

# *Ministry for Peace and Sustainable Development*



## *Women for Peace - Finland International Women's Day, March 2021*

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**SUGGESTION FOR A MINISTRY FOR PEACE AND SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT IN FINLAND**

**Dwight D. Eisenhower, 34th President of the United States**

*“Every gun that is made, every warship launched, every rocket fired signifies in the final sense, a theft from those who hunger and are not fed, those who are cold and are not clothed. This world in arms is not spending money alone. It is spending the sweat of its laborers, the genius of its scientists, the hopes of its children...”*

Speech in Washington, 16 April 1953

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**Mikhail Gorbachev, a Nobel Peace Prize laureate, President of the Soviet Union 1990 – 1991**

*“When the Pandemic Is Over, the World Must Come Together...”*

*The overriding goal must be human security: providing food, water and a clean environment and caring for people’s health. To achieve it, we need to develop strategies, make preparations, plan and create reserves. But all efforts will fail if governments continue to waste money by fueling the arms race...*

*I’ll never tire of repeating: we need to demilitarize world affairs, international politics and political thinking.*

*To address this at the highest international level, I am calling on world leaders to convene an emergency special session of the U.N. General Assembly, to be held as soon as the situation is stabilized.*

*It should be about nothing less than revising the entire global agenda.*

*Specifically, I call upon them to cut military spending by 10% to 15%.*

*This is the least they should do now, as a first step toward a new consciousness, a new civilization.”*

Times Magazine, April 15, 2020

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**António Guterres, United Nations Secretary-General**

*Humanity is waging war on nature. This is suicidal. Nature always strikes back, and is doing so with gathering force and fury.”*

The Guardian, February 2, 2020

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## **To the President, Government and Parliament of Finland**

### **A Ministry for Peace and Sustainable Development must be established in Finland**

Since 2008, we have once again experienced increasing mistrust and division between states but also within societies. New security threats have emerged. A new Cold War is emerging.

Since we in many ways also are regionally and internationally more connected to each other than before, and since the threats are different and international - climate change, mass migration, cyber threats, terrorism, extremism - one single country cannot face all this alone. Regional and comprehensive international cooperation is a global question of destiny.

Adoption of well-formulated declarations without an institution that has the capacity to plan and implement comprehensive concrete measures at different levels - national and international - leads only to inefficient efforts and empty words.

A well-structured Ministry for Peace and Sustainable Development - with a comprehensive area of knowledge in peace and sustainable development issues, and which can engage in a prestigious dialogue reaching different local, national and international levels - is necessary to ensure that every state fulfills its commitment to peace and development for all.

**The Nordic social model worked for a long time as a model for a well-functioning society in terms of economy, prosperity, environmental protection, gender and social equality, trust and the pursuit of peace and dialogue. Lately the model has been suffering from severe stress, but Finland (as well as the other Nordic countries) can take back its pioneering role as a responsible promoter of democracy, sustainable and equal development, and as a promoter of peace and dialogue, by establishing a Ministry for Peace and Sustainable Development in addition to the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Defense and Environment.**

The Establishment of a Ministry for Peace and Sustainable Development however, must not “release” other ministries from working with peace and development issues within their area of responsibility.

The peace concept must be extended to include not only peace between peoples but also peace with nature and on its terms. The Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court must be amended to include environmental destruction (Ecocide) alongside the criminal laws already in place which criminalize genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity. Such a change in the international law would provide a simple and effective legal deterrent to those in responsible positions.

By strengthening the work for peace and sustainable development at the highest possible political level - nationally and internationally - Finland can send a clear signal to the world that peace, open-minded dialogue, the achievement of the Agenda 2030 goals and the criminalization of large-scale destruction of the environment and living conditions can and must be given priority.

Finland could join the countries in the world that have already established Ministries of Peace; Costa Rica, Nepal, Solomon Islands, Papua New Guinea. Our country could thus embrace the document “Calling for Ministries of Peace all around the world”, published by the UN office in Geneva for Associazione Comunità Papa Giovanni XXIII (APG23) on the UN International Day of Peace 2018. In the document it is e.g. stated:

*“On the basis of existing declarations concerning the right to peace, mentioned in the previous chapter, and in particular of article 3 of the 2016 Declaration on the Right to Peace, which requires “adequate and sustainable measures to implement the present declaration”, we encourage every State to pay more attention to the theme of peace and we suggest them to establish a Ministry of Peace - a practical, appropriate and sustainable measure - to implement the right to peace and thus fulfill this duty pending on States.”*

**The UN Declaration on the Right to Peace (71/189)** was adopted in 2016 by the UN General Assembly with 131 votes out of 193. Finland, like Sweden and Denmark, voted no, Norway abstained, but every UN member state, whether it voted for or against the declaration, has a moral and ethical obligation to promote peace.

**OSCE (Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe)** – The Charter of Paris for a New Europe - was signed in Paris in 1990. It states, inter alia, that human rights and fundamental freedoms are the birthright of all human beings, they are inalienable and are guaranteed by law. Their protection and promotion is the first responsibility of government. Their observance and full exercise are the foundation of freedom, justice and peace. The document states furthermore that Europe must be a source of peace, open to dialogue and to co-operation with other countries, welcoming exchanges and involved in the search for common responses to the challenges of the future.

**The UN Agenda 2030 applies to all countries in the world.** The action program comprises 17 different goals (SDGs - Sustainable Development Goals) for sustainable development. The Action Plan and its goals aim to eradicate extreme poverty in the world and to ensure prosperity in an environmentally sustainable way, as well as to promote peace and justice.

The aim is to achieve the goals by 2030. The state is primarily responsible for implementing Agenda 2030. Achieving the goals also requires efforts by local governments, the private sector, civil society and citizens.

**The International Ecocide Law Campaign** argues that large-scale systematic environmental destruction must be governed by an international law on environmental destruction. The ecocide law must, alongside international criminal law that is already in place, provide a framework for human activity within the laws of nature.

The island states of the Maldives as well as Vanuatu are aiming at an amendment to international criminal law in 2022. French President Emmanuel Macron has also supported the proposal and initiatives have been taken among others in the Swedish, Belgian and Spanish parliaments. In January 2021 the European Parliament called on the EU and its

Member States to promote the recognition of ecocide as an international crime in accordance with the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.

