



**Approximately \$2.3 trillion is spent on weapons and their delivery systems globally per year. Australia currently spends around \$28 billion annually on the military. These resources are sorely needed for education, health, job creation, environmental protection and supporting sustainable development.**

*The connection between military spending and climate change may not be obvious but there are important links. Firstly, the carbon emissions of the military as a whole are a key factor in global warming. Some analysts say the military is the world's number one institutional polluter. The higher the military budget, the bigger the emissions total – in addition to other effects on the environment.*

*Secondly, climate change is introducing a new and crucial factor into the calculations of the military themselves. The Pentagon has been studying reports of rising sea levels, increased refugee flows, instability in populous countries and other sources of armed conflict.*

*Thirdly, dealing with climate change costs a lot of money. So why don't politicians consider shifting at least some of the over-inflated military budget into tackling the planet's more serious and urgent challenge?*

Every five years, the **Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty is reviewed**. The NPT Review Conference will be held this year at United Nations HQ in New York from April 27 to May 22. A series of three conferences over the past year have looked at the humanitarian consequences of nuclear war, and have renewed hope that more REAL progress WILL be made at the NPT RevCon this time. The spending on developing and maintaining nuclear weapons is immoral when the needs of the planet and its people are so immense and urgent. In too many ways, the world cannot afford the nuclear weapons that arm the Permanent Five on the UN Security Council (U.S., Russia, China, U.K. and France) - plus Israel, India, Pakistan and North Korea.

**Please sign the letter to the Hon. Julie Bishop, Minister for Foreign Affairs & Trade to look hard at Australian military expenditure, and to urge her to ensure that our delegation to the NPT RevCon will show strong, practical and immediate support for nuclear abolition.**