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THE IMPACT OF ARMED CONFLICTS ON CLIMATE CHANGE: PERCEPTIONS OF ENVIRONMENTAL SECURITY AND THE SEARCH FOR WAYS TO OVERCOME THESE RISKS

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Abstract

This article analyzes the impact of armed conflicts on climate change, as well as the perception of environmental security and the search for ways to overcome these risks. Currently, issues related to environmental security and climate change are becoming a particularly significant item on the global political agenda. Modern societies have already witnessed such global phenomena and processes as large-scale natural disasters such as floods, droughts, fires, temperature fluctuations, and hurricanes; the depletion of vital natural resources essential to society; and changes in such vital indicators as the ozone layer, atmospheric gas composition, radiation pollution, and other dramatic changes in the biosphere. In this regard, this article analyzes the impact of war and military conflict on climate change over the past decade. It addresses the following questions: Do wars and conflicts accelerate the impacts of climate change? Why don't governments mention wars and conflicts as important causes of global warming? To answer these questions, the article describes the increasing number of climate change events that are correlated with war and climate change. To this end, it reveals the lack of interest of national governments in raising awareness of the impact of wars and conflicts on climate change, and finally, some concluding comments are offered.

Keywords: *War, Armed Conflicts, Climate Change, Global Warming, Fuel use.*

Introduction

Around the world, there are dozens of conflicts some of which are very well reported by the Media, others less advertised, but with powerful repercussions. According to Genova Academy, Middle East and North Africa is the first most affected region by conflicts and wars, registering more than 45 armed conflicts in the territories of Cyprus, Egypt, Iraq, Israel, Libya, Morocco, Palestine, Syria, Türkiye, Yemen and

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Western Sahara. Africa is the second region most affected, it is recorded more than 35 armed conflicts taking place in Bukina Faso, Cameroon, the Central African Republic (CAR), the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Mali, Mozambique, Nigeria, Senegal, Somalia, Soudan (Geneva Academy 2024).

Asia takes the third place in frequency of conflicts, registering 21 armed conflicts happening in Afghanistan, India, Myanmar, Pakistan and the Philippines. Europe occupies the fourth place with seven conflicts, occurring mainly in Ukraine, Russia, Georgia, Moldova, Armenia and Aserbaijan. Latin America is classified on fourth place with six conflicts happening in Mexico, Colombia and others countries in the region (Geneva Academy 2024).

The list of war and conflicts tends to increase, for example in Middle East, due to the conflict between Israel and Palestine, the war is expanding to other countries in the region such as Iran, Lebanon and Syria(ACLED 2024).

The war and armed conflicts have not only human and economic costs, but also environmental costs. It is estimated that armed conflicts are responsible for 5.5% of global greenhouse gas emissions (Weir 2024), but governments tend to avoid mentioning the consequences of wars on climate change.

Armed conflicts are worsening the climate change effects: droughts, floods, landslides, hunger, water shortages, avalanches and tsunamis become more common and less predictable. Military conflicts provoke not only the consumption of large amounts of natural resources: land and sea used for military training, as well as hydrocarbons: gas, coal, oil; minerals such as lithium, copper, iron and so on, but they also cause damages to the biodiversity, landscape, marine and human habitants, without forgetting, the release of massive emissions carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide and other green house gases into the atmosphere.

Taking into account the aforementioned, the present article aims to analyse the effects of war and military conflicts on climate change in the last decade. The hypothesis asserts on the assumption that climate change effects are accelerated by armed conflicts. This article is guided by the followings questions: Do war and conflicts worsen the effects of climate change? Why are not governments interested to create awareness about the impacts of war and armed conflicts on climate change? The text is based on qualitative and quantitative data, such as press releases, specialised reports and statistics on conflicts and environmental degradation worldwide. The text is divided into three parts. The first one describes the increase of events related to climate change. The second one analyses the correlation between war and climate change; the third one exposes the disinterest of governments to mention armed conflicts as the main drivers of climate change, and finally some conclusive comments are offered.

