

## **Latin America and the Reduction of Military Budgets**

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Reduction of Military Budgets has been an issue in the Disarmament and International Committee for a long time and has now been turned into a topic for the committee to debate. Questions such as how much the budget should be reduced and where the money will go to are often asked in these committee sessions involving the topic. Countries believe that their military budgets shall be decreased over time and should be used for other needs, such as the eradication of poverty and to give some of the money to the UN and less fortunate countries.

Regarding this topic, the goals of the Republic of Argentina are to limit the military budget to more than 0.5% and less than an estimate of 5%-8% of the country's budget. If the budget is more than 8%, the remains can be given to countries with less than 0.5%. If the country does not want to give their budget to another country, that country can use the excess budget for issues in their own country such as poverty. Argentina does not only aim to reduce their budget but to also control it.

A country near Argentina known as the Plurinational State of Bolivia, also in the Latin American region, has a handful of operatives, or draft resolutions to sponsor. This consists of the recommending to all member states to reduce their military budget by 2% in the next 10 years, to designate all countries to maintain a balanced rate of military spending and to call upon the UN to help member states to reduce conflict. Bolivia is joined by Belize and the Bahamas in the list of sponsors. Bolivia also sponsored another group of operatives. These operatives include the allowance of countries to raise the military budget only in times of conflict.

The Republic of Panama also has a handful of ideas to sponsor. These operatives are mostly also sponsored by Bolivia. Urging all nations decrease their military budget annually, increasing budget for UN peacekeeping missions and to help developing countries and to appeal all member states to focus their budget on education, poverty and health care. Other resolutions of Panama are to encourage all member states to reduce their military expenditures by 2.5% and to call upon countries to use money to no longer be used for military forces to promote peace.

Military budgets can potentially be decreased to be used for other issues the countries face and promote peace by the subtracting of budget used to buy these weapons to inflict fear on countries and its civilians. Many countries agree on the Reduction of Military Budget over time to be used for issues as important or more important than the budget of the military. This allows the country to improve itself in other positions and to promote peace at the same time.