



Global Peace Dividend Initiative

<https://peace-dividend.org>

Fifty Nobel Laureates have signed the following

Simple proposal for humankind

World military spending has doubled since 2000. It is approaching 2 trillion US dollars per year, and is increasing in all regions of the world (*).

Individual governments are under pressure to increase military spending because others do so. The feedback mechanism sustains a spiralling arms race – a colossal waste of resources that could be used far more wisely. Past arms races have often had the same outcome: deadly and destructive conflicts.

We have a simple proposal for humankind: the governments of all UN member-states negotiate a joint reduction of their military expenditure by 2% every year for five years.

The rationale for the proposal is simple:

- Adversary nations reduce military spending, so the security of each country is increased, while deterrence and balance are preserved.
- The agreement contributes to reducing animosity, thereby decreasing the risk of war.
- Vast resources – a ‘peace dividend’ of as much as 1 trillion USD by 2030 – are made available.

Half of the resources freed up by this agreement are allocated to a global fund, under UN supervision, to address humanity’s grave common problems: pandemics, climate change, and extreme poverty.

The other half remains at the disposal of individual governments. All countries will therefore have significant new resources. Some of these can be used to redirect the strong research capacities of military industries towards urgently needed peaceful applications.

History shows that agreements to limit the proliferation of weapons are achievable: thanks to the SALT and START treaties, the United States and the Soviet Union have reduced their nuclear arsenals by 90% since the nineteen eighties. Such negotiations can succeed because they are rational: each actor benefits from its adversaries’ armaments reduction, and so does humanity as a whole.

Humankind faces risks that can only be averted through cooperation.

Let us cooperate, instead of fighting.

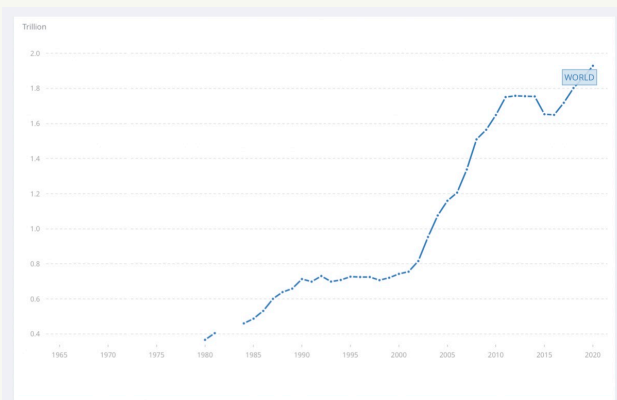
(* Stockholm International Peace Research Institute)

Signatories:

1. Hiroshi Amano (Nobel Physics)
2. Peter Agre (Nobel Chemistry),
3. David Baltimore (Nobel Medicine),
4. Barry C. Barish (Nobel Physics),
5. Steven Chu (Nobel Physics),
6. Robert F. Curl Jr. (Nobel Chemistry),
7. Johann Deisenhofer (Nobel Chemistry),
8. Jacques Dubochet, (Nobel Chemistry)
9. Gerhard Ertl (Nobel Chemistry),
10. Joachim Frank (Nobel Chemistry),

11. Sir Andre K. Geim, (Nobel Physics),
12. Sheldon L. Glashow (Nobel Physics),
13. Carol Greider (Nobel Medicine),
14. Harald zur Hausen (Nobel Medicine),
15. Dudley R. Herschbach (Nobel Chemistry),
16. Avram Hershko (Nobel Chemistry),
17. Roald Hoffmann (Nobel Chemistry),
18. Robert Huber (Nobel Chemistry),
19. Louis J. Ignarro (Nobel Medicine),
20. Brian Josephson (Nobel Physics),
21. Takaaki Kajita (Nobel Physics),
22. Tawakkol Karman (Nobel for Peace),
23. Brian K. Kobilka (Nobel Chemistry),
24. Roger D. Kornberg, (Nobel Chemistry),
25. Yuan T. Lee, (Nobel Chemistry),
26. John C. Mather, (Nobel Physics),
27. Eric S. Maskin (Nobel Economics),
28. May-Britt Moser (Nobel Medicine),
29. Edvard I. Moser (Nobel Medicine),
30. Erwin Neher (Nobel Medicine),
31. Sir Paul Nurse (Nobel Medicine and Past President Royal Society),
32. Giorgio Parisi (Nobel Physics),
33. Jim Peebles (Nobel Physics),
34. Sir Roger Penrose (Nobel Physics),
35. Edmund S. Phelps (Nobel Economics),
36. John C. Polanyi (Nobel Chemistry),
37. H. David Politzer (Nobel Physics),
38. Sir Venki Ramakrishnan (Nobel Chemistry and Past President of the Royal Society),
39. Sir Peter Ratcliffe (Nobel Medicine),
40. Sir Richard J. Roberts (Nobel Medicine),
41. Michael Rosbash, (Nobel Medicine),
42. Carlo Rubbia (Nobel Physics),
43. Randy W. Schekman, (Nobel Medicine)
44. Gregg Semenza (Nobel Medicine),
45. Robert J. Shiller (Nobel Economics),
46. Stephen Smale (Fields Medal),
47. Sir Fraser Stoddart (Nobel Chemistry),
48. Horst L. Störmer, (Nobel Physics),
49. Thomas C. Südhof (Nobel Medicine),
50. Jack W. Szostak (Nobel Medicine),
51. Olga Tokarczuk (Nobel Literature),
52. Srinivasa S. R. Varadhan (Abel Prize),
53. Sir John E. Walker (Nobel Chemistry),
54. Torsten Wiesel (Nobel Medicine),
55. Roberto Antonelli (President Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei),
56. Patrick Flandrin (President French Académie des Sciences),
57. Mohamed H.A. Hassan (President of The World Academy of Sciences),
58. Annibale Mottana (President Accademia Nazionale delle Scienze dei XL),
59. Anton Zeilinger (President Austrian Academy of Sciences),
60. Carlo Rovelli and Matteo Smerlak, *organizers*.

His Holiness the Dalai Lama (Nobel for Peace) has expressed appreciation and support for the initiative.



World Military expenditures. Current USD.
Source: Stockholm International Peace Research Institute.

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