**Peter Maurer, President International Red Cross Committee**

*“Ensuring the respect of international humanitarian law and principles is one of the key areas necessary to establish accountability chains”.*

*“Trust into leadership evaporates with communities when they see that their problems are not adequately addressed, neither at the national level nor at the international arena.”*

World Economic Forum, November 13 – 14, 2016

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**Maria Zacharova, well known Russian diplomat**

*“We opened up to the west - you responded with barbed wire.”*

Hufvudstadsbladet June 16, 2018

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## **Proposals for tasks of the Ministry for Peace and Sustainable Development**

- Ensure that those **Agenda 2030 Sustainable Development Goals** (SDGs) that have not yet been achieved in Finland will be achieved as soon as possible.
- Promote debate and take initiatives in international fora in order to encourage world leaders to redirect military spending towards fulfilling the Agenda 2030 SDGs, as proposed by the UN, for example in the **“UNODA Occasional Papers - No. 33, October 2019 - United Nations Efforts to Reduce Military Expenditures: A Historical Overview.**

It highlights how Agenda 2030 provides a common plan for peace and prosperity for all people and for the planet as a whole. It also emphasizes how successful disarmament implementation in many ways would contribute to the achievement of the SDGs and that the best way is to shift priorities from unreasonable military

spending to people-centered growth. Reducing military spending would release human, financial and technological resources to achieve the SDGs.

- Significantly strengthen **Nordic co-operation** in order to jointly develop strategies for countries with the greatest difficulties in achieving the Agenda 2030 SDGs.
- Promote **peaceful and inclusive societies mentioned in SDG 16** in order to promote sustainable development, e.g. building effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels.
- Promote the incorporation of the **Ecocide law** into the Rome Statute alongside international criminal law already in place.
- Promote debate and take initiatives in international fora to **encourage world leaders to focus on spending more effectively on halting harmful ecological/social change**, alongside other environmental protection. It is commonly accepted that the military may be called upon to assist areas affected by a sudden disaster. The same forces should be used to defend us preventively from gradual disasters. Measures should be targeted at projects that require large human and equipment resources. These include large-scale start-ups of agro-forestry and support for migration of trees, plants and fauna at danger due to climate change. The projects would help combating the worst disaster. This would also contribute to local ecological social stability and employment if the inhabitants of the region were involved.  
(Unite the Armies – First Aid for Our Common World, an initiative presented to the United Nations Secretariat in 2014 by the two Finnish professors: U.B. Lindström and Eero Paloheimo)
- Actively work to ensure that the **UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on women, peace and security** is respected and complied with both nationally and globally. By adapting the resolution the link between gender equality, international peace and security, and sustainable development was formally recognized.
- Accelerate the signing and **ratification of the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW)** in Finland.

- Collaborate with European parties/groups working to **eliminate US nuclear weapons from Europe.**
- Promote **nuclear disarmament in France and the United Kingdom** in accordance with the Non-Proliferation Treaty.
- Promote the establishment of a most comprehensive **nuclear-weapon-free zone in Europe**, starting with the Nordic countries, in accordance with the peace-building efforts of the former Finnish President Urho Kekkonen and of Olof Palme, former prime minister of Sweden.
- Promote the **maintenance and renewal of all international agreements on peace and disarmament** and the drafting of necessary new agreements.
- **Transform the war industry** and war-promoting institutions into peaceful civilian operations in line with UN recommendations.
- Promote **disarmament** of all types of weapons, actively **combat proliferation** of weapons of mass destruction, **effectively control** arms trade and arms control agreements and promote international arms export control cooperation aiming at disarmament.
- Provide all possible public support for António Guterres-type initiatives on a **global ceasefire to overcome Covid-like** or other global pandemics.
- Significantly **strengthen the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE)**, which provides states with an important platform for dialogue as well as the necessary tools to move from confrontation to dialogue and cooperation.
- Promote the **recommendations of the European Leadership Network (ELN)** December 2020 to US, Russian and European leaders about reducing the risk of

military conflicts (Recommendations of the Participants of the Expert Dialogue on NATO-Russia Military Risk Reduction in Europe - December 2020).

**145 dignitaries from 20 countries** signed these recommendations and presented realistic solutions to political and security challenges such as dialogue, developing common rules, improving stability, limiting conventional forces, launching negotiations on medium-range missiles. The only signatory from Finland is Juhani Kaskeala, a retired admiral. He served as Commander of the Finnish Defense Forces from 4 June 2001 to 31 July 2009.

- **Redefining the concept of security**, which is mostly defined from a military point of view, so that it also covers the basic needs of citizens and care for the environment. Extensive international traditional wars may no longer take place. Wars are waged remotely with cyber technology and drones. Military missions must be redesigned primarily to maintain and repair infrastructure, maintain access to medicines and food, secure hospital operations, and prevent and correct environmental problems.
- The **perspective of peace must be equated with the perspective of war**. Alongside military service, a peace service of the same size should be set up to consolidate efforts for peace in society.  
The **peace service should include tasks that truly serve citizens**, such as participation in social and health tasks, environmental protection, peace-promoting projects and tasks.
- Coordinate **international peace-building and peacekeeping** projects related to UN activities.
- **Create conditions for peace builders** to high quality training for international assignments. Efforts to build and maintain peace are essential not only after the outbreak of a conflict, but also in due time in order to prevent conflicts and address their causes.
- Promote the **transformation of the EU International Partnership Commissioner portfolio into a portfolio for a Commissioner for Peace and Sustainable Development**.  
At the EU homepage it is stated that the EU, being a stronger global actor, is able to respond efficiently to global challenges, to promote the EU's values and to contribute to peace and prosperity in the world.

- Work to ensure that the **UNESCO** proposal for a program of action for a culture of peace “**The Declaration and Program of Action on a Culture of Peace**” adopted by the UN General Assembly in 1999 (UN Resolution A / RES / 53/243, Sept. 13, 1999 )is carried out in civil society and that it is guaranteed a high status in teaching programs of schools at all levels. The appointment of peace and sustainable development ambassadors, with a particular focus on schools, would foster the commitment of both students and teachers.

A culture of peace is defined as a set of values, attitudes and traditions, customs and ways of life based on respect for the living and the promotion of understanding, tolerance and solidarity among all civilizations, peoples and nations and between cultures.

- Maintain an **open dialogue with NGOs** on peace and sustainable development issues and support the organisations in their work.
- Support **research on sustainable development, peace and conflict management** and contribute to the establishment of high-quality institutions for these purposes.

