

We, the undersigned, members of the STEM¹ community, being deeply concerned by the present world situation and by our future trends, declare:

That we are strongly worried about climate change and anthropogenic planet warming. We must bring environmentally damaging activities under control, we must manage resources crucial to human welfare more effectively, we must stabilize population, and we must have a new ethic and a new attitude toward discharging our responsibility for caring for ourselves and for the earth, as a group of 1,575 of the world's most prominent scientists already declared 25 years ago². Recently, a second strong group of 15,372 scientists³ has again stated that that **time is running out**: soon, it will be too late to shift course away from our failing trajectory. Present evidences show that **we are destroying the lives of our future generations**.

That “business as usual” is not the solution. The statement that market is always right and that its regulation is a mistake, has been proved to be false in a situation of limited resources that is invisible to these markets and that can have very long-term consequences. Economic and political powers have ended up being closely associated⁴, national states having favoured a small group of influential businessmen who have earned strong economic benefits, and corporations having in many ways captured states. We therefore declare that **focus must be urgently moved from private interests to human needs**. Climate change can only be addressed from **a global regulatory perspective with ethical, human-centred objectives**. UN Sustainable Development Goals⁵ (SDGs) will not be reached if we do not globally address the fundamental technology injustices that leave people behind. And, in fact, it is entirely possible to shrink our resource consumption while increasing things that really matter: human happiness, wellbeing, education, health, and longevity⁶.

That strategies seeking benefits for a very few, strategies which are also spoiling the planet, can only be supported by violence, and that **violence is usually conducted through armies and enhanced by militarism** and military spending. War business, powered by the Military-Industrial Complex⁷, is based on arms trade and on power structures that produce civilian deaths, also degrading conflicts, preying on the planet and actively contributing to climate change. Actions **to reduce climate change effects therefore require a reduction on military spending** and renovated efforts to use negotiation to solve conflicts.

As already mentioned in 1992 by a strong group of relevant scientists, success in this global endeavour will require a great reduction in violence and war². Resources now devoted to the preparation and conduct of war, amounting to over \$1.68 trillion annually, will be required in the new tasks and should be diverted to the new challenges. As a first step, **we therefore ask for a 10% reduction of military spending** in all countries and alliances, including NATO, and for **a redirection of these funds to human needs** and sustainable goals. Because, as stated by the past UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, the world is over-armed and peace is under-funded⁸.

¹ STEM is an acronym for Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics

² Union of Concerned Scientists, 1992: https://www.ucsusa.org/about/1992-world-scientists.html#_WlOzLiPhDjA

³ Scientists' Warning to Humanity: A Second Notice: <https://academic.oup.com/bioscience/article/67/12/1026/4605229>

⁴ The Secure and the Dispossessed, TNI: <https://www.tni.org/en/publication/the-secure-and-the-dispossessed>

⁵ UN Sustainable Development Goals: <http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/>

⁶ Royal Academy of Engineering: <http://www.raeng.org.uk/publications/other/engineering-a-better-world-brochure>

⁷ Dwight D. Eisenhower farewell discourse: <http://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/eisenhower-warns-of-the-military-industrial-complex>

⁸ UNODA 2012: <https://www.un.org/disarmament/update/20120830/>