



GLOBAL #FREEZEWEAPONS NOW

A MORATORIUM ON THE PRODUCTION, TRADE AND SUPPLY OF WEAPONS



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Propelled by the devastating impact of the COVID-19 coronavirus globally, the SCRAP Weapons team at SOAS University of London is building on the United Nations Secretary General's call for a Global Ceasefire in all corners of the world. As a complementary measure, we are calling on all States and corporations to FREEZE the production and supply of Weapons.

In these unprecedented times, States and corporations must harness their capability to divert military modernization, procurement and operational budgets, as a necessary complementary measure towards the delay, containment and eradication of the COVID-19 coronavirus. We suggest that States and corporations, individually and in cooperation, implement moratoria on weapons production and supply.



WHY FOCUS ON ARMS EXPENDITURE?

During this international crisis, the scourge of weapons has not gone away, and neither have the terrible consequences of their daily use, and the even greater risks of general war associated with them. Every year, the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) publishes global military spending figures, as well as those of the international trade in conventional armaments.

In 2018, the amount of global spending on weapons and military personnel reached \$1,822 billion (or 2.6% of the world's nominal GDP. Moreover, all nuclear-armed states have already implemented or are planning major modernisation of, their arsenals and delivery means: e.g. \$1.7 trillion by the United States until 2046; \$600 billion by Russia between 2011 and 2020; \$255 billion by the UK until the 2040s; \$41 billion by France between 2019 and 2025 (a 60% increase compared to the previous five-year period).

His Holiness Pope Francis highlighted that budgetary allocations of States for the procurement of weapons are excessive and vastly disproportionate with the nature and scope of the threat posed by COVID-19.

The COVID-19 pandemic exposes that governments all over the world have failed to sufficiently invest in public health infrastructure to face such a crisis. What's worse? Extensive research into military spending has proven that higher military spending negatively impacts health expenditures, and therefore is an important risk factor for population health and individual well-being.

Research shows that, a 1% increase in military spending results in a 0.62% decrease in health spending in developed countries, and a 0.962% decrease in health spending in poorer countries. This is why some NGOs and humanitarian groups continue to point out that, for example, the annual spend on nuclear weapons in the United States (\$35.1 billion) could pay for 300,000 intensive care unit beds, 35,000 ventilators, 150,000 nurses or 75,000 doctors.

The international community has devised structures which have had demonstrable successes in managing and reducing the risks of harmful, war-fighting technologies, and we must now leverage these structures for the purposes of delaying, containing and eliminating COVID-19.



“This is not a time for continuing to manufacture and deal in arms, spending vast amounts of money that ought to be used to care for others and save lives.

– His Holiness Pope Francis”





WHY A MORATORIUM?

A moratorium in international law is a suspension or postponement of normal practice. Generally, moratoria are established either by legally binding agreement or international resolutions, or by non-binding unilateral or collective declarations, and they have the effect of freezing the status quo or banning specific activities.

As a practical instrument, moratoria are usually considered in situations where countries are unable to perform their obligations for a time period, or an extraordinary situation which requires countries to take exceptional measures deemed necessary for achieving policy goals.

In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, the normal practice of excessive spending on military modernization, procurement and operations are impractical, undesirable and harmful. Therefore, freezing these activities is a necessary course of action, if we are to free up the scarce resources required to delay, contain and eradicate the COVID-19 coronavirus.

Moratoria have a record of past success- notably in the UN General Assembly Resolutions - "A Path to the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons", where "a moratorium on nuclear-weapon test explosions or any other nuclear explosions" was treated as a practical step for the "systematic and progressive efforts" to implement the NPT, and the creation of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty ([CTBT](#)).

We strongly urge concerned parties to consider providing or declaring moratoria, within or outside the UN system through resolutions, treaties or even by unilateral acts of declaration. These moratoria can be self- selecting, synergistic and mutually supporting.



The fury of the Virus
illustrates the folly of War.

- António Guterres
[UN Secretary-General](#)



This proposal can be attractive to traditional national security practitioners, finance ministers and heads of government desperate to re-allocate the much-needed resources which are often trapped in destructive military industrial complexes.