**Acceptance speech by Executive Director David Beasley on behalf of the Nobel Peace Prize Laureate  
2020 World Food Programme (WFP) - Oslo, 10 December, 2020.**

*“Because of so many wars, climate change, the widespread use of hunger as a political and military weapon, and a global health pandemic that makes all of that exponentially worse – 270 million people are marching toward starvation.”*

*“On the other hand, there is \$400 trillion dollars of wealth in our world today. Even at the height of the COVID pandemic, in just 90 days, an additional \$2.7 trillion dollars of wealth was created. And we only need \$5 billion dollars to save 30 million lives from famine.”*

*“Waking up in this wealthy, modern, technologically advanced world, it’s hard to imagine us going through a famine like that. But my tragic duty today is to tell you: famine is at humanity’s doorstep. For millions and millions of people on earth.”*

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**UN News 9. joulukuuta 2020 – UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) – report**

*“The number of people forcibly displaced around the world has doubled in the past decade and is estimated to have passed 80 million in mid-2020, as few could go home and more were uprooted.”*

*“ ‘We are now surpassing another bleak milestone that will continue to grow unless world leaders stop wars’, UN High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi said in a statement, resonating with the UN Secretary-General's call for a global ceasefire amidst the collective struggle to turn the COVID tide.”*

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**John F. Kennedy - 35th President of the United States  
Address before the United Nations, September 25, 1961**

*“Mankind must put an end to war - or war will put an end to mankind.”*

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## 2

### **BACKGROUND MATERIAL AND ARGUMENTS FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A MINISTRY OF PEACE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

#### **2.1. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

Finland once had a solid role as a peace builder and as an advocate and promoter of East-West dialogue. In 1963, the then President of Finland, Urho Kekkonen proposed a nuclear-weapon-free zone covering Norway, Sweden, Finland and Denmark, a proposal that collapsed due to Denmark's and Norway's NATO membership. In 1978, Kekkonen made a new proposal since also the Faroe Islands, Iceland and Greenland had shown interest in the zone. That proposal also failed.

The SALT negotiations between the United States and the Soviet Union on arms control and disarmament of strategic nuclear weapons began in Helsinki in November 1969.

The first phase of negotiations for the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) proposed by the Soviet Union was held in Helsinki in 1973.

The Helsinki Final Act of 1975 is still one of the cornerstones of the OSCE.

In addition, Finland has acted as a bridge-builder between East and West in many other ways and has actively participated in peacekeeping.

## **2.2. GOVERNMENT PROGRAM OF FINLAND**

In the government program 2019 of Prime Minister Sanna Marin's government it is inter alia stated in **section 3.2 Globally influential Finland**:

- The Paris Agreement and the 2030 Agenda, which lays down the sustainable development goals (SDGs), provide the foundation for international cooperation and Finland's actions in the coming years.
- The promotion of human rights, the rule of law, democracy, peace, freedom, tolerance and equality in all international activities forms the central element of the value base on which Finland's foreign and security policy rests.
- Finland will work actively towards strengthening the position of the UN and its ability to operate effectively, and towards implementation of the sustainable development goals of the 2030 Agenda.
- Finland will engage in development cooperation in its priority areas on a long-term basis, covering the position and rights of women and girls; democracy and well-functioning societies; high-quality education and training; jobs and strengthening the economic base in developing countries; mitigating climate change and adapting to it; food security; water; renewable energy; and sustainable use of natural resources, including afforestation. Additional funding for development cooperation will be channelled to the priority areas referred to above.

### **It is furthermore stated in the government program**

- Finland will work to strengthen and reform the UN system. Finland supports the UN reform process, which was initiated by the Secretary-General. This concerns changes in the UN's management, peace and security, and in its development sector. The position of the Security Council as a guarantor of international peace and security must be strengthened both by enlarging the Council and by restructuring its working methods with the aim of a more limited use of the power of veto.

- Finland is a candidate for membership of the UN Human Rights Council for 2022–2024 and a candidate for non-permanent membership of the Security Council for 2029–2030.

**Finland's candidacy for the above-mentioned UN bodies is a very important step towards taking greater responsibility for questions of fate for humanity – peace and sustainable development.**

**Therefore we propose the establishing of a Ministry for Peace and Sustainable Development in Finland as a matter of urgency, with the task to specifically focus on promoting global peace and sustainable, equal development.**

### **2.3. FINLAND AND WORLD PEACE – THE SITUATION TODAY**

Recently, **Northern Europe and the Arctic**, as well as the **Baltic Sea region**, have become a geopolitical strategic priority. The gap between East and West has not been so deep in this area throughout the post-war period.

The Nordic countries are participating in increasingly extensive international exercises with NATO adding to the already extremely worrying tensions in our neighborhood.

In recent years, however, Finland's role as a peace-builder and a pioneer in disarmament has been very insignificant.

- Finland has become an **ever closer NATO partner** by various highly binding agreements and by participating in significant military exercises. Our country is closely integrated into NATO structures and operations. NATO's obligations and cooperation require significant financial contributions. Also the EU is requiring new military obligations, both financially and militarily.
- **Finland has not signed the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW)** adopted in 2017 by 122 countries, which has now been signed by 86 countries and ratified by 51 countries (as of 13.12.20), with Austria, Ireland and Malta being the only EU countries.
- The Finnish government also does not criticize **the United States**, or the countries listed below, for **maintaining 50 atomic bombs (B61) in Europe** (Turkey, Belgium, the Netherlands, Germany, Italy), even though these countries, like Finland, have signed the NPT. The agreement prohibits the transfer of control of nuclear weapons to a non-nuclear-weapon state.

Finland also does not criticize the **United Kingdom and France** for not carrying out nuclear disarmament, despite the fact that France has acceded to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and the United Kingdom has ratified it.

- There has also been no wider public criticism of the **US withdrawal from the INF agreement** restricting short- and medium-range missiles. The agreement is utmost vital for Europe.  
Military Professor Jyri Raitasalo from the Finnish National Defence University estimates that the US withdrawal from the INF agreement could lead to a new rearmament spiral in Europe.
- Criticism and debate is also needed about **the nine nuclear states spending \$ 138,699 a minute on nuclear weapons** and about Pentagon expanding its nuclear weapons program to include “low-intensity” nuclear weapons as powerful as the Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombs.  
In addition, the United States has deployed some of its most powerful weapons of war in Europe: Britain has six strategic aircrafts capable of carrying nuclear bombs. They have already performed flight missions over the Baltic Sea.
- Finland has contributed to the **creating of a threat image of Russia in the West**, which leads to demands for additional military equipment and accelerates the ongoing militarization process. This is an extremely serious threat to world peace.
- The Finnish government's plan to acquire **new fighter jets for more than 10 billion euro**, in a situation where the state budget is under severe pressure due to the Covid-19 pandemic, shows that Finland is actively participating in the militarization of the world. The idea of peace has faded in Finnish politics.

