



April 10, 2019

Dear Dan,

It has been a pleasure to work with yourself and the students at the SOAS Centre for International Studies and Diplomacy in the development of the SCRAP disarmament concept.

Oxfam has long been involved in promoting disarmament for human security, from the landmines and cluster munitions treaties, to the Arms Trade Treaty, and also supports efforts to eliminate nuclear, chemical and biological weapons. People sometimes ask why a poverty reduction NGO would be working on arms control. The answer is simple. Poverty, armed violence and conflict are linked in a cycle that prevents peace, furthers human rights abuses and hampers development.

Africa has suffered terribly from conflicts and armed violence linked to the irresponsible and illicit trade in arms. Oxfam and partners have estimated that such conflicts cost the economy of Africa some \$18bn per year. Oxfam reports that compared to peaceful countries, African countries in conflict have, on average 50 per cent more infant deaths; 15 per cent more undernourished people; life expectancy reduced by five years; 20 per cent more adult illiteracy; 2.5 times fewer doctors per patient; and 12.4 per cent less food per person. These huge challenges to socio-economic development have been recognised in African regional agreements to control arms, and in strong African support for global disarmament measures.

In our 2017 report *The Human Cost of Uncontrolled Arms in Africa* Oxfam advocated for strengthened domestic, regional and international arms control efforts because the question of uncontrolled arms, their illicit acquisition and their transfer is a recurring security dilemma in Africa. Better controls on arms, transparency and accountability for their security is the best way to ensure human security that permits sustainable development.

In that context, the SCRAP concept brings already existing and proven mechanism into play. It shows that the global community of nations already has the tools to promote significant arms control. This fits well with the African Union's *Silencing the Guns* initiative which we fully support. With SCRAP, we demonstrate that we have the knowledge and the ability to reduce violence and conflict through arms control. That measures which have been successful in certain areas of the world, can be a model for building security across the world and build a more peaceful future.

I wish you success in your meetings in Addis Ababa, and look forward to working with you to advance the SCRAP concept in future.

Yours

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Martin Butcher", with a horizontal line underneath.

Martin Butcher  
Policy Advisor on Arms and Conflict