While there may not be a simple solution to the eradication of the virus, there is clear room for improvement and continued innovation in a number of areas, and a freeze on weapons production, trade and supply is one of them.

We have the opportunity to transform our economies in a manner that will result in greater investment in health, safety and social security, in existing institutions and in new mechanisms, that protect public goods, address humanitarian needs and strengthen international cooperation and leadership to address the common threats to human security.

HOW YOU CAN GET INVOLVED

We are calling on Civil Society organisations, Youth Networks, and Non-Governmental Organisations to support SCRAPWeapon's initiative by Signing the Declaration in Support of Moratoria on Weapons Production and Supply.

We all have a role to play in demanding greater accountability and direct public engagement on matters of security priorities, especially in relation to military spending. Every citizen has the power to ensure that complacency, silence and apathy do not assist, encourage or sustain the untenable status quo.

We have witnessed the successful efforts to mobilize public engagement to ban landmines and cluster munitions, we are witnessing successful efforts to ban nuclear weapons, and now we must call for a freeze in military spending to free up resources to tackle COVID-19. We must encourage our governments to support the Global Ceasefire and sign this Moratorium, and we must do so swiftly.



SUPPORT THIS INITIATIVE BY:

Signing the #FREEZEWEAPONS Declaration below,

Inviting Your Partner Organisations to Sign the Civil Society Declaration,

Encouraging Governments and Arms Producing Corporations to implement a moratorium on Weapons Production, Trade and Supply,

- Supporting our Online Campaign by [sharing our content](#) on your Social Media Platforms.

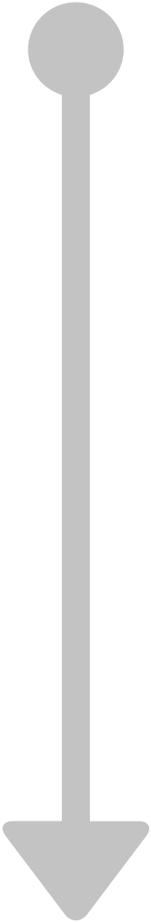




GLOBAL #FREEZEWEAPONS NOW

1.
CEASEFIRE

2. **FREEZE >>**



3. TRACK

4. REPORT

5. ELIMINATE

- CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS SIGN #FREEZEWEAPONS DECLARATION

WE SUBMIT THE SIGNED DECLARATION TO THE UN SECRETARY GENERAL

- UN SECRETARY GENERAL'S FORMAL SUPPORT
- INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS, STATES, CORPORATIONS IMPLEMENT MORATORIA

THEY SHOULD USE THE DRAFT MORATORIUM AS A TEMPLATE, FOR IMPLEMENTING THEIR OWN VERSIONS (EITHER UNILATERALLY OR MULTILATERALLY)

#FREEZEWEAPONS DECLARATION

Building on the call by the United Nations for a ceasefire in current conflict, we urge our own and other countries to Freeze Weapons Production, Trade and Supply.

The COVID-19 pandemic exposes that governments all over the world have failed to sufficiently invest in public health infrastructure to face such a crisis. Yet, the normalised practices of excessive spending on military modernization, procurement and operations persevere.

In these unprecedented times, states and corporations must harness their capability to divert military modernization, procurement and operational budgets as necessary complementary measures towards the delay, containment and eradication of the virus. Therefore, we suggest that states and corporations, individually or in cooperation, implement moratoria on weapons production, trade and supply, designed to free resources for medical and economic recovery and reduce the escalation in violent conflict and confrontation resulting from the social and political impact of the pandemic.

While there may not be a simple solution to the eradication of the virus, there is clear room for improvement and continued innovation in a number of areas. We have the opportunity to transform our economies in a manner that will result in greater investment in health, safety and social security, in existing institutions and in new mechanisms, that protect public goods, address humanitarian needs and strengthen international cooperation and leadership to address the common threats to human security.

To Sign this Declaration, kindly fill in the form [HERE](#)

ABOUT SCRAP WEAPONS

SCRAP is a holistic approach to global disarmament that proposes adopting an international legally binding agreement for general and complete disarmament. It draws on best practices of past agreements to expand the idea of what is possible in disarmament.

