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INTERNASJONAL KVINNELIGA FOR
FRED & FRIHET
DEN NORSKE SEKSJONEN AV WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE FOR PEACE & FREEDOM

Consultation statement on Norway's climate goals for 2035 from International Women's League for Peace and Freedom, WILPF Norway

The climate crisis is the biggest security challenge the world faces. Global warming is heading towards 2.6 degrees - if we do not collectively halve emissions quickly. Continuation of the current policy will lead to a temperature increase of up to 3.1 degrees during the century (UN 24.10.24)

"The temperature is rising faster than scientists have ever observed, and in the coming decades climate change is expected to increase and intensify in all regions of the world. The emission cuts implemented today will be decisive for the future of the earth." p.4 of the consultation memorandum

The main goal of the national climate targets is to help keep global warming below 2 degrees compared to pre-industrial times, and preferably below 1.5. **WILPF Norway's input is about disarmament as a means of action and measures that can be incorporated into the national climate plan and contribute to the main goal and at the same time to climate finance.**

WILPF is one of 54 organizations in Women and Gender Constituency, which in turn is one of nine interest groups in the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). WILPF has sections in 40 countries and on every continent and has its own Environmental Working Group.

In a note before COP 29, Women and Gender Constituency (WGC) wrote that the UNFCCC has failed to address the relationship between militarism and the climate crisis. The note had the following main message:

- *Allowing states to hide their military greenhouse gas emissions has led to a lack of accountability for this sector's significant impact on the climate crisis.*
- *States are spending increasingly large amounts on their military budgets, while they are unable to fulfill their climate finance obligations.*
- *Several major wars and increasing weapons production, storage and military activity increase global emissions and work against efforts to mitigate the climate crisis.*¹

We will refer to a proposal, *The Peace Dividend Campaign* from 50 Nobel laureates in several disciplines to reduce all countries' military spending by two percent per year. Over five years, starting in 2025, this will free up \$1.3 trillion that can be transferred to a global fund for climate

¹ https://www.ikff.no/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/Peace-and-Demilitarisation-WG_three-pager.pdf
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justice and human security.² This proposal will be cost-effective and contribute to major cuts in CO2 emissions.

Militarism is the elephant in the climate room

Military activities are responsible for at least 5.5 percent of global CO2 emissions in peacetime, more than the emissions from the world's fourth largest emitting nation. CO2 emissions from war are not included in the 5,5 %. Cuts in military emissions and the transfer of military funds to climate justice have been kept out of the climate negotiations, despite many years of suggestions and demands from civil society organizations and parts of academia. This growing global problem must be solved bilaterally and multilaterally, and WILPF will again ask that Norway put this on the agenda nationally and internationally:

“No country or area of country can sufficiently limit emissions of greenhouse gases and the consequences of global warming alone. This can only happen through joint efforts where everyone contributes, including major emitters.” p.25 of the consultation memorandum

“The necessary scope and pace of such development is too great for it to be done by individual countries alone. Only through global efforts will the development of the necessary solutions and technologies be able to proceed quickly enough for the world and Norway to succeed in the transition.” p. 25

There are constantly coming new reports about military climate emissions. Several points to how rearmament regularly work against the efforts of the UN and the international community to reduce climate emissions.

Brief presentation of notes from civil society and research.

International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War, Germany, Tipping Point North South, Transnational Institute are among the organizations that published the report *Climate crossfire. How NATO's 2% military spending target contributes to climate breakdown*,³ autumn 2023. The report is based on NATO's requirement for member states to spend at least two percent of GDP on defense - and calculates the economic and ecological consequences of the target. The two percent target moves funds from climate and environmental action to the military sector. Politicians in NATO countries talk about "greening" the military, making it more climate-friendly, while military emissions from war, war exercises, the arms industry and arms transport are growing sharply. The report estimates that NATO's military carbon footprint rose from 196 million tons of CO2 eq. in 2021 to 226 million in 2023.

“One of the main findings from the sixth main report is that every ton of emissions counts, and that any increase in temperature has effects on the climate system”. p 12 of the consultation report.

The report *Climate crossfire* gives a signal about what today's choices may lead to in terms of unwanted consequences in the future, not least for climate policy.

5.5% of global emissions originate from military activities in peacetime, i.e. from a growing war industry, the extraction of metals and minerals to weapons systems and ammunition, transport,

² <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/dec/14/nobel-laureates-cut-military-spending-worldwide-un-peace-dividend>

³ https://www.ippnw.de/commonFiles/pdfs/Frieden/NATOs_Climate_Crossfire.pdf

weapons testing, military exercises and the operation of bases.⁴ 5.5% is a conservative estimate and the figures are from 2019, before the full-scale war in Ukraine in 22 and the intensive bombing of Gaza in 23/24. Emissions from war and reconstruction after war are not included. This is from a research report from Scientists for Global Responsibility in 2022.

Big emissions from wars and armed conflict are not included in the 5,5%.

Queen Mary University of London and the Conflict and Environmental Observatory, CEOBS, map environmental destruction and CO2 emissions from war and armed conflict.⁵ One estimate says that two years of war in Ukraine has led to an additional emission of 175 million tons of CO2, while the total emissions from direct war activities in the first 120 days in Gaza are estimated to be between 420,265 and 652,552 tons of CO2e.⁶ The bombing has destroyed 95 percent of all renewable energy in Gaza.