#### **2.4. FINLAND AND AGENDA 2030 – THE SITUATION TODAY**

Finland has been very successful in the international comparison regarding implementing the Agenda 2030 sustainable development goals. Many of the goals, especially health and social conditions, were achieved in Finland as early as in the 1960s, and several other goals for 2030 are being achieved by Finland. The main challenges are unsustainable production and consumption patterns, fight against climate change and loss of biodiversity. Achieving Finland's sustainable development goals therefore requires further development.

- In February 2019, **the Government's analysis, assessment and research activities published PATH2030 – An Evaluation of Finland's Sustainable Development Policy.**

The project steering group consisted of experts from different ministries and fields and had significant international partners. The evaluation provided a wide range of opportunities for key actors and stakeholders in sustainable development policy to participate.

The status of sustainable development in Finland and key questions:  
*“Future measures should focus on substantive issues of sustainable development where Finland still faces particular challenges or opportunities. The priorities of the Government Report on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda are appropriate and match these. The diversity of indicator sets causes confusion. A further challenge is that the indicators do not include clearly defined national targets.”*

Policy measures:  
*“Increasing the proactivity and coherence of sustainable development policy. The frame of action of sustainable development must be made more vigorous and its key objectives must be at the core of administrative activity: the most important documents and decision making processes; management systems; and budgeting”.*

Foreign policy:

*“The impact of sustainable development throughout the government must be strengthened so that the goal is not overshadowed by other political aims. Attention is also needed to promote the foreign policy of sustainable development as a whole (incl. human rights and the Leave No One Behind principle).”*

## **2.5. INTERNATIONAL PERSPECTIVE - FATE ISSUES AND SOLUTIONS**

### **2.5.1. World Academy of Art & Science (WAAS)**

In May 2020, WAAS, in **collaboration with UNESCO and the Club of Rome**, organized an online conference entitled **“GLOBALISTICS 2020: GLOBAL ISSUES AND FUTURE OF HUMANKIND”** to address issues related to the future of humanity.

WAAS was founded in 1960 by eminent intellectuals. WAAS Fellows come from diverse cultures, nationalities, intellectual disciplines and professions. Its founding motive comes from the insight that academic knowledge cannot be separated or divorced from the social responsibility of how the knowledge is used.

WAAS has been accorded special consultative status by the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and consultative status by UNESCO.

The online conference mentioned above was opened with a very serious message about the current state of the world by Garry Jacobs, President and Chief Executive Officer of WAAS; Chairman of the Board & CEO of World University Consortium.

- ✓ Among other things, Garry Jacobs noted that the world is facing unprecedented multidimensional urgent and crucial challenges. He stressed that Covid 19 has paralyzed large parts of the world and has had a huge economic impact, far greater than the 2008 financial crisis, and in some areas even approaching the devastation caused by the great recession of 1930.  
He warned of the return of the Cold War mentality and a new rearmament spiral of nuclear weapons, of deepening equality gaps and of the existential threat of climate change.
- ✓ Jacobs 'message to the world was that we need to restore and strengthen multilateral institutions and multilateral diplomacy. We need a new common paradigm - a value-based paradigm - that encompasses all of humanity and that focuses on the security of all people.

### **2.5.2. European Leadership Network (ELN)**

The European Leadership Network (ELN) is an independent, non-partisan, **pan-European network of nearly 300 past, present and future European leaders** working to provide practical real-world solutions to political and security challenges.

The ELN's active networks of political, military, business and diplomatic leaders from across the continent, its expert team's high-quality research, its publications and events and its institutional partnerships across Europe, North America, Latin America and the Asia-Pacific region, give the ELN security policy impact like no other non-governmental organisation.

According to ELN the security situation in Europe has deteriorated to its lowest point since the end of the Cold War. NATO and Russian military forces operate in much closer proximity than just a few years ago, previous lines of NATO-Russia communications have broken down, and the nuclear and conventional arms control system that took decades to build is rapidly unraveling, with nothing to take its place.

Against this backdrop, the ELN lent its support to an **extended series of detailed senior expert discussions** led by ELN members Sergey Rogov and Alexey Gromyko on how NATO and Russia might reduce the risk of inadvertent conflict. The experts group involved some 30 people including retired diplomats and military officers from the United States, Russia and Europe. The only Finnish member in the group was Juhani Kaskeala, a retired admiral. He served as Commander of the Finnish Defense Forces from 4 June 2001 to 31 July 2009.

While members of the group differed over the root causes of the current crisis, they share a common concern that as tension builds between Russia and NATO, there is a **growing danger of a real military confrontation.**

In December 2020 **ELN published the recommendations, signed by 145 people from 20 countries**, that came out of the discussions as a **call on leaders in the US, Russia and Europe to demonstrate the political will necessary to take a number of urgent actions in order to reduce the risk of military conflict.**

The urgent recommendations address the following areas:

1. Re-establishing practical dialogue between Russia and NATO, including direct contacts between the military commanders and experts of Russia and NATO member states.
2. Developing common rules that will reduce the risk of unintended incidents on land, air and sea.
3. Enhancing stability by increasing transparency, avoiding dangerous military activities, and providing dedicated communication channels that would avoid escalation of incidents that might occur.
4. Utilizing (and possibly supplementing) the 1997 NATO-Russia Founding Act to codify restraint, transparency and confidence-building measures.
5. Exploring possible limitations on NATO and Russian conventional force deployments in Europe to enhance transparency and stability.
6. Establishing consultations between Russia and US/NATO on the topics of intermediate-range missiles and ballistic missile defense, in order to prevent a new nuclear missile race in Europe.
7. Preserving the Open Skies Treaty.

### **2.5.3. Agenda 2030**

The latest data in the **UN "The Sustainable Development Goals" report of 2020** show that, before the COVID-19 pandemic, progress remained uneven and we were not on track to meet the Goals by 2030.

The pandemic has further slowed down, if not almost ruined, efforts to achieve the Agenda 2030 goals of 2015 to eradicate poverty, hunger and inequality, and to promote health, well-being, environmental protection and sustainable economic growth.



Among other things, the report reveals that childhood vaccination programs have come to a halt in 70 countries and that school closures have kept 90% of the world's students - about 1.57 billion children - out of school. At least 270 million people are starving and the World Food Program is preparing the largest humanitarian aid in its history. More than 70 million people will be forced into extreme poverty this year - wiping out the latest Agenda 2030 achievements. This in addition to already more than 750 million people that live on less than \$ 1.90 a day.

Due to the pandemic, life and livelihoods are threatened by an unprecedented health, economic and social crisis, which makes achieving the goals even more challenging. The need for change to improve their accessibility is stronger than ever.