Currently, issues related to environmental security and climate change are becoming a particularly significant item on the global political agenda. We have already witnessed global phenomena and processes such as large-scale natural disasters such as floods, droughts, fires, temperature fluctuations, and hurricanes, as well as the depletion of vital natural resources essential to society, as well as changes in such vital indicators as the ozone layer, atmospheric gas composition, radiation pollution, and other dramatic changes in the biosphere. In this regard, climate change issues are

becoming a matter of paramount political importance for all people on Earth, regardless of national borders, and for the political leadership of the vast majority of countries.

Acceleration of climate change effects

In recent years around the world, there have been many natural disasters attributed to climate change[1], just in 2024, in Valencia, Spain, strong storms and floods have killed at least 214 people and dozens were still unaccounted for, damaged roads and rail infrastructure, disrupted businesses, and habitats engulfed in mud (Morel 2024). In France, torrential rain caused floods in central and southeast of the country, one of the worst floods in 40 years. The damages were estimated to be between 350 and 420 million euros (Euronews 2024). In the USA, Hurricane Milton hit the Gulf Coast of Florida just weeks after Hurricane Helen did the same. The damages caused by Hurricane Milton were calculated up to $100 US billion (Cohn and Noor 2024). In Taiwan, heavy rains and high winds hit the island killing at least one person, injuring dozens and causing many damages to local infrastructure, the Typhoon Kong-rey reached 200 kilometers per hour (Cheung and Magramo 2024)

Others floods were registered in 2024 in Morocco, Algeria, Mali and Sudan, where floods turned the traditionally arid Sahara into lakes. The West and Central African countries experienced a state of humanitarian emergency with over 4.4 million people affected by floods across 15 African countries. In Nigeria, more than one million people were affected, 269 died, and more than 640,000 were displaced from their homes (Intersos 2024). In Chad, 1.5 million people were affected by these floods, including more than 12,000 in the east of the country, "which since April 2023 has witnessed the exodus of more than 600,000 Sudanese refugees fleeing the war"(Intersos 2024), while in Mali, floods affected more than 14, 400 people, damaging 2,745 water points and destroying 5, 780 latrines (Intersos 2024). In Pakistan and India, heavy rains and landslides caused the death of hundreds of people, while in China more than 300 rivers exceeded warning levels (Asia Financial 2025).

In Mexico, severe droughts were registered during 2024 causing the death of hundreds of people and animals such as cattle, monkeys, parrots, horses. Even fishes were found dead floating on lakes (Andreoni 2024). One year later, 2025, torrential rains in many Mexican states caused at least 76 dead, dozens of people missing and more than 100 communities affected, without mentioning the damages to the oil infrastructure that trigger a 5 mile oil spill in the state of Veracruz (The Associated Press, 2025).

The costs of climate change are incalculable not only for the human and animal suffering, but also in terms of damage to infrastructure in countries. Just in the United

[1] Climate change science seeks to understand the physical, chemical, biological and geological processes, and the interactions among these processes, that produce climate. The scales of interest range from local to global and from weeks or months to millions of years. Changes in climate, both temporally and spatially, are detected by examining observational evidence from instruments and indicators such as tree rings, fossils, glaciers and sea ice, plant pollen, and sea level. One of the goals of the scientists is to predict future climates based on natural phenomena and to project future climates based on assumptions of future human activities (UNITAR 2015, 4).

States, in November 2024, there were 24 climate disaster events with losses exceeding $1 billion each. These events included 17 severe storm events, 4 tropical cyclone events, 1 wildfire event, and 2 winter storm events. Overall, these events resulted in the deaths of 418 people and had significant economic effects on the areas impacted. From 1980 to 2023, annual climate disasters events were an average of 8.5 events, while the annual average during the last 5 years (2019-2023) was 20.4 events (NOAA 2024).

