

Follow-up of resolutions and decisions adopted by the First Committee
at its past session / Presentation of reports

**Statement before
the First Committee of the General Assembly**

by
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I welcome this opportunity to address the First Committee on the subject of the implementation of resolutions. This is the sixth consecutive year that the Secretariat has been asked to address this issue.

The purpose of these annual updates is clear. Member States attach great importance to the resolutions that they introduce, cosponsor, or vote to support. And they understandably expect that their resolutions will have some practical effects in advancing global disarmament norms and, thereby, in advancing national interests.

Many of these resolutions over the years have therefore contained requests for the Secretary-General to prepare reports for the General Assembly concerning their implementation. These reports serve many useful functions—they provide Member States with international feedback on the status of their resolutions, they enable states to signal the priority they attach to such issues, and they help in generating ideas for further progress.

The UN Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) has the responsibility to assist the Secretary-General in monitoring the implementation of these resolutions and in preparing these reports, based on the information we receive from the Member States. I have used that information as the basis for my remarks today.

Efforts to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the work of the First Committee have been underway for many years, most notably, since the adoption in 2004 of Resolution 59/95, which among other goals, identified the need to reduce the number of resolutions, by means that included consolidating resolutions on similar themes, or by adopting resolutions on a biennial or triennial basis.

While there has been some progress both in consolidating the resolutions and in adopting them on a multi-year basis, new resolutions have appeared to address emerging challenges. Thus, in 2004, there were 52 disarmament resolutions and 3 decisions, while last year there were 54 resolutions and 4 decisions. Indeed, the record of achievement is still mixed in implementing these committee reforms.

On the positive side, there are indications of some modest progress in achieving at least some of the general goals of efficiency and effectiveness found in resolution 59/95. Last year, for example, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit 27 reports on disarmament subjects, a significant reduction from the 36 reports required the previous year.

A reduction in the number of reports, however, is a separate matter from any assessment of substantive content of such reports, which is a subject that the UNODA has not addressed since it has not been given a mandate to conduct any such analysis.

Another encouraging sign this year specifically concerns those reports compiled by the Secretary-General containing the views of Member States. There has been a longstanding pattern of a low level of response to requests by the Secretary-General for the views of states—last year, for example, two reports did not even contain the views of any of their resolution’s sponsors. This has changed this year, as the views of at least one sponsor are contained in each report.

In addition, six of the 11 reports containing the views of Member States showed an increase over the previous year; with respect to the other five reports, fewer states reported in two reports, and there was no change in the other three. Also, those Member States that did submit their views generally continued the practice of submitting them on time.

Yet despite this modest increase in reporting on certain resolutions, the fact remains that there is, overall, still a very low level of responsiveness to the Secretary-General’s requests for the views of Member States in compiling these reports. The reports this year contained an average of only nine responses, which represents less than one in twenty of our Member States—a response rate of about five percent. Most of these reports contained numbers of responses that are listed in single digits, with the lowest level of reporting on two resolutions that have widespread support throughout the General Assembly—namely, the resolutions on multilateralism in disarmament, and on disarmament and development—each had the views of only five Member States.

Meanwhile, the largest number of views submitted by Member States in these reports was only 13—these related to the resolutions dealing with outer space and terrorism involving weapons of mass destruction.

I also regret to add that there has been a significant reduction in reporting by Member States using the UN Register of Conventional Arms and the Standardized Instrument for Reporting Military Expenditures. This year, there were 57 replies—15 less than last year—to the resolution on transparency of military expenditures and 74 replies to the resolution dealing with the Register, a reduction of 11 compared to last year.

This trend of low levels of reporting is not unique to any one region or group of countries. Not a single state in one region responded to eight of the 11 resolutions seeking the views of Member States. Another region had no submitted views concerning three resolutions, and yet another region had no submitted views on two other resolutions. In two additional regions—only one state provided its views on three resolutions, while only one state from another region provided its views on two resolutions.

