

## Oral Statement by Society of Catholic Medical Missionaries, an NGO accredited to Eco Soc with special consultative status at the 49<sup>th</sup> CsocD.

Mr.Chair man, Distinguished Delegates, ladies and gentlemen,

The key issues of the 21st century seem to be global food security and climate change. According to the World Bank's poverty estimate 1.4 billion people continue to live in extreme poverty struggling to survive on less than USD1.25 a day while the new Multi-dimensional Poverty index 2010 human development report estimate the number 1.7 billion, this need to be considered much more than a statistic. More than two thirds of them reside in rural areas of developing countries.

According to World Vision, Poverty kills 24,000 children a day, who could be great contributors of the future! The last ten years have shown that increasing the access of financial resources to people living in poverty through microfinance is one of the success stories in poverty eradication. It is important to recognize that the economic growth of nation alone is insufficient to reduce poverty. The quality of growth, i.e. the just and equitable distribution of the benefits of growth based on human rights principles is important.

Global military expenditure is at an alarming increase as more and more countries are becoming insecure and spending more on weapons than on addressing the real issues. Report of the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SRPRI), global military expenditure has a 45% increase from the previous decade. According to the Institute for Policy studies Military Vs climate security the 2011 budget comparison, the US spends 41 USD on military for every 1 USD spend on climate that's 97.6% for military and 2.4% for climate security. It is estimated that China spends between \$2 and \$3 on its military for each \$1 it spends on climate that's 72% for military and 28% for Climate security. A number of countries spend around 10% of their GDP for military.

My question is what will the Military protect, if climate change continues along its predicted course? The life of the planet and the dependent welfare of the whole humanity should not be sacrificed by the greed of a few.

Let me recall UN secretary general's remarks to the youth on 21st Dec 2010 "every year the world spends 1.4 trillion dollars on weapons. With a fraction of that we could cut poverty, fund schools, provide health care and protect environment. One year of global military spending could pay the UN's budget for 732 years".

In conclusion dear brothers and sisters, for security reasons, environmental reasons, economic, ethical and spiritual reasons an accelerated resource reallocation from the military to climate security and social protection is a priority need of the time. Yesterday we heard Cuba addressing this issue as shameful! We strongly recommend that nations reduce and redirect a significant portion of the military expenditure for environmental protection and social development, particularly poverty eradication.

I know this may not be welcomed by all. Our dream for a better world, where peace and harmony prevails and human values are respected, impels us to keep this issue before the political will of the Leaders of Nations who design the destiny of their people.

I thank you for your attention

Celine Paramundayil MMS

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