

# NATO IS A THREAT TO PEOPLE AND THE PLANET

**RAPIDLY REDUCING CARBON EMISSIONS IS IMPOSSIBLE WITH NATO'S RISING MILITARISM AND MILITARY SPENDING**

## **NATO IS FOSSIL FUEL-POWERED, NUCLEAR-ARMED MILITARY ALLIANCE**

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) is an exclusive military alliance of 30 predominantly white, wealthy, Western countries founded in 1949. NATO is headquartered in Brussels, but it gets its 'marching orders' from Washington D.C. The transatlantic alliance is dominated by the United States, which has the most troops and the highest military budget. Since its inception, the NATO Supreme Allied Commander has always been an American general.

NATO allies must be interoperable with the U.S. military, which is the largest institutional consumer of fossil fuel on the planet. NATO exercises and operations rely on a steady and excessive supply of fossil fuel. NATO members also rely on nuclear power for their submarines and aircraft carriers and on a dangerous nuclear deterrence that poses an existential threat to humanity along with climate change.

**NATO is a fossil fuel-powered, nuclear-armed military alliance of 30 predominantly white, wealthy Western countries.**

**NATO's carbon-intensive militarism and 2% GDP target are impeding progress on the Paris Agreement and the UN Sustainable Development Goals.**

## **NATO'S DEMAND FOR MILITARY SPENDING DIVERTS RESOURCES AWAY FROM CLIMATE ACTION**

NATO is recklessly diverting our attention and resources to war and away from the grave threat of global warming.

NATO members spend over \$1 trillion annually on their militaries, which is almost 60% of global military spending. At the NATO Summit in Wales in 2014, members made a commitment to spend 2% of their GDP on the military with 20% of that amount to be on equipment (primarily weapons systems).

Since the Paris Agreement was signed in 2015, NATO members have increased their military spending by \$200 billion annually. Yet, they have failed to meet their United Nations climate financing pledge of \$100 billion per year for developing countries to adapt to worsening climate change.

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
<i>Total NATO Military Spending (US dollars)</i>	\$896 billion	\$911 billion	\$918 billion	\$972 billion	\$1,052 billion	\$1,096 billion	\$1,155 billion

Source: Defence Expenditure of NATO Countries (2013–2021), June 2022

## NATO'S CARBON-INTENSIVE WEAPONS AND OPERATIONS

Within NATO countries, it is the military that is the biggest consumer of oil and largest emitter of greenhouse gases. Fighter jets, tanks and warships, are petroleum powered and are extremely energy inefficient with long life cycles and locked-in energy platforms that cannot be readily replaced by renewable energy.

Over the past two decades, while NATO has fought its deadly and destructive war in Afghanistan, bombed Libya and expanded its aggressive operations in Eastern Europe against Russia, the planet has warmed to the hottest on record.

Militarism is going to get worse under NATO's new *Agenda 2030*. This highly irresponsible agenda is a blueprint for a carbon-intensive arms race and an expensive new Cold War with Russia and China over the next decade, which is also the crucial period to make progress on the Paris Agreement.

**NATO's war exercises and wars are making global warming worse.**

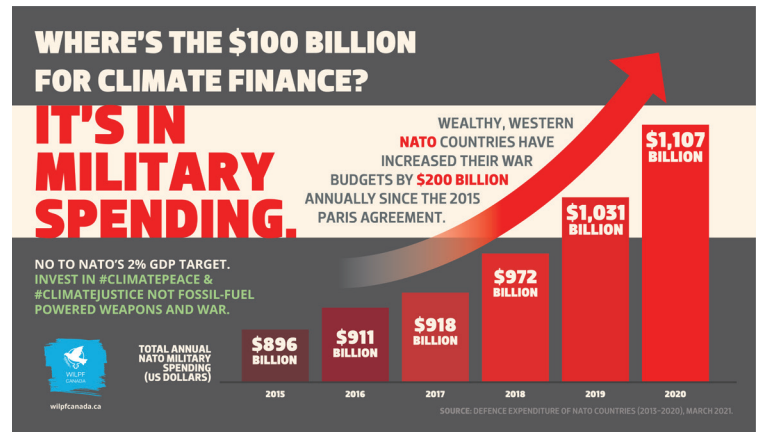
## DISBAND NATO AND WORK COOPERATIVELY WITH THE WORLD FOR DECARBONIZATION

In June 2021, NATO announced its Agenda on Climate Change and Security. It is a pathetic attempt to protect its military bases from extreme weather events and to make its weapons and war more environmentally-friendly. In June 2022 at the Madrid Summit, Canada announced that it will host NATO's Centre of Excellence for Climate and Security in Montreal. This is also an attempt to greenwash the military alliance and deflect criticism for

NATO's excessive carbon emissions. Canada is not a leader on climate action, but has failed to every target under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. We cannot 'green' NATO, we have to abolish it.

Global solidarity is crucial to climate action and justice, but NATO is causing international tension and mistrust. Western countries must withdraw from the alliance and work peacefully and cooperatively through the United Nations system with Russia and China to solve our most pressing security challenges — averting catastrophic climate change, eliminating nuclear weapons and achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

**“ WE CAN'T  
'GREEN' NATO.  
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ABOLISH IT. ”**



### About

**The Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) Canada** is a membership-led organization committed to a feminist peace, social justice, and gender equality. WILPF Canada is active in the No New Fighter Jets Coalition, the Canada-Wide Peace and Justice Network, and the Women, Peace and Security Network-Canada. WILPF Canada is a national section of WILPF international, which is the world's longest standing women peace organization founded in 1915. WILPF International has a Environment Working Group, the *Reaching Critical Will* disarmament program, and the *PeaceWomen* program to monitor the UN Security Council's agenda on Women, Peace and Security. We welcome new members.



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#NoWarNoWarming #ClimatePeace**

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