I would encourage all delegations to consult the summary tables that are attached to my statement today for further details on the status of reports required by General Assembly disarmament-related resolutions. Table I addresses the response rates for the 11 reports containing the views of Member States, and displays a separate table for the reports concerning the information supplied by Member States under the two transparency instruments—the Register of Conventional Arms and the Standardized Instrument for Reporting Military Expenditures. The table also shows the record for the previous session.

Table II provides additional detail about the 11 reports containing the views of Member States. For the current and previous session, this table identifies the Member States that submitted their views, the timeliness of the submission, the participation by the main sponsors, and the regional distribution of submissions.

Table III lists those reports containing substantive contributions from UNODA, including those concerning the three regional centres for peace and disarmament, the Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters, and other matters.

I would like to note that UNODA is doing all it can to assist Member States in implementing all relevant General Assembly resolutions. We have implemented proactive measures to facilitate the timely submission of views under these resolutions—in addition to delivering notes verbales at the beginning of each year seeking the views of Member States, we have posted in the Journal reminders of such requests and their respective deadlines. When requested by Member States, we have also posted their submissions on our UNODA web site.

Beyond these measures, we work very closely with intergovernmental and regional organizations, as well as with individual governments, to achieve the goals of the various resolutions and decisions. We have organized many workshops and seminars to assist Member States in implementing these resolutions—on issues that include the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons, transparency of military expenditures, and the Register of Conventional Arms. In addition, we have organized regional and subregional workshops on the implementation of Security Council Resolution 1540.

We also work with civil society to promote further progress in disarmament and non-proliferation, especially with respect to weapons of mass destruction—with an emphasis on multilateral cooperation. We are also actively promoting initiatives in the field of conventional arms control. These activities reflect the UN's longstanding "ultimate goal" of pursuing general and complete disarmament under effective international control.

There are, however, some limits in UNODA's ability to encourage a higher rate of responsiveness to requests for views of Member States concerning these resolutions, and

to promote their full implementation. The greatest challenge we face in UNODA arises from the growing gap between rising expectations for progress in disarmament and the steady or declining state of our resources available to meet them.

I hope this summary of the reports required by last year's disarmament resolutions has proven useful to the First Committee and that next year's summary will be a time for building upon the progress that has been made. I continue to believe that reporting is an important means for Member States to receive feedback on the implementation of their resolutions and UNODA will do all it can to assist in making these reports more useful in the future.

TABLE I
Reports of the Secretary General containing views of Member States
at 64th session of the General Assembly as compared to those of the 63rd session

Resolution No.	Title of Report	63 rd session		64 th session		Increase/Decrease in reporting
		Replies	Participation of Main Sponsors	Replies	Participation of Main Sponsors	
63/37	Developments in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security [A/63/139 & A/64/129] and Add.1]	6	1 (13)	12	5 (24)	+6
63/38	Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East [A/63/115 (Part I) and (Part I) Add.1 & A/64/124 (Part I) and Add.1]	11	Nil (1)	10	1 (1)	-1
63/50	Promotion of multilateralism in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation [A/63/126 & A/64/117 and Add.1]	5	3 (1) ¹	5	4 (1 ¹)	0
63/51	Observance of environmental norms in the drafting and implementation of agreements on disarmament and arms control [A/63/116 and Add.1 & A/64/118 and Add.1]	10	4 (1) ¹	7	3 (1 ¹)	-3
63/68	Transparency and confidence building measures in outer space activities [A/63/136 and Add.1 & A/64/138 and Add.1]	6	Nil (21)	13	3 (22)	+7
63/45	Confidence-building measures in the regional and sub-regional context [A/63/171 and Add.1 & A/64/114 and Add.1]	10	2 (8)	11	1 (6)	+1
63/44	Conventional arms control at the regional and sub-regional levels [A/63/117 and Add.1 & A/64/126]	9	2 (10)	9	1 (9)	0
63/49	Follow-up to the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the <i>Legality of the Threat or Use of Nuclear Weapons</i> [A/63/135 & A/64/139]	4	2 (28)	8	4 (56)	+4
63/60	Measures to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction [A/63/153 & A/64/140 and Add.1]	10	1 (21)	13	2 (50)	+3
63/86	Strengthening of security and cooperation in the Mediterranean region [A/63/138 & A/64/119 and Add.1]	5	2 (33)	6	3 (41)	+1
63/52	Relationship between disarmament and development [A/63/134 & A/64/153]	5	3 (1) ¹	5	4 (1 ¹)	0

¹ Indonesia on behalf of the States of the UN that are members of the Non Aligned Movement.

