge of the World Congress.

**LOCATION AND DATE**

We have already secured the venue at the Technical University. The main aula accommodates over 1000 persons, and in addition there are two large halls and many smaller rooms for round tables and workshops.

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\(^1\) see [WBGU Flagship Report 2011](https://www.wbgu.de/dep/de/latest-report.html), German Advisory Council on Global Change
CONTENT – General ideas

In preparation for the Congress, in the discussion of objectives and content, the following elements have been developed:

1. Where we are living it is one planet, but we use it up as if we had three. We are facing a crisis of civilisation, which is even more far-reaching than an ecological and economic crisis.

2. There is a need for a ‘great transformation’ and among the absolutely necessary conditions is the reallocation of military expenditure. The transformation implies the end of militarism in favor of a culture of peace, and hence the peace movement must play an important and indeed, leading, role.

3. No such transformation and indeed no sustainable world is possible without moving billions of dollars from war to peace, and without removing the scourge of militarism. These challenges also require critical thinking about the western-oriented development models, and a search an end to the many forms of exclusion. They demand new definitions of democracy, participation, knowledge and of both science and culture.

4. The newly-developed Post-2015 SDGs must pave the way for the disarmament of an over-armed world. This has implications for how (and by whom) development should be funded. The disarmament process requires the growth of trust and international solidarity in opposition to the model of competition and confrontation, which risks leading ultimately to apocalypse.

5. Ecological challenges cannot be solved without stopping preparations for war (which destroys both nature and people). We need to move the money from the most destructive sector to the survival of the biosphere, and with it, the survival of human beings. There is no solution to climate change without disarmament, no CO2-free world without cooperation. Moving the money to renewable energy also means overcoming the carbon and the nuclear eras. These are themes we continue to address following the COP21 Conference held in Paris in December 2015.

6. Decent work to satisfy humanity’s needs: moving the money towards a sustainable green economy without growth. Such an economy is impossible with military spending. The task is to find ways to bring military industry towards zero. Quality sustainable economic development and military spending are not compatible. Move the money means offering a future to the youth.

7. Saving the planet means ending the nuclear danger: move the money from nuclear weapons modernisation to freedom from hunger.

8. Overcoming armed conflicts: moving the money that is already ‘deployed’ in the hotspots of the world towards prevention and peace research.
9. Disarmament means **democracy and participation** – we need to show why and how. Not least this implies developing a gender perspective both on the military system, and on the models of peace-making and development being promoted to replace it.

10. The **Global Campaign on Military Spending** (GCOMS) is more than simply about cuts in the military budget, it is also:
   a. Conversion to a civilian-oriented economy
   b. An end to military research
   c. Technological development to actively promote peace
   d. Creating work for humanitarian solutions and sustainability in general
   e. Development cooperation and prevention and resolution of violent conflicts
   f. Demilitarisation of minds – new ways of thinking for all

11. Ultimately, a great transformation implies an alternative use of resources: investing in a society of justice and sustainability. We need to elaborate comprehensive visionary descriptions of the path to take.

IPB is conscious of the need to develop effective and realistic strategies for change; to share practical skills in advocacy, media work and campaigning; and to build a mutually supportive community. All three aspects will be features of the Congress programme.

**ADDITIONAL FEATURES**

The Congress will include:

   a. Cultural activities from around the world – including local Berlin-based performers and artistes.
   b. Possibilities for NGOs and other partners to hold side meetings and workshops
   c. A ‘Market stalls’ area
   d. IPB Triennial Assembly – main gathering for members and partners: Oct 3rd

**SPEAKERS**

While the theme contains many references to economics and politics, our aim is to draw in people from a wide range of disciplines and backgrounds. Speakers will include both the highest levels of society and grassroots voices, creative thinkers and cultural figures: Nobel and Alternative Nobel Prize winners; elder statesmen/women; the social sciences, economics and politics in particular; the peace movement and other civil society sectors; parliamentarians, religious leaders, journalists, community organizers and artists.
As at February 2016, the following speakers have been confirmed:

- **Samir Amin**,  
  Economist
- **Frank Bsirske**,  
  President of ver.di (German United Services Trade Union) (since 2001)
- **Sharan Burrow**,  
  General Secretary International Trade Union Confederation – ITUC
- **Noam Chomsky** (video),  
  Author, USA
- **Jayantha Dhanapala**,  
  President of the Pugwash Conferences on Science and World Affairs (since 2007)
- **Aude Fleurant**,  
  Director of the new Arms and Military Expenditure Program – SIPRI
- **James Galbraith**,  
  Economist and member of the executive committee of the World Economics Association
- **Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev** (video),  
  Former Soviet statesman, Nobel Peace Prize Laureate (1990)
- **Philip Jennings**,  
  General Secretary of UNI Global Union (since 2000)
- **Angela Kane**,  
  Senior Fellow at the Vienna Centre for Disarmament and Non-Proliferation
- **Gabriele Krone-Schmalz**,  
  Journalist and author
- **Harold Walter Kroto** (video or in person),  
  Humanist, Nobel Prize in Chemistry (1996)
- **Jagoda Munic**  
  Chair of Friends of the Earth International
- **Vandana Shiva**,  
  Indian environmental activist, Right Livelihood Laureate (1993)
- **Jakob von Uexküll**,  
  Founder of the World Future Council and the Right Livelihood Award
- **Jody Williams** (video),
Nobel Peace Prize Laureate (1997)

- **Federico Mayor Zaragoza,**
  Former Director-General of UNESCO (1987-1999)

- **Jean Ziegler** (video),
  Former UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food

**FINAL STATEMENT**

An international congress "Declaration" is intended and will be carefully prepared some time in advance, with input from the Preparatory events.

