

# Financing Peace

*Peace at a Glance, fact sheet No. 17*

*Principle:* Peace and security are human rights.

*Consequence:* Peace and security have a cost.

*Method:* Financing peace and security shall be established according to inclusive and universal methods in order to serve all humanity, all people and the biosphere.

## *Definitions*

Peace: Peace is defined as harmonious relationships in a state of complete well-being, in which the human person and humanity commonly flourish, equally and sustainably evolve, in harmony with the biosphere.

*See peace sheets N° 4: "Defining peace", N° 7 "Peace and environment".*

Money: Economic social tool (currency) intended to facilitate and quantify exchanges. Became predominant or inevitable compared to many other forms of exchange. Often necessary for survival. Ensures or is supposed to ensure the well-being of humanity, of all human beings and of our biosphere. Currently a source of inequality, or going askew. Has strong potentials, if used with intelligence and humanity, without being exclusive and for universal purposes.

Financing: Procuring monetary funds, public or private, intended either to finance projects (for example peace) through donations or loans, or to hoard in order to finance projects.

Financing peace: Securing the necessary funds for the full and lasting implementation of peace.

## *Other topics*

The economy is or should be at the service of the human condition. It is necessary for the sustainability and continuity of the human species. Here we deal exclusively with the financing of activities directly linked to the production of peace and its functioning.

*See the whole group of sheets "Peace and economy".*

## *Situation*

Peace suffers – currently – from a very large financial deficit. The causes are cultural, geopolitic or geopolitical, and linked to issues of distribution.

Human culture recognizes the need for peace and moves towards its recognition and implementation. The United Nations 2030 Sustainable Development Goals make teaching peace and non-violence as well as building peaceful and inclusive societies goals to be achieved by 2030. UNESCO Seville Declaration on violence (1989) specifies that "The same species who invented war is capable of inventing peace. The responsibility lies with each of us". The United Nations are organizing a high-level global conference (Ministers, more or less) on financing peace in 2022. Nevertheless, as long as the economy is not, fully and solely, at the service of the human person, of every human person, it cannot be said of it that it is clearly and fully peaceful.

For various historical and geopolitical reasons, the world is subject to a conflictive approach of security, based on the security of the nation-state, such security itself too often based on warlike

or economic rivalries between states. This results in the militarization of most countries, of security systems and of the economy, thus perpetuating inequalities and economic injustices. In addition, the methods used or chosen to ensure security do not respond anymore, as quickly as possible to the environmental and social threats humanity is facing.

Resources dedicated to peace and security are unevenly distributed. In 2020, World military expenditure is \$1,821 billion. Yet the budget of the UN, the body responsible for peace and world security (without specialized institutions but with peacekeeping operations) is 9.78 billion. All things considered (there are other peace expenditures), 0.53% of what is spent on war is thus spent on peace in the world. In Switzerland, the proportion is slightly better, with the army receiving 6 billion per year and peace and human rights 15 million, the proportion is 1.34%.

#### *Individual and societal solutions*

For people, you and me, we must make the importance of peace known and practice its methods, insist on its funding needs, among other actions by challenging our governments about “money for peace”. There is a “conscientious objection to military budgets” movement.

For social groups and companies, it is necessary to put in place mediation procedures and to guarantee the non-violence of security solutions, investing in an economy with human values.

For governments and institutions, it is essential to give in public policies priority to solutions and systems that promote the prevention of conflicts, their non-aggravating management and to ensure financing for these peaceful methods and it is vital to practice conversion and reallocation of military resources. States have a primary responsibility to get humanity out of violent conflicts (and atrocities) even if caused, among other things, by an unjust economy, to create and ensure universal, just and lasting peace on Earth and for the entire human population.

For all, to live in peace and if directly or indirectly confronted to it, to always refuse violence.

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#### *References*

[Right to peace](#).

[The 2030 Sustainable Development Goals, n° 4.7 and 16 \(among others\)](#).

The Seville Declaration. [Link](#) or on the [APRED page](#).

[The UN conference on financing peace](#).

[The UN budget, in French](#).

[The Swiss budget, French as well, 2022](#).

[Switzerland's budget for peace and human rights \(2021-2024\)](#).

[There is also a UN peace fund](#).

[Conscientious objectors to military budgets](#).

# Live Peace!

*This fact sheet shall be done for all countries of the world – please do yours ! Or help financing this work – and be regularly updated.  
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