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration reports: "the U.S. has sustained 400 weather and climate disasters since 1980 where overall damage cost exceeds $2.785 trillion" (NOAA 2024).The list of natural disasters is getting bigger each day as they are more frequent and intense events than in the previous decade. There are many causes behind these natural disasters such as manufacturing, mining and other industrial productions or processes; cutting down forests for pastures; increasing of farms or construction projects; emissions from volcanoes, variations in Earth's orbit, domestic rubbish, plastic and industrial waste, all increase greenhouses gases, water waste, over exploitation of natural resources, burning fossil fuels such as coal, oil, gas and so on (Greenpeace 2024), but one of the main causes that it is accelerating the climate change effects is without doubt the pollution caused by armed conflicts.

Wars and climate change

Environmental degradation[2] is one of the biggest challenges worldwide. Armed conflicts are one of the most important sources that affect the environment, and harm to human life. Certainly, the environmental impact depends on different elements such the intensity of conflicts, length of wars and size of weapons used, but there are general features that most of the armed conflicts share, where soil, air and sea pollution is generated. Some of the most outstanding features that contribute to environmental degradation during conflicts are operations and supply chain: energy consumption, production of debris and waste, launching missiles and weapons, destruction of natural resources, rebuilding infrastructure after war and human losses.

Operations and supply chain: energy consumption

Before, during and after armed conflicts, the pollution generated by emissions of Carbon Dioxide (CO_2) is trigged by the supply chain and operations in transportation of vehicles, equipments, weapons and members of the army. The military sector is one of the most energy-intensive industries worldwide. According to a retired US army general and former CIA director, David Petraeus, who once said in 2011, "energy is the lifeblood of our war fighting capabilities" (Ogoyi 2022). Certainly, war efforts and the military operations require significant energy, derived from fossil fuels (Ogoyi 2022).

Maintaining military activities means consumption of energy for military vehicles, aircraft, tanks, ships, vessels, buildings and infrastructure. The CO_2 emissions from

[2] The environmental degradation term comprises destruction of wildlife and non-compliance with environmental obligations, social and environmental justice. As well as, pollution on air emissions, soil degradation, solid waste, untreated water, burning and waste of hydrocarbons, over exploitation of ground water, deforestation, over exploitation of sea lives and all natural resources (UNITAR 2015).

military purposes are larger than emissions generated by many of the world's countries combined. It is estimated that military operations are responsible for 5.5% of all greenhouse gas emissions globally (Weir 2020). In this vein, the military sector is a huge energy user that contributes significantly to greenhouse gas emissions.

The consumption of energy and production of greenhouse gas emissions are generated not only during the armed conflict, but also during non-war operations[3], such as military exercises, war games or maintenance of military installations (Crawford 2019, 2).

Since 2001, the US Department of Defense (DOD) "has consistently consumed between 77 and 80 percent of all US government energy consumption" (Crawford 2019, 4). The US military sector uses a great amount of fossil fuel, mainly extracted from the Persian Gulf (Crawford 2019, 3), not to mention all the electricity consumed by this sector. To put it in perspective, in 2007, DOD spent $3.5 billion to support heat and electricity for US operation facilities that accounted for 560,000 sites with over 275,000 buildings at 800 bases located on about 27 million acres of land in the US and across the globe, just in 2007 (Vine 2019; Conger 2018).

Production of debris and waste

Throughout the history of industrial society, environmental problems have posed a threat to the entire global community. Pollutant emissions into the atmosphere, climate change and, consequently, natural disasters, and the discharge of industrial and domestic wastewater into water bodies have increasingly negatively impacted the environment and human health. The significant deterioration in the quality of life of the population, as well as the consequences of anthropogenic impact on the natural environment, have seriously raised the need to intensify efforts to develop effective environmental policies in many countries.

During and after armed conflicts, the production of debris is enormous. Houses, schools, hospitals and building destruction, as well as roads, vehicles and all types' infrastructures damaged or completely reduced to rubble. Not to mention, high quantities of dust, plastic rubbish and industrial waste generated by fighters and local people.

