



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

HOW MUCH DO WE KNOW ABOUT MILITARY EMISSIONS?

After pressure from the United States, military emissions reporting was excluded from the Kyoto Protocol. In 2015, the Paris Agreement made military emissions reporting voluntary. Since governments are not obliged to report their military emissions, we have no accurate data on the true scale of the problem. Based on what we do know, the greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions of the largest militaries are greater than many of the world's countries.

Reporting requirements to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) vary for different countries, based on their level of economic development. Although the most economically developed countries –Annex I countries - are obliged to report their national emissions and take steps to reduce them, the data for their militaries is incomplete. Less developed countries - Non-Annex I countries - have even fewer reporting obligations, including countries with large militaries and high levels of military expenditure, such as China, India, Saudi Arabia and Israel.

WHAT HAS NATO PROMISED?

In June 2021, NATO stated that it 'will develop a mapping methodology to help Allies measure greenhouse gas emissions from military activities and installations'. At the opening of NATO's 2022 summit in Madrid, its Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg announced an organisational cut in GHG emissions of at least 45% by 2030, and to Net Zero by 2050. Regrettably, this does not cover the militaries of NATO's members and, whilst some have voluntarily set Net Zero goals, there is no obligation for NATO members to join their ambitions.

HOW ARE NATO MEASURING THEIR EMISSIONS?

We don't know - that's a problem.

Development of a methodology was announced in 2021 and in 2022, Jens Stoltenberg stated that "it will be made available to all Allies to help them reduce their own military emissions". However, so far this methodology has not been made public and therefore civil society, scientists and climate experts can't tell how NATO is measuring its emissions.

WHY DOES THIS MATTER?

Militaries are still excused from reporting their emissions to the UNFCCC and as a result, the sector is lagging behind measuring and reporting. Militaries are starting to set Net Zero targets, like the US Army and the UK RAF, but without data and with no means to track their progress, these targets risk becoming military grade greenwashing.

This year, we released our [Framework for Reporting Military Emissions](#). It outlines how military emissions should be reported, taking into consideration the large and complex supply chains that militaries have, alongside the emissions caused by the impact of conflicts. This is the reporting approach that we require militaries to take - any less would be detrimental to transparency and credible climate action.

WOULDN'T IT BE A SECURITY RISK TO RELEASE MILITARY EMISSIONS DATA?

The US initially used national security as a reason to make military emissions exempt from reporting during the [1997 Kyoto climate negotiations](#) - but there is no logic for this. Plenty of information about militaries is publicly available, like military spending, size and capacity. We believe military emissions data poses no increased threat to military security, and would argue that allowing military emissions to continue to be unmeasured and unrestricted is a far greater threat to global security.

WHAT IS GREENWASHING?

Greenwashing is where an organisation uses advertising and public messaging to appear environmentally friendly, while continuing to make little or no improvement to their impact on the environment. The term was first coined in the 1980s but has become ever more relevant as organisations seek to benefit from the general public becoming more concerned about the climate crisis.

The [Corporate Climate Responsibility Monitor 2022](#) report found that out of 25 major global companies with Net Zero commitments, none of their emissions reduction pledges were ranked 'high integrity' - this is an example of greenwashing.

If NATO can't back up its pledges with a methodology to measure emissions and a plan to reduce them, its Net Zero target will be accused of greenwashing.