**Reports containing information provided by Member States
at 64th session of the General Assembly as compared to those of the 63rd session**

Resolution No.	Title of Report	63 rd session		64 th session		Increase/ Decrease in reporting
		Replies	Participation of Main Sponsors	Replies	Participation of Main Sponsors	
62/13	Objective information on military matters, including transparency of military expenditures [A/63/97 and A/63/97 and Add.1 & A/64/113 and Add.1]	72	41 (55)	57	37 (55)	-15
63/69	United Nations Register of Conventional Arms [A/63/120 and Add.1 & A/64/135 and Add.1]	85	47 (66)	74	48 (72)	-11

TABLE II

Comparison of reports containing views of Member States for the 63rd and the 64th session of the General Assembly

Notes:

¹ Indonesia on behalf of the States of the UN that are members of the Non Aligned Movement

* Member States reported to both 63rd and 64th session

Title of Report	63 rd session of the General Assembly				64 th session of the General Assembly			
	Member States who submitted views	Timeliness	Participation of Main Sponsors	Regional distribution	Member States who submitted views	Timeliness	Participation of Main Sponsors	Regional distribution
Developments in the field of information and telecommunication in the context of international security (resolutions 62/17 & 63/37; reports A/63/139) & A/64/129 and Add.1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • China • Cuba* • Jordan • Lebanon* • Niger • Qatar 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On time • On time • On time • On time • On time 	1 (13)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • African States: 1 • Asian States: 4 • Latin America and Caribbean States: 1 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cuba* • Brazil • Kazakhstan • Lebanon* • Lithuania • Mali • Mexico • Serbia • Spain • Tajikistan • Thailand • Ukraine 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Late • On time • On time • On time • On time • Late • On time • On time • Late • On time • On time • On time 	5 (24)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • African States: 1 • Asian States: 4 • Eastern European States: 3 • Latin America and Caribbean States: 3 • Western European and other States: 1

Title of Report	63 rd session of the General Assembly				64 th session of the General Assembly			
	Member States who submitted views	Timeliness	Participation of Main Sponsors	Regional distribution	Member States who submitted views	Timeliness	Participation of Main Sponsors	Regional distribution
Establishment of a nuclear-weapons-free zone in the region of the Middle East (resolutions 62/18 & 63/38; reports A/63/115 (Part I), and Part I Add.1, & A/64/124 (Part I and Add.1))	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cuba* • Iran (Islamic Republic of)* • Iraq • Israel* • Jamaica • Japan* • Kuwait • Netherlands • Qatar* • Spain • Syrian Arab Republic 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On time • On time • On time • On time • Late • Late • On time • On time • On time • On time • On time 	Nil (1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Asian States: 6 • Latin America and Caribbean States: 2 • Western European and other States: 3 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cuba* • Egypt • Iran (Islamic Republic of)* • Israel* • Japan* • Lebanon • Mali • Mexico • Nicaragua • Qatar* 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On time • On time • On time • On time • Late • On time • On time • On time • On time • On time 	1 (1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • African States: 2 • Asian States: 4 • Latin America and Caribbean States: 3 • Western European and other States: 1