Following a report from the United Nations, the consequences of wars to climate change are considerable, particularly for all the waste produced: "Oil fires and spills, bomb – damage and looted industrial facilities, abandoned military material and munitions, rubble and demolition waste – all are associated with contemporary conflicts, and all can threaten ecosystems and human health" (UNEP 2017, 1).

The same report indicates that since 1999, the toxic remnants of armed conflicts continue damaging the environment: "depleted uranium weapons in the Balkans; abandoned military material in Afghanistan; hazardous industrial sites in Iraq; waste, rubble and munitions in Gaza and Lebanon, and abandoned industries in Sierra Leone" (UN 2017, 3).Besides, it is necessary to mention all waste produced by corrosives

[3] Operational energy use is defined as the energy "required for training, moving, and sustaining military forces and weapons platforms". The US Department Of Defense (DOD) accounts for 70 percent of energy consumption from the whole country's energy consumption (Crawford 2019, 8).

substances, paints, fuels, and especially heavy metals that are launched to rivers, oceans, forests or farms that also contribute largely to environmental degradation (Gambuzza et al. 2023).

Launching Missiles and Weapons

During war and armed conflicts, the amount of explosions caused by missiles, ammunitions, tanks, drones are countless. The release of greenhouse gases such as sulfur dioxide, perfluorocarbons, halocarbons, methane, nitrogen oxide and other extremely dangerous gases and substances such as mercury, ammonia are damaging the environment (Hausfather 2022, 55), which contribute to the global warming effect on oceans, increasing temperatures, habitat destruction, soil erosion, droughts, fire, flooding and destruction of flora and fauna.

The heat added to the planet due to weaponry is contributing, without any doubt, to the climate change. According to Lijing Cheng, researcher at the International Center for Climate and Environmental Sciences at the Chinese Academy of Sciences, since the explosion of "the Hiroshima atom-bomb" the energy released from this event was about 63,000,000,000,000 Joules" (Kottasova 2020). This explosion gives an idea about the amount of heat that was produced in a single event.

Another example of global warming caused by war is offered through the US invasion of Afghanistan. From 2001 to 2018 US military greenhouses gas emissions reached 1,267 million metric tons in Afghanistan (Crawford 2019, 2).

According to the report presented by the Non Government Organisation, Oil Change International, the Iraq war alone generated 141 million tons of CO_2 in four years, equivalent to 25 million extra carson the US roads in one single year (Oil Change International 2008).

During the most recent armed conflict between Israel and Palestine registered on 7 October 2023, the greenhouse gases were "over than 281,000 metric tons of carbon dioxide (CO_2 equivalent)", burned by Israel."The climate cost of the first 60 days of Israel's military operations was equivalent to burning at least 150,000 tons of coal" (Niranjan et al. 2023).While, "Hamas rockets fired into Israel during the same period generated about 713 tons of CO_2, which is equivalent to approximately 300 tons of coal (Niranjan et al. 2023).

Worse still, it is estimated that emissions from the Israel-Palestine conflict during the first two months reached an annual carbon footprint of more than 20 times CO_2 emissions of the world's most climate-vulnerable nations (Lakhani 2024). This can give an idea about the amount of damage caused to the environment for the following months and years that this conflict lasts.

The amount of heat added to the global warming is growing exponentially one reason is the armed conflicts. Following to Cheng "the amount of heat that we have put in the world's oceans in the past 25 years are equals to 3.6 billion Hiroshima atom-bomb explosions" (Kottasova 2020).

The global oceans are heating at the same rate as if five Hiroshima atomic bombs were dropped into the water every second (Kottasova 2020). Not to mention, all the heating caused by wars' weapons put into the air and soil. It is not a coincidence that

global temperature is increasing each year, just a case in point, between 2024-2028 it is predicted to be between 1.1°C and 1.9°C (WMO 2024).

