

A New Agenda for Peace

SDG 5: Gender equality

While the UN Secretary General (UNSG) has significantly advanced UN discourse on gender equality (GE),⁴ the Agenda's focus is too narrow to dismantle patriarchal structures. The focus is on women

value social reproductive work, and we need a commitment for advancement of economic and

total global emissions,⁹ yet the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change does not oblige militaries to report on their emissions.

In addition, ongoing conflicts produce substantial emissions. For example, the first year of the war in Ukraine has released emissions that roughly equal the annual output of a country like Belgium.¹⁰

Skyrocketing military spending has also been shown to correlate with increased emissions, and diverts public finance away from the mitigation and adaptation of the climate crisis, as well as gender-responsive economic and social infrastructure investments.¹¹

The Pact should:

- Recognise the impact world's militaries have on the climate and call for an end to the exclusion of military pollution in climate agreements;
- Highlight disarmament and demilitarisation as important aspects of climate action and environmental justice;
- Oblige states to endorse the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty and to immediately engage in a just transition to phase out the extraction and use of all fossil fuels.

Militarisation is a key impediment to diplomacy and peace. The UN and many member states have demanded disarmament and demilitarisation since the institution's founding, but the UN's permanent Security Council members have instead forcibly taken the world in the opposite direction. The Pact must be bold in its vision, setting out what is required to reverse this trend and build a multilateral system of demilitarised and nonviolent cooperation and global justice.

The Pact should:

- Support the call in the Agenda for an updated UN study on the social and economic impacts of military spending;
- Oblige states to immediately reduce military spending with the aim of total elimination of weapons production within five years

Compel an end to the privatisation of military production and the influence of corporate interest over national policies that perpetuate war, undermine disarmament, and preclude a rational analysis of spending priorities;
Oblige states to close foreign military bases, which aggravate tensions and facilitate the launch of wars and occupations;
Compel the total elimination of nuclear weapons and demand all states join and implement the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW);
Oblige states to join and implement the Political Declaration on Strengthening the Protection of Civilians from the Humanitarian Consequences Arising from the Use of Explosive Weapons in Populated Areas, Mine Ban Treaty, Convention on Cluster Munitions, Arms Trade Treaty, and UN Programme of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons;
Commit to the integration of gender diversity and perspectives throughout resource reallocation process;
Ensure that in the discourse and decisions about disarmament and demilitarisation civil society is as equally represented as nation-states.

The Agenda's boldest and most concrete recommendation is the call for multilateral negotiations to a legally binding instrument to prohibit autonomous weapon systems. However, negotiations of such a treaty have so far been blocked by a few heavily militarised states that are investing in the development of autonomous weapons. Likewise, only a handful of militarised governments have blocked work to prevent an arms race in outer space and to prevent cyber attacks.

The Pact should:

Support the UNSG's call for the negotiation and adoption of a treaty prohibiting and restricting autonomous weapons systems by 2026;

The Pact should:

- Demand fulsome consultations for restructuring of the multilateral system to uphold the Charter and its stated purpose to end war, ensure peace and to address all dispute resolution through dialogue, securing universal disarmament. Among other things, this requires:
 - Demanding from the states an absolute commitment to uphold the international law and the provisions of the Charter in order to participate in multilateral spaces, and considering the necessity of establishing ministries for peace in each state to assist in compliance;
 - Restructuring the decision-making processes, in particular in relation to the Security Council, including considerations of its abolition or fundamental reform;
 - Addressing the collapse of the social contract between people and their governance structures and how representation should be recalibrated;
 - Ensuring there is no conflict of interests of those engaged in global governance, and transparency to prevent the advancement of private agendas;
 - Legal and policy development to end impunity with particular emphasis on the role of the International Criminal Court.