- The **number of international migrants globally** reached an estimated 272 million in 2019, an increase of 51 million since 2010 and the number is still growing. In 2019, regionally, Europe hosts the largest number of international migrants (82 million).

Some people move in search of work or economic opportunities, to join family, or to study. Others move to escape conflict, persecution, terrorism, or human rights violations. Still others move in response to the adverse effects of climate change, natural disasters, or other environmental factors.

Global forced displacement amounted for the first time in **UNHCR's** nearly 70-year history to almost 80 million people in 2020. This total included 45.7 million internally displaced people (IDPs), 29.6 million refugees and others forcibly displaced outside their country, and 4.2 million asylum seekers.

- The value of international development aid reached a new peak of \$152.8 billion in 2019, a slight increase over 2018, according to **the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)**, a group of wealthy donor nations.

However, in April 2020 new OECD figures showed that international aid is woefully inadequate to fight the corona virus crisis.

**José Maria Vera, Oxfam International** Interim Executive Director, reacted to the news:

*“Current levels of aid from rich countries are woefully inadequate to help developing countries face the coronavirus crisis, which could force 500 million more people into poverty, and cause up to 40 million deaths. We can beat this pandemic if we act in every country and for every person. Governments need to radically and rapidly increase their aid now to a level we’ve never seen in our lifetimes.”*

- According to the **World Social Report 2020 focusing on ‘Inequality in a Rapidly Changing World’** published in December 2019, inequality has reached unprecedented levels - more than 70% of the world's population lives in countries where the income gap is widening.

In the foreword to the report, **UN Secretary-General António Guterres** states:

*“Inequality in a rapidly changing world comes as we confront the harsh realities of a deeply unequal global landscape. In North and South alike, mass protests have flared up, fueled by a combination of economic woes, growing inequalities and job insecurity. ... Unless progress accelerates, the core promise of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development – to leave no one behind – will remain a still distant goal by 2030.”*

Climate change is exacerbating poverty and inequality. The report estimates that the ratio between the income of the richest and poorest 10 per cent of the global population is 25 per cent larger than it would be in a world without global warming. The report states however also that technological change, migration, urbanization and even the climate crisis can be harnessed for a more equitable and sustainable world, or they can be left to further divide us.

- **Oxfam**, meanwhile, announced in a January 2020 report, **“Time to Care”**, that the 22 richest men in the world have more wealth than all 325 million women in Africa. By 2025 up to 2.4 billion people worldwide could be living in areas without enough water as a result of climate change meaning women and girls will be forced to walk

further and further to find it. Oxfam notes that women around the world, especially those living in poverty, do more than three-quarters of all unpaid work, a fact that companies and governments have underestimated and take for granted.

*“Taxing an additional 0.5 percent of the wealth of the richest one percent over the next 10 years is equal to investments needed to create 117 million jobs in education, health and elderly care and other sectors, and to close care deficits”, says Oxfam.*

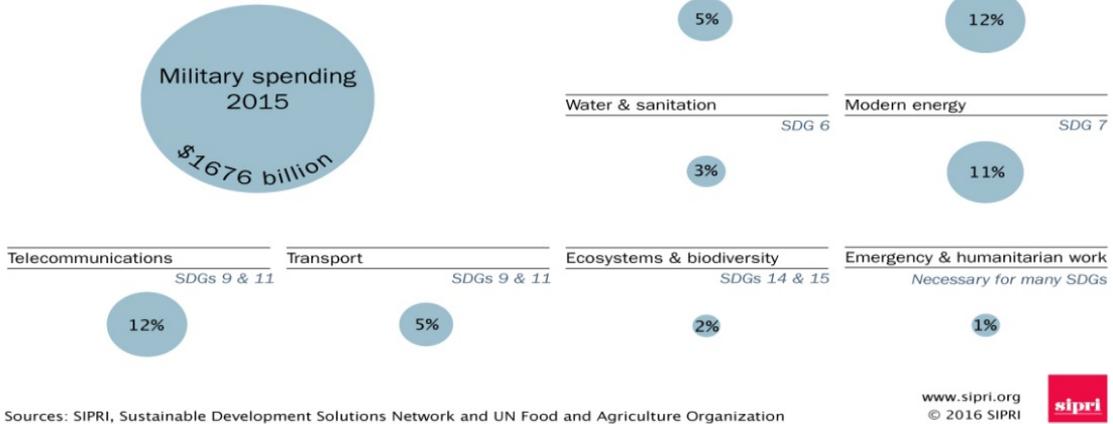
- According to calculations by the **Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI)**, world military expenditure was \$ 1,917 billion in 2019. This equates to a growth of just over 3 percent from the previous year - the largest annual increase in expenditure since 2010.

The number of wars has declined in recent years, both within and between countries, but the global costs of armaments is astronomical in relation to global development aid, and the amounts channeled to find new tools and ways to build peace account for only one-thousandth of world military expenditure.

In 2016, SIPRI presented a calculation of how global military expenditure could be used to achieve the UN 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). The cost of the SDGs is presented as a share of total global military expenditure in 2015.

## What could the reallocation of global military spending achieve?

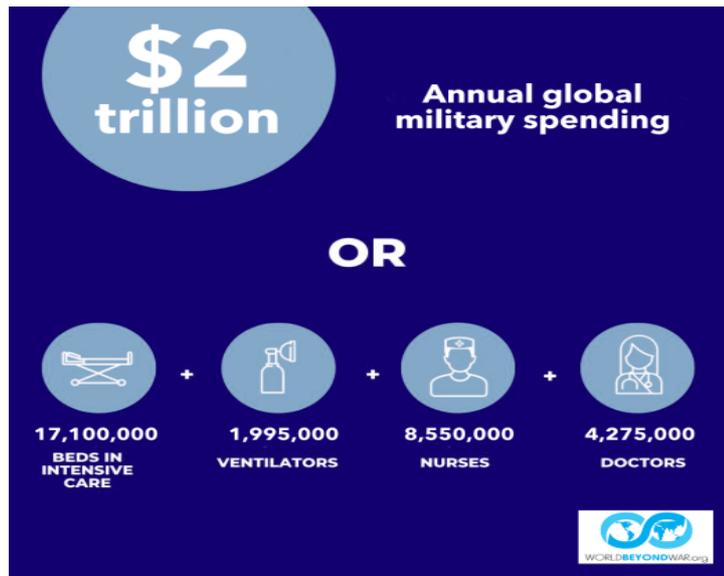
The annual cost of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as a share of total global military expenditure in 2015.