Destruction of natural resources

During armed conflicts natural resources are damaged. Chemical contamination of rivers, oceans and marine environments, as well as deforestation and destruction of animal life are frequent. For example, the environmental devastation in Ukraine due to the war with Russia – on February 24, 2022- has caused irreversible damages. One of the most disturbing events was the destruction of the "*Nova Kakhovka dam*" on 6th June 2023 (Yerushalmy2023), causing massive flooding, financial losses, energy problems and destruction of the ecosystem. Furthermore, the destruction of other critical reservoir supplies such as fossil fuel infrastructures.

"In the war in Ukraine, 36 Russian attacks on fossil fuel infrastructure were recorded in the first five weeks alone–February and March 2022-, leading to prolonged fires that released soot particulates, methane and CO_2 into the atmosphere, while oil infrastructure has been ablaze on the Russian side too." (Clauben 2022).

During the conflict Russia-Ukraine, another important environmental destruction was the *Kurakhove*dam in Donetsk Oblast, Ukraine, on 11th November 2024, which caused floods and infrastructure damages (The Kyiv Independent 2024).

According to Daniel Hryhorczuk, professor in the School of Public Health at the University of Illinois Chicago, estimates that the Russia-Ukraine war –from 2022 to 2024- has caused $56.4 billion just in environmental damages (UIC 2024). Others collateral environmental degradations during conflicts are the increase fires, deforestation and destruction of animal life due to bombings, military operations, fight confrontations, and lack of firefighters to control wildfires(UIC 2024).It is important to quote former United Nations Secretary-General, Ban Ki-moon, who once said: "the environment has long been a "silent casualty" of war (UN 2014) This message also makes an echo to "the contamination of land, the destruction of forests, the plunder of natural resources and the collapse of management systems" (UN 2014) The environmental consequences of war are often widespread and devastating for local people and their habitat.

The destruction of natural resources is also translated into damages to oceans, for example, between 1987-2019, ocean warming was 450% greater than during 1955-1986 (Kottasova 2020).Oceans serve as a good indicator of the real impact of climate change. Covering almost three quarters of Earth's surface, they absorb the vast majority of the world's heat. Since 1970, more than 90% of global excess heat went to the oceans, while less than 4% was absorbed by the atmosphere and the soil (Kottasova 2020).

Rebuilding infrastructure after war

After armed conflicts, there is the need to rebuild cities, roads, hospitals, schools and the whole country infrastructure, which requires CO_2 emissions. For example, it is estimated that reconstruction in Syria would lead 22 million tons of CO_2 emission (Clauben 2022). In the case of the Ukraine-Russia war, according to the Conflict

Environment Observatory (CEOBS), this war will need the largest carbon footprint by far in reconstruction of destroyed infrastructure. This could be even worse in terms of CO_2 emission per capital in the war in Palestine, given the amount of bombing intensity in this conflict"(CEOBS 2024).

The environmental disaster in Palestine is one of the most catastrophic examples of destruction of farmland, buildings, roads, energy and water infrastructure. It is calculated that between 36% and 45% of Gaza's buildings have been destroyed during 2023 causing one of the major global warming drivers in current times (Niranjan et al. 2023).

The relevance of this study is explained by the fact that in recent years three dangerous processes have emerged in the international sphere, negatively affecting the state of problems in the field of international environmental security:

- firstly, the aggravation of international tensions in many parts of the world;
- secondly, the increasing severity of global environmental problems and the growing lag in the process of preparing and implementing adopted decisions in the field of international environmental security;
- thirdly, the effectiveness of the main negotiating mechanisms of the UN, its bodies and associated organizations has decreased as a result of deliberate attempts by a number of Western countries to weaken the international legal and institutional system of the world order.

Human losses and catastrophe

During the armed conflicts, there are not only financial losses or destroyed infrastructure, but also human and environmental casualties. People killed, injured and disabled with mental health issues, not to mention the amount of people, who are forced to leave their countries, increasing displacements and migration levels, which is translated into the boosting of greenhouse gas emissions.