**SUSTAINABILITY OF THE CONGRESS/FOLLOW UP**

Enhancing cooperation at international and national levels is an important stated goal. Several avenues are proposed:

- Through greater involvement in the annual GDAMS (Global Day of Action on Military Spending).
- Intense online and offline evaluation and reporting of contributions, including book production.
- The establishment of an international observer group of scientists, Nobel laureates and peace advocates who monitor military spending and international militarization from a critical perspective, as well as issuing warnings and raising their voices in the media (watchdog function).

**PARTNERS**

The IPB is working to attract broad support that goes far beyond peace organizations, such as from development, environment, faith, human rights, social welfare, women, workers' and youth organizations.

As at February 2016, our initial partners include:

- AStA (General Student's Committee) of Technische Universität Berlin (TU)
- Church and Peace
- Economists for Peace and Security
- EL (European Left)
- EuPRA (The European Peace Research Association)
- Friends of the Earth International
- IALANA (International Association of Lawyers Against Nuclear Arms)
- ICBUW (International Coalition to Ban Uranium Weapons)
• IFOR (International Fellowship of Reconciliation)
• INES (International Network of Engineers and Scientists for Global Responsibility)
• IPPNW (International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War) German branch
• ITUC (International Trade Union Confederation)
• Kooperation für den Frieden (Cooperation for Peace, Germany)
• Muslim Peace Fellowship
• NatWiss (Initiative of Scientists for Peace, Germany)
• Pax Christi International
• Progressive Fraction of Tech Univ Senate
• Quaker Council for European Affairs
• SERI (Sustainable European Research Institute)
• Sri Ramanuja Mission Trust, India
• UNI Global Union
• TNI (Transnational Institute)
• Verband deutscher Schriftstellerinnen und Schriftsteller (Association of German Writers)
• ver.di Staff of TU
• WILPF (Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom)
• World Future Council

With research advisory support from SIPRI (Stockholm International Peace Research Institute)

PARTICIPANTS

The objective is to ensure participation from at least 40 countries. A particular focus will be on attracting participants from the "Global South", including the so-called emerging economies. We plan to invite representatives from organisations from conflict/crisis/war regions. We especially wish to attract young participants, notably students working on relevant subjects.
Total numbers: 700-1000.
PREPARATORY EVENTS
The aim is to prepare the Congress by arranging several national/regional meetings dealing with specific topics within the whole complex of issues. We will encourage those organising events within the framework of GDAMS 6 (April 2016) to structure them so as to contribute to the Berlin gathering. Apart from the Global Day we are supporting preparatory activities in major centres such as Brussels, Geneva, Moscow, Gothenburg, Nairobi, Abuja, Buenos Aires, Montevideo, Rosario, Bogota, Nagpur and other cities. Preparatory seminars have already taken place in Barcelona, Leeds and Tokyo.

PREPARATORY COMMITTEES
Structures of the organisational work:

a. an international programme committee, dealing with the programmatic work, consisting of Ingeborg Breines, Reiner Braun, Colin Archer, Corazon Fabros, Nathalie Gauchet, Joseph Gerson, Paul Lansu, Dave Webb, Erhard Crome, and Patrick Nickisch.

b. an international preparatory committee, responsible for the fundamental strategic and organizational issues, chaired by the two IPB Co-Presidents.

c. a local preparatory committee in Berlin, chaired by Lucas Wirl (IALANA, NatWiss).

d. Other preparatory bodies such as a media group are to be developed in the course of preparation.

Initial meetings of these groups were held in Berlin on June 23rd and in Padua on Oct. 22nd 2015.

PUBLICITY AND MEDIA WORK
We aim for an intense media coverage of the whole process of preparation (online and offline). Both traditional methods of public relations and modern/social media are being used. A newsletter will be published and a dedicated congress website has been set up: www.ipb2016.berlin.

IMPACTS
IPB expects that the impacts of the Congress will be in many fields and at several levels. A successful event will

• Increase the level of public debate
• Broaden the community of activism
• Require politicians to respond with policy proposals
• Encourage students and researchers to develop academic work in the areas highlighted by the Congress.

Additional effects could include

• New membership applications for the IPB itself
• New partners in the GDAMS/GCOMS effort
New funding partners
We are setting up a logical framework within which to analyse these various outputs and the indicators to enable us to measure them.

**FINANCE**

This is an ambitious plan, but IPB and its partners have a long experience with this type of event and we are confident of its success. The financial framework for the entire Congress is estimated at around **200,000 euros**. A large part of the money will be used to support funding for travel and subsistence expenses of speakers and participants who (or whose organizations) are not able to cover their own costs.

IPB can only cover a small fraction of these costs from its own resources. Financial support from foundations, organizations and individual donations is absolutely necessary.
CONTACTS

Internet: www.ipb2016.berlin
Email: info@ipb2016.berlin
Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/events/1457282777925108/

IPB Secretariat
41 rue de Zurich
1201 Geneva
Switzerland.
Tel: +41-(0)22-731-6429
mailbox@ipb.org
http://www.ipb.org

Berlin congress secretariat:
c/o INES,
Marienstr. 19-20
D-10117 Berlin
Phone: +49 (0)30 31 99 66 86
Fax: +49 (0)30 31 99 66 89
lucas.wirl@inesglobal.com
http://www.inesglobal.com/contact.phtml

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