SCRAP comes from the initiative of students, alumni and staff at the Centre for International Studies and Diplomacy (CISD) at SOAS, University of London, and is actively supported by a committee of academics and NGO officials with governmental experience.

It has been funded by the Marmot Trust, Polden Puckham and Joseph Rowntree. SCRAP has working relationships with the Geneva Centre for Security Policy (GCSP), OXFAM International and many others.

The Strategic Concept for the Removal
of Arms and Proliferation (SCRAP)
SOAS University of London
10 Thornhaugh Street, Russell Square,
London
WC1H 0XG

Phone: 020-7898-4322

Email: scrap.weapons@soas.ac.uk



WWW.SCRAPWEAPONS.COM

MORATORIUM ON THE PRODUCTION, TRADE AND SUPPLY OF WEAPONS

COVID-19 WEAPONS FREEZE *Advisory Template for States*

Preamble

[INSERT STATE HERE]

Guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,

Recalling Article 26 of the Charter of the United Nations which seeks to promote the establishment and maintenance of international peace and security with the least diversion for armaments of the world's human and economic resources,

Acknowledging that peace and security, development and human rights are pillars of the United Nations system and foundations for collective security and recognizing that development, peace and security and human rights are interlinked and mutually reinforcing as implemented in the Sustainable Development Goals,

Acknowledging also the need to reduce human suffering during the unprecedented Covid-19 pandemic, by promoting cooperation, transparency and responsible action by States Parties to eradicate the Covid-19 coronavirus,

Observing increases in domestic, communal and international violence and confrontation caused by reactions to Covid-19,

Cognizant that the catastrophic consequences of nuclear weapons cannot be adequately addressed, transcend national borders, pose grave implications for human survival, the environment, socio-economic development, the global economy, food security and the health of current and future generations, and have a disproportionate impact on women and girls, including as a result of ionizing radiation,

Noting the near-universal commitment to the Chemical Weapons Convention and its provisions on the complete and effective prohibition of the development, production, acquisition, stockpiling, retention, transfer and use of chemical weapons, and their destruction, which represent a necessary step towards collective security,

Recalling our obligations undertaken under the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction,

Recognizing that military modernization, procurement and spending budgets of States are vastly disproportionate with contemporary sources of national and human insecurity, which include the Covid-19 pandemic,

Recognizing also the potential of diverting military modernization, procurement and spending budgets to enable efforts towards the delay, containment and eradication of the Covid-19 coronavirus,

Convinced that a moratorium by States on the production, trade and supply of weapons is a necessary measure in complementing the aforementioned efforts towards the delay, containment and eradication of the Covid-19 coronavirus,

Acknowledging that a moratorium on production, trade and supply of weapons and preventing their diversion should not hamper international cooperation and legitimate trade in materiel, equipment and technology for peaceful purposes,

Mindful of the lawful ownership, and use of certain conventional arms for recreational, cultural, historical, and sporting activities, where such ownership and use are permitted or protected by law,

Recognizing the voluntary and active role that civil society, including nongovernmental organizations, and industry, can play in supporting the object and purpose of this Moratorium, and in supporting its implementation,

1. **Solemnly declare a Moratorium on the production, trade and supply of weapons which shall take effect from the [INSERT DATE HERE- First day of April, 2020] for a period of One (1) Year;**

2. Hereby solicit the assistance of the United Nations and the international community in implementing the Moratorium;

3. Declare that this Moratorium shall apply to all conventional arms within the following categories herein referred to as “conventional weapons” as defined in the Arms Trade Treaty and the UN Programme on Small Arms and Light Weapons including the following and related ammunition:

- a) Battle tanks;
- b) Armoured combat vehicles.
- c) Artillery systems;
- d) Combat aircraft;
- e) Attack helicopters;
- f) Warships;
- g) Missiles and missile launchers; and
- h) Small arms and light weapons;

4. Declare also that this Moratorium shall apply to the production, testing and development of Nuclear Weapons and other nuclear explosive devices;

5. Invites the international community to take appropriate measures to suspend, where necessary and feasible, the transit or trans-shipment under its jurisdiction of weapons through its territory in accordance with relevant international law.

IN FAITH WHEREOF, [INSERT STATE HERE] HAS SIGNED THIS DECLARATION.