When large amount of people move by coach, boat, car or airplane, they use different modes of transport to abandon their countries, which produce carbon emissions in their journey along with all waste that is generated in this process.

The pollution associated with conflicts can also have consequences for countries neighboring them in terms of production of rubbish, industrial waste, destruction of crops, extinction of animals and plants, and even chemical contamination of rivers, marine life, deforestation and other environmental issues. The consequences of armed conflicts have also a resonance in refugee-hosting nations not only due to the lack of infrastructure to accommodate new arrivals, but also due to the environmental pressure (UN2017, 3).

The history shows how many natural ecosystems have been destroyed in wars, most of them irreversibly. Even, arm forces have already accepted that climate change is real problem, but they haven't assumed any serious commitment to reduce their amount of CO_2 emissions, and they haven't either included the topic of the environment as part of their national security agenda, which goes in contradiction with the role of the military forces, since the main objective of the arm forces "is to protect its country from any potential harm; this should also include climate change and protect nature (…) since they can harm human lives"(Ogoyi 2022).

The role governments in reporting costs of war

The military sector has avoided taking responsibility on environmental issues worldwide. The United States as the major military power has not reported the environmental cost of wars, worse still; the United States continues spending large amounts of money in military operations and is currently engaged with dozens of conflicts and wars around the world: "the US has been continuously at war since late 2001, with the US military and State Department currently engaged in more than 80 countries in counter terror operations" (Crawford 2019).

The United States along with China, Russia, Iran, Israel, Saudi Arabia, the United Kingdom and Ukraine are countries characterized to spend huge amounts of their GDP on the military sector, therefore they are the most important polluter worldwide. For example, the US Department of Defense (DOD) is the world's largest institutional user of fossil fuels and the biggest polluter of greenhouse gases. From 1975 to 2018, DOD's emissions reached more than 3, 685 million metric tons of CO_2, just in 2017 the Pentagon's total carbon emissions were larger than the emissions of the entire industrialised countries. The CO_2 emissions of the USA military sector were also greater than all emission from the US production of iron and steel (Crawford 2019).

In 2017, the US Air Force used USD $4.9 billion worth of fuel. In the same year, the US military was responsible for 59 million tons of CO_2 equivalent to the overall emissions of some industrialised countries such as Switzerland or Sweden(Ogoyi 2022).

In this context, it is not a surprise that the weapons industry and military sector are not present in the Paris Climate Agreement[4], which means that they are not obliged to report to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change their actions (Ogoyi 2022).

The oil corporations such as BP, Shell, Saudi-Aramco, Rosneft or Lukoil are not either interested in reducing emissions, when their profits are rocketing due to the high demand by the military sector. Another important organization in armed conflicts worldwide is NATO that designed a methodology for counting emissions, but it does not apply to its members. NATO also excludes emissions from their operations, missions, training and all kinds of military exercises (Weir 2024).

Besides, the military sector is excluded of 1997 Kyoto protocol and it considers voluntary reporting data to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change emissions under the 2015 Paris agreement (UN 2015; Weir 2024). In this context, many countries of the West report what they want to report just for giving a nice façade on climate change engagements, others countries prefer to omit any information, because there is no legal obligation to report the real CO_2 emissions related to armed conflicts.

It appears that despite the current attention paid to climate change, the political significance of this purely humanitarian issue remains underestimated. This is largely due to the fact that the subject matter of global, regional, and national climate security and environmental diplomacy is still in the process of formation. Moreover, given the

[4] International treaty agreement on climate change adopted by 196 Parties at the United Nation Climate Change Conference in Paris, France, on 12 December 2015, and it was implemented on 4 November 2016 (UN 2015).

increasingly tense international situation at the beginning of the second decade, all security issues, including, naturally, environmental security, are particularly pressing and more difficult to resolve, while diplomatic tools are subject to dynamic change.