About half of the money spent in the world on war, namely killing, wounding, destroying critical infrastructure, exploiting natural resources for the needs of the war industry, causing climate change and environmental pollution, would be enough to achieve the 17 SDGs.

Redirecting at least 10% of the world's military expenditure each year to achieve the SDGs would be a good start.

- To address the problems caused by the Corona pandemic the **U.S. organization Beyond Nuclear** released in April 2020 a proposal to convert the world's annual military expenditure into health care spending. The image below shows what the money could bring:



- The nine nuclear weapons states spend **\$ 138,699 a minute on nuclear weapons.**
- In 2019, the international campaign “**Move the Nuclear Weapons Money**” published a proposal on how the nuclear weapons money of the world’s nine nuclear-weapon states, more than a trillion dollars, could be used to promote sustainable development, health and social equality. At the top of the list are the following items:
  - 280 billion to feed the world’s 780 million malnourished people over ten years
  - \$ 200 billion to build 2 to 100 million houses
  - \$ 100 billion for the construction of 400-400,000 hospitals or clinics
  - \$ 8 billion to plant and grow 20 billion trees in Africa
  - \$ 8 billion to eradicate malaria in ten years, saving half a million lives a year
  - \$ 5 billion to build a million wells in Africa
  - the fight against climate change is also included in the calculations; billions for solar panels, wind farms and electric cars



## 2.5.4. The militarization of the world and the war industry

- The “**Global Peace Index 2020**” (GPI) report by the **Institute for Economics and Peace** ranks 163 independent states and territories according to their level of peacefulness. The report presents the most comprehensive data driven analysis to-date on trends in peace, its economic value, and how to develop peaceful societies. The GPI covers 99.7 per cent of the world’s population.

**Peacefulness has declined 2.5 percent since 2008.** The economic impact of violence on the global economy in 2019 was \$14.5 trillion in purchasing power parity (PPP) terms. . This figure is equivalent to 10.6 per cent of the world’s economic activity (gross world product) or \$1,909 per person.

The 2020 report also looked at the trends in civil unrest over the past decade. It found that there has been a **sharp increase in civil unrest events since 2011**, with over 96 countries experiencing at least one violent demonstration in 2019. From 2011 to 2019, the number of riots rose by 282 per cent and general strikes rose by 821 per cent.

**Europe had the largest number of protests, riots and strikes** over the period, totaling nearly 1,600 events from 2011 to 2018. Sixty-five per cent of the civil unrest events in Europe were nonviolent.

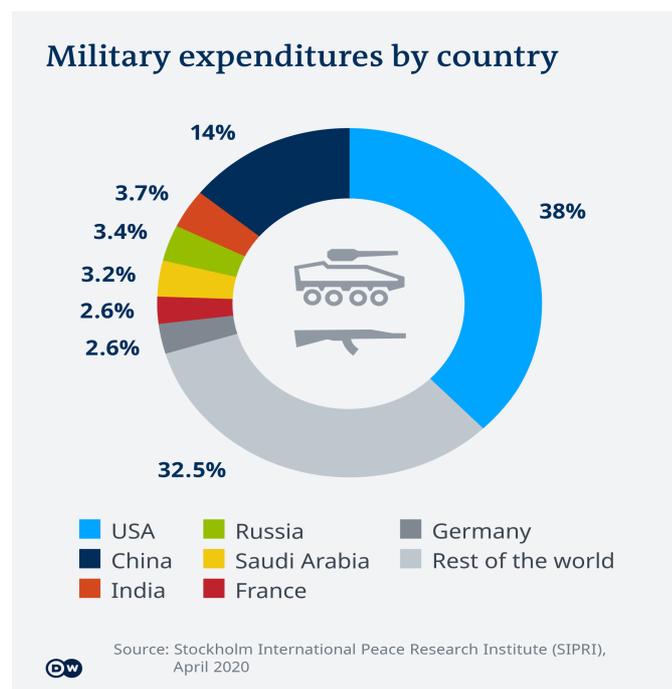
According to the index, conflicts and crises that have emerged over the last decade have begun to ease, but have been replaced by a wave of tensions and uncertainty

due to the spread of COVID-19. The effects of a pandemic, especially its economic consequences, are likely to have a serious impact on the way societies operate.

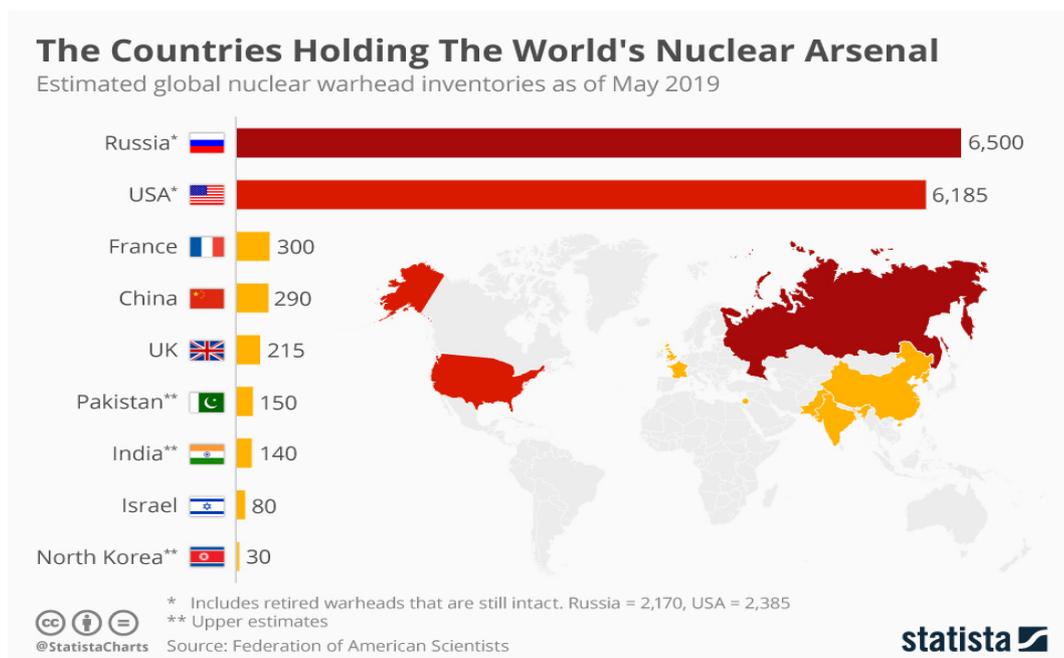
The number of natural disasters has tripled in the last four decades. j By 2050, climate change is estimated to create up to 86 million additional migrants in sub-Saharan Africa, 40 million in South Asia and 17 million in Latin America.