Title of Report	63 rd session of the General Assembly				64 th session of the General Assembly			
	Member States who submitted views	Timeliness	Participation of Main Sponsors	Regional distribution	Member States who submitted views	Timeliness	Participation of Main Sponsors	Regional distribution
Promotion of multilateralism in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation (resolutions 62/27 & 63/50; reports A/63/126) & A/64/117 and Add.1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cuba* • Netherlands • Panama • Qatar* • Spain* 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On time • On time • On time • On time On time 	3 (1) ¹	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Asian States: 1 • Latin America and Caribbean States: 2 • Western European and other States: 2 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cuba* • Lebanon • Qatar* • Spain* • United Arab Emirates 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Late • On time • On time • Late • On time 	4 (1 ¹)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Asian States: 3 • Latin America and Caribbean States: 1 • Western European and other States: 1
Observance of environmental norms in the drafting and implementation of agreements on disarmament and arms control (resolutions 62/28 & 63/51; reports A/62/134 and A/63/116 and Add.1 & A/64/118 and Add.1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Canada • Cuba* • Finland • Greece • Lebanon* • Panama • Qatar • Serbia • Spain* • Ukraine 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On time • On time • Late • On time • On time • On time • On time • On time • On time • On time 	4 (1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Asian States: 2 • Latin America and Caribbean States: 2 • Eastern European States: 2 • Western European and other States: 4 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cuba* • Czech Republic • El Salvador • Lebanon* • Mexico • Spain* • United Arab Emirates 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Late • On time • On time • On time • On time • On time • On time 	3 (1 ¹)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Asian States: 2 • Eastern European States: 1 • Latin America and Caribbean States: 3 • Western European and other States: 1

Title of Report	63rd session of the General Assembly				64 th session of the General Assembly			
	Member States who submitted views	Timeliness	Participation of Main Sponsors	Regional distribution	Member States who submitted views	Timeliness	Participation of Main Sponsors	Regional distribution
Transparency and confidence-building measures in outer space activities (resolution 62/43 & 63/68; reports A/63/136 and Add.1 & A/64/138 and Add.1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bangladesh • Chile • Cuba* • France (on behalf of the EU) • Qatar* • Ukraine* 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Late • On time • On time • Late • On time • On time 	Nil (21)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Asian States: 2 • Latin America and Caribbean States: 2 • Eastern European States: 2 • Western European and other States: 1 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Argentina • Canada • China • Colombia • Cuba* • Czech Republic (on behalf of the EU)** • Lebanon • Mexico • Nicaragua • Qatar* • Russian Federation • Syrian Arab Republic • Ukraine* 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On time • Late • Late • On time • On time • On time • On time • On time • On time • On time • On time • On time • On time 	3 (22)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Asian States: 4 • Latin America and Caribbean States: 5 • Eastern European States: 3 • Western European and other States: 1
Confidence-building measures in the regional and sub-regional context (resolutions 62/45 & 63/45; reports A/63/171 & A/63/171/Add.1 & A/64/114 and Add.1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bangladesh • Bosnia and Herzegovina* • Chile • Cuba • Mexico* • Panama* • Qatar • Republic of Korea • Spain* • Ukraine* 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Late • On time • On time • Late • On time • On time • On time • On time • On time • On time 	2 (8)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Asian States: 3 • Latin America and Caribbean States: 4 • Eastern European States: 2 • Western European and other States: 1 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bolivia • Bosnia and Herzegovina* • Burundi • El Salvador • Greece • Lebanon • Mexico* • Panama* • Poland • Spain* • Ukraine* 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On time • On time • Late • On time • On time • On time • On time • On time • On time • On time • On time 	1 (6)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • African States: 1 • Asian States: 1 • Latin America and Caribbean States: 4 • Eastern European States: 3 • Western European and other States: 2

Title of Report	63 rd session of the General Assembly				64 th session of the General Assembly			
	Member States who submitted views	Timeliness	Participation of Main Sponsors	Regional distribution	Member States who submitted views	Timeliness	Participation of Main Sponsors	Regional distribution
Conventional arms control at the regional and sub-regional levels (resolutions 62/44 & 63/44; reports A/63/117 and Add.1) & A/64/126)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cambodia • Lebanon • Mauritius • Mexico* • Panama • Qatar • Serbia • Spain* • Ukraine 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On time • On time • Late • On time • On time • On time • On time • On time • On time 	2 (10)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • African States: 1 • Asian States: 3 • Latin America and Caribbean States: 2