Conclusion and discussion

The environmental crisis, its consequences, and the methods for combating them will occupy a key place on the political agenda and diplomatic practice of the future, although the impact of this process should not be overestimated. It can be said that environmental arguments are beginning to be actively used in politics, but for now, as a rule, this is primarily driven by state interests or the interests of individual non-state actors in international relations. Over the past decades, the international community has taken numerous measures aimed at addressing climate change. One need only look at the history and chronology of the signing of numerous multilateral documents. It should be noted that despite the significant economic component of climate change, the entire history of addressing this issue convincingly demonstrates that climate change is, first and foremost, a matter of global politics, largely dependent on the positions of the world's leading countries. Therefore, decisions made at the global level are largely predetermined by decisions made at the national level. Traditionally, the main line of confrontation at the global level runs between developed and under developed countries, whose economic interests often diverge.

Climate change is a dangerous threat to global security. One of the most polluting sectors is represented by the military industry and military forces around the world. Historically, countries with large and powerful military forces are also countries with larger CO_2 emission that pollute the most. In this sense, at the top of the military polluters are United States with 2,127,500 military personnel, Russia with 3,570,000, China with 3,170,000 and India with 5,137,550 (Global Firepower 2024).

Worse still, due the current geopolitical scenario (2024), where armed conflicts have increase, NATO states as well as Russia, China, Iran, Israel, North Korea, Saudi Arabia and many other countries worldwide are increasing their military investments, which means more CO_2 released to the atmosphere and more deterioration to the climate change.

In 2021, total global military expenditure increased by 0.7% per cent, reaching $2 trillion. The five largest spenders in 2021 were the United States, China, India, the United Kingdom and Russia, together accounting for 62 per cent of expenditure, according to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI 2022).

Since 2021, global military expenditure has showed a trend to increase, rather than decrease due to the visible effects of climate change worldwide (SIPRI 2022).Weapons, missiles, tanks and all sort of military equipment are on the rise with the wars in Ukraine, Russia, Israel, Palestine, Iran, Lebanon and other countries in the Middle East, without forgetting the conflicts in other part of Latin America and Asia.

The green energies have been considered as a source of energy for military purposes, but its development hasn't been translated into a reduction of fossil fuel and CO_2 emissions. Military global powers have not reduced their overall greenhouse gas emissions, just the opposite they are increasing their emissions without any concern for the global environment. For decades military environmental "exceptionalism" and poor

interpretations of climate security have contributed to deteriorate the environment (Weir 2024) for the benefit of political elites and large weapon manufacturing companies, military aircraft corporations, and all sorts of armament manufacturers who make huge profits during wars and armed conflicts. For this sector, war means profits and extension of business, which is the only priority in their agenda.

The destruction of the environment and climate change effects are presents all over the world. Certainly, the consequences for rich countries are less severe than poor ones with poor infrastructure to tackle climate change. There is a lack of awareness about the consequences of armed conflicts on the environment and the levels of emissions released to the planet, as well as its influence to climate change disasters. Many anti-war protests worldwide, they express their concerns in terms of human rights, but they don't include in their agenda the "ecocide" –destruction or extermination of the environment- that it is caused before, during and after the armed conflicts.

The media worldwide do not help either to inform about the impacts of war on the environment, since "the media is the engine of persuasion that allows our Earth-destroying system to persist. It has repeatedly mislead us about the choices we face (…) -Media world- on behalf of its wealthy proprietors, it has sought to justify a political economy that allows a few extremely rich people to grab and destroy the natural wealth on which all depend" (Morbiot 2022, 369).

The destruction of the environment and global warming is a real threat to everybody; however, political, military and financial elites are insensitive as for environment, animal and people lives, their only motivation is making profits, subjugate countries, placing puppet governments who ease their own interest, and loot natural resources, minerals, oil and gas to trade with those resources, paying cheap prices and sale them at high rate, with large profits margins. This is the game that is repeated over and over again in all wars, until the planet and human life will be extinct if civil society does not oblige to government to reduce armed conflicts.

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Ethical standards
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