**The Ecological Threat Register (ETR)** indicates that 27 per cent of countries will face catastrophic water stress and 22 per cent catastrophic food stress by 2050.

- According to data published by **SIPRI** in March 2020, **international transfers of major weapons** in the five-year period 2015–19 increased by 5.5 percent compared to 2010–14. According to new data, the largest arms exporters over the past five years have been the United States, Russia, France, Germany and China. Arms flows to the Middle East have increased and Saudi Arabia is by far the world's largest importer.
- **Global defense expenditure rose to \$ 1.917 trillion in 2019**, an increase of 3.6 percent from the previous year and representing the largest growth in spending in a year since 2010. This is reflected in **SIPRI's annual report**.  
In 2019, the United States still had the largest defense spending in the world. Military spending by the US grew by 5.3 per cent to a total of \$732 billion in 2019 and accounted for 38 per cent of global military spending.  
The US was followed by China (\$ 261 billion, 14% of the world total), India (\$ 71.1 billion, 3.7%), Russia (\$ 65.1 billion, 3.4%) and Saudi Arabia (\$ 61,9 billion, 3.2 percent).  
The five largest countries accounted for 62 percent of total world military spending.



- According to **SIPRI the nine nuclear-armed states**—the United States, Russia, the United Kingdom, France, China, India, Pakistan, Israel and the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (North Korea)—together **possessed an estimated 13 400 nuclear weapons at the start of 2020**. This marked a decrease from the 13 865 nuclear weapons that SIPRI estimated that these states possessed at the beginning of 2019. Around 3720 of the nuclear weapons are currently deployed with operational forces and nearly 1800 of these are kept in a state of high operational alert. The decrease in the overall number of nuclear weapons in the world in 2019 was largely due to the dismantlement of retired nuclear weapons by Russia and the USA— which together still possess over 90 per cent of global nuclear weapons. The reductions in US and Russian strategic nuclear forces required by the 2010 Treaty on Measures for the Further Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms (New START) were completed in 2018. In 2019 the forces of both countries remained below the limits specified by the treaty.



**New START was renewed by Presidents Biden and Putin in February 2021** for another five years. This was a crucial step. Once this is now done, countries should continue negotiations on a follow-up agreement that would include additional restrictions and improved verification of nuclear weapons.

**Shannon Kile, Director of SIPRI’s Nuclear Disarmament, Arms Control and Non-proliferation Programme**, recently warned that the loss of key channels of communication between Russia and the USA that were intended to promote transparency and prevent misperceptions about their respective nuclear force postures and capabilities could potentially lead to a new nuclear arms race.

The 51st edition of the SIPRI Yearbook reveals a continuing deterioration in the conditions for international stability. This trend is reflected in, among other things, an unfolding crisis of nuclear arms control.

*"In these times of ever-increasing geopolitical tensions, the absence of adequate measures to monitor nuclear arsenals and to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons and materials is a particularly worrying development", says Kile.*

- The **US** as well as **Russia** has given **new or expanded roles to nuclear weapons in their military plans and doctrines**. This is ruining control and disarmament agreements and it shows that nuclear weapons today are not only planned to be used as deterrence.

This is a major shift towards new nuclear rearmament.

In both countries extensive and expensive programs under way to replace and modernize nuclear warheads, missile and aircraft delivery systems, and nuclear weapon production facilities.

The U.S. is expected to spend \$ 1.2 trillion over the next 30 years to maintain and modernize its current arsenal. The Pentagon is expanding its nuclear weapons program to include "low-yield" nuclear weapons as powerful as the Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombs.

- Other nuclear weapon states have significantly smaller nuclear arsenals, but all of these states are developing or using new weapons systems or have indicated their intention to do so.

**China** is in the midst of a major modernization of its nuclear weapons. **India** and **Pakistan** are slowly increasing the size and diversity of their nuclear weapons. **North Korea** continues to see its military nuclear program as a key part of its national security strategy.

- In August 2019, the **United States withdrew from the INF Treaty** with Russia. The agreement banned land-based medium-range missiles with a range of 500 to 5,000 kilometers. Especially for Europe the agreement was utmost crucial.

**UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres** stated at the eve of the expiration of the Treaty:

*"the world will lose an invaluable brake on nuclear war".*

He emphasized that the expiration will likely heighten, not reduce, the threat posed by ballistic missiles and appealed to all parties to urgently seek agreement on a new common path for international nuclear arms control.

**ICAN, 2017 Nobel Peace Laureate**, warns that with the collapse of the INF Treaty, the US and Russia are now free to build and deploy this category of weapons, which would fall in line with their seeming determination to kick-start a new nuclear arms race.

The introduction of more “usable” weapons could significantly lower the threshold for the use of nuclear weapons and thereby increase the likelihood of nuclear war.

The **Princeton University’s Program on Science and Global Security** researchers created in 2019 a simulation which shows that more than 90 million people would be killed or injured immediately in a nuclear war between the US and Russia if a conventional conflict went too far. In just a few hours, much of Europe, the United States, and Russia would turn into a radioactive hell.

- In September 2020, on the occasion of the 75th anniversary of the UN, **56 former prime ministers, presidents, foreign ministers and defense ministers from 20 NATO countries, as well as Japan and South Korea**, issued an open letter urging their current leaders to join the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW). The letter stated, inter alia:

*“With close to 14,000 nuclear weapons located at dozens of sites across the globe and on submarines patrolling the oceans at all times, the capacity for destruction is beyond our imagination. All responsible leaders must act now to ensure that the horrors of 1945 are never repeated. Sooner or later, our luck will run out — unless we act. The nuclear weapon ban treaty provides the foundation for a more secure world, free from this ultimate menace. We must embrace it now and work to bring others on board. There is no cure for a nuclear war. Prevention is our only option.”*

Signatories include former prime ministers of Canada, Japan, Italy and Poland; former presidents of Albania, Poland and Slovenia; more than two dozen former foreign ministers; and more than a dozen former defense ministers. Two signatories are former NATO secretaries general: Javier Solana from Spain and Willy Claes from Belgium.

