Beyond the numbers: Trends, challenges and implications of military spending

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14/05/2024
World military expenditure grows for the ninth consecutive year to reach all-time high

Spending increased by 6.8 per cent in real terms in 2023, which was the steepest year-on-year rise since 2009.

Note: The absence of data for the Soviet Union in 1991 means that no total can be calculated for that year.

Source: SIPRI Military Expenditure Database, Apr. 2024.
World military expenditure reaches record high

Spending totalled $2443 billion in 2023 and increased in all regions for the first time since 2009.

- **Europe**: $588 b.  
  Change: +16%

- **Americas**: $1009 b.  
  Change: +2.2%

- **Middle East**: $200 b.  
  Change: +9.0%

- **Asia and Oceania**: $595 b.  
  Change: +4.4%

Note: Spending figures are in billions of US dollars, at current (2023) prices and exchange rates. Changes in spending are in real terms, based on constant (2022) US dollars. 
Source: SIPRI Military Expenditure Database, Apr. 2024.
Trends in global military expenditure, 2023

Changes in military spending and violent events around the world
Political momentum on military Spending

- Concern over rising military spending – General Assembly, 1st Committee
  - 2018 Securing Our Common Future: An Agenda for Disarmament
  - 2020 report on Women, Peace and Security (WPS)
  - 2021 WPS report
  - 2023 New Agenda for Peace and Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters report on Military Spending

- Strengthen analysis and public awareness on military spending
- Updated comprehensive report on consequences of military expenditure
  - Social, governance, economic and environment
- Current security landscape should be a catalyst for disarmament efforts
  - Precedent – 1973 Soviet Union called for reduction in spending
Beyond the numbers – consequences to military spending

- Focus on numbers of military spending overlooks the breadth of the impact

- Economic
  - Opportunity costs on economic growth and debt
  - Trade-off between military and other public sectors (health, education, infrastructure)

- Environmental
  - Carbon emissions and fuel consumption from military activities and arms production

- Governance
  - Deterioration in rule of law, public deliberation, competitive elections and political accountability

- Social
  - Income inequality, gender inequality and distribution of resources from activities that benefit social welfare
Human-centered approach to Security

- Security is a combination of military and human security
- Encompasses the 4 pillars on the consequences of military spending
  - Economic, Environmental, Governance and Social
- Single security space
- States balance spending on military security and spending on human security
- Common recommendation from New Agenda for Peace and ABDM
  - Comprehensive report on consequences of military spending
  - Previous report was 36 years ago, recommendation is actionable
- Efforts to better understand consequences of military spending concurrent to worsening security environment
  - Don’t lose momentum, build the group work, prepare for when security landscape improves