WILPF Norway asks the government to include relevant research on military CO2 emissions in the work on new climate targets, nationally and internationally.

Reduction in emissions of greenhouse gases

“Reduction in emissions of greenhouse gases by at least 55 per cent in 2030 compared to the level in 1990.” p.5

Here WILPF Norway would like to point out that through a bilateral agreement Norway has given the USA 10-year access to 12 bases. There is no doubt that this will contribute to increased military activity in the air, water and on land, with increased climate emissions and the reduction of nature that currently stores carbon. We have been informed that these American climate emissions on Norwegian soil, like the full extent of military exercises, are not included in the Norwegian defense’s climate reporting.

WILPF Norway’s position is that Norway's climate target should be as high as possible in the range between 55 and 80 per cent.

“The primary gain or benefit of a climate target that has a high level of ambition is that it will contribute to greater reductions in the emissions of greenhouse gases, and thus to a greater extent contribute to keeping the temperature rise below 1.5 degrees”. p. 22

WILPF Norway's position is that the ambitions must be as high as possible, not least because CO2 emissions from the rich global north have serious consequences for people in the most vulnerable countries. WILPF and WGC have many members from the Global South. Women tell about the loss of livelihood and access to natural resources after drought, floods, landslides and extraction which also threaten life, health and food security. They make strong accusations against the global north for emissions from overconsumption and priorities that come before climate justice. Africa's share of global CO2 emissions is only 3.9 per cent.

⁴ https://ceobs.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/SGR-CEOBS_Estimating_Global_Military_GHG_Emissions.pdf

⁵ [https://www.qmul.ac.uk/sbm/media/sbm/documents/Confronting-military-greenhouse-gas-emissions,-Neimark-et-el,-Interactive-policy-brief-\(2024\)-%5BDigital%5D.pdf](https://www.qmul.ac.uk/sbm/media/sbm/documents/Confronting-military-greenhouse-gas-emissions,-Neimark-et-el,-Interactive-policy-brief-(2024)-%5BDigital%5D.pdf)

⁶ <https://www.qmul.ac.uk/media/news/2024/hss/new-study-reveals-substantial-carbon-emissions-from-the-ongoing-israel-gaza-conflict.html>

A Kenyan report shows that the money for mitigation, adaptation and loss and damage exists, but is used for other and partly climate-hostile activities.⁷

According to SIPRI, the 32 NATO countries (of which 18 are annex II countries) accounted for as much as 55% of the global military spending of 2.43 trillion dollars in 2023, i.e. more than the next 160 countries combined. There is also a clear connection between increased military consumption and increased climate emissions.

In chapter 4 Economic and administrative consequences it is stated on page 23: *“At the same time, emissions in large emerging economies such as India and especially China have increased sharply, and China is today the largest emitter in the world. The sharp increase in Chinese emissions has slowed and many expect that the peak of emissions in China will be reached well before 2030.”*

Here WILPF Norway would like to point out that the USA, through a unipolar world order and as the leader of NATO, pursues a hostile policy towards China and draws its 31 NATO allies plus regional partners into the conflict. This leads to an arms race that increases military climate emissions.

“Going forward, there will be a need to limit and repair the damage caused by climate change and the loss of nature and to divert production and consumption away from nature-damaging and emission-intensive activities.” p. 25

WILPF Norway believes that dialogue, disarmament and international cooperation are climate measures number 1. It is dysfunctional to let military strategies govern foreign and security policy. Our common security depends on all countries cooperating in a global effort with an emphasis on human security and security for the planet. We share the Earth and the big challenges. In various forums, Mexico, Brazil and Columbia have raised the connection between disarmament and the achievement of climate goals. The UN's Pact for the Future also addresses these connection. Art. 34 c: *We must ensure that military spending does not compromise investments in sustainable development and building sustainable peace, and request the Secretary-General to provide analysis on the impact of the global increase in military spending on the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals..*

“In assessments of justice considerations, it should be considered that Norway is a rich industrial country, which has the resources to contribute with high ambitions in the international climate work”. p.11

“This means that industrialized countries with good capacity and significant resources should take the lead in combating climate change and reducing emissions. There is a clear international expectation that industrialized countries will be above average in the global stock take from the UN climate panel's reports”... p.21

“Norway plays a constructive and active role in international climate cooperation.” p.24

We therefore ask Norway to lead by example when new climate targets are to be set in the spring of 2025 and to cut two per cent of defense expenditure in line with the Peace Dividend Campaign, and at the same time address the connection between the arms race and increased climate emissions in relevant national and international forums

⁷ https://www.ikff.no/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/The_conundrum_of_climate_financing.pdf

Disarmament can contribute to achieving the climate goals nationally, in the EU area and globally. Norway's foreign policy is unfortunately under strong influence from the United States, who wants to retain a unipolar world order. With a president who is a climate skeptic with "Drill baby drill" as the standard response in climate contexts, Norway must have the backbone to promote other values and perspectives. In the Soria Moria 1 declaration, Norway had a goal of being a clear Nation of Peace. We administer the Nobel Peace Prize.

We must sooner or later break with a policy that undermines the UN's climate work. Continuation of current policies could lead to a temperature increase of up to 3.1 degrees during the century.

As the mayor of Kuala Lumpur said during the opening ceremony of COP 29: ***Without peace, sustainable development is not possible. Give peace a chance. Give the Earth a chance. We all have a responsibility.***