- On 24 October 2020 - after the ratification of the TPNW by 50 states, which thus entered into force in January 2021 - **Francesco Rocca, President of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)**, said:

*“Today is an historic day: even a few years ago, the dream of a nuclear ban recognized by the international community seemed unfathomable. This is a victory for every citizen of the world, and it demonstrates the importance of multilateralism. I would like to congratulate all 50 States that have ratified the treaty and to call on all the other world leaders to act with courage and join the right side of history. ...*

*The simple reality is that the international community could never hope to deal with the consequences of a nuclear confrontation. No nation is prepared to deal with a nuclear confrontation. What we cannot prepare for, we must prevent.”*

**Finland - and no other Nordic country - has signed or ratified the agreement.**

### **2.5.5. Extending the concept of peace**

The concept of peace needs to be extended to include not only peace between peoples but also peace with nature on its terms.

The world is experiencing an ecological crisis threatening the entire planet. Humans are systematically destroying the world’s ecosystem and thus dramatically degrading the conditions of human life on earth.

Therefore completely new laws are needed. By enacting an international law on environmental destruction, i.e. an **Ecocide law covering large-scale systematic destruction of the environment**, a framework is set for human activities within the limits of the laws of nature.

- **ECOCIDE can be defined as** mass damage and destruction of ecosystems – harm to nature which is widespread, severe or systematic. The ability of residents to enjoy their habitat peacefully and safely is either impossible or severely restricted.
- Ecocide became a serious concept already in 1972 when the then Swedish Prime Minister, **Olof Palme**, at the UN Environmental Conference in Stockholm, raised the need for an international law against large-scale environmental degradation.
- In July 2020 a **letter signed by thousands of activists and citizens, and hundreds of well known scientists and artists** was sent to all EU leaders and heads of states urging them to advocate for making ecocide an international crime at the International Criminal Court.

- The international Ecocide law campaign promotes the inclusion of **ecocide as a fifth atrocity crime under the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC)**. Proceedings between ICC member states are scheduled for 2022.
- Currently, an international **group of lawyers is drafting a detailed draft** of the law.
- Also French President **Emmanuel Macron** has given his support to the law and initiatives have also been made in the Parliaments of among others Sweden, Belgium and Spain.
- In January 2021, the **European Parliament** voted on the matter, calling on the EU and its Member States to promote the recognition of ecocide as an international crime according to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.
- On December 7, 2020, the **Prime Minister of Finland, Sanna Marin**, received a petition entitled “Support the international criminalization of environmental destruction”.

Significant signatories called on the Finnish government to express its support for the international criminalization of environmental destruction (Ecocide). The Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court must be amended to include environmental destruction (Ecocide) alongside the criminal laws that have already entered into force criminalizing genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity and the crime of aggression. The change in the law would provide a simple and effective legal deterrent to those in positions of responsibility.

- At his video-speech at a side event at the International Criminal Court’s Assembly of States Parties, December 11, 2020, the Finnish Foreign Minister, **Pekka Haavisto**, expressed Finland's interest in the development of the ecocide law.
- In January 2021 **Tarja Halonen**, Former President of Finland expressed her support to the international Ecocide campaign:

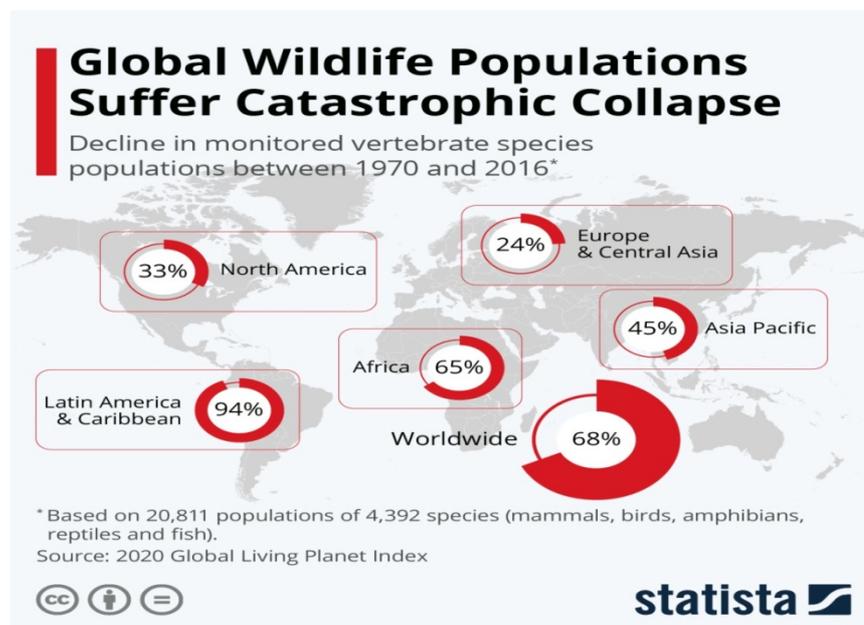
*“Stopping Ecocide through international criminal law is essential for the survival of our cultures and our economies and decisive in order to safeguard global*

*ecosystems with their species variety, as the collective life insurance of humanity.”*

- **Any Member State may propose an amendment to the Rome Statute**, which must then be approved by at least 2/3 of the Member States.

Finland signed the Statute of the International Criminal Court in 1998 and could be one of the first states to pursue this vital issue for the future of our planet.

- **By criminalizing ecocide, individuals, businesses, and states can be held criminally liable** for such destructive anthropogenic pollution and damage of the environment that results in irreversible change in the natural environment.



## 2.6. THE ERA OF CHALLENGES LIES AHEAD - SURVIVAL OF HUMANITY

In September 2020, the UN celebrated its 75th anniversary in the shadow of an unprecedented global Covid-19 pandemic.

The question is, have we become stronger and better equipped for worldwide cooperation in order to cope with similar or much more serious situations in the future?

Do we have the capacity to achieve the goals of Agenda 2030 as planned, or will mistrust and isolation continue to grow?

Do we have the capacity to reject institutionalized militarization and wars in order to move from a culture of war to a culture of peace?

Science has given mankind the tools to create a society without large-scale environmental destruction, hunger, and everyday fear of diseases and war. But science has also given humanity the tools to destroy our planet in a matter of hours.

Around the world an extremely influential and wealthy war infrastructure has been built up. The Ministries of Defense generously use citizens' tax money to prepare for war and to wage war, wars that cause brutal suffering and destruction.

To counterbalance this and to ensure the real security and survival of the citizens, a Ministry for Peace and Sustainable Development is needed to promote an infrastructure of peace between peoples and respect for the sustainability of nature, and to ensure sustainable and equitable development worldwide.

The next few years must be years of dialogue to promote a culture of peace and sustainable development. At all levels we must discuss our priorities as a human family and how we can build a better future for all before it is too late. In this debate, the Finnish Minister for Peace and Sustainable Development would play a crucial role as a pioneer and a challenger.



3.

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## ***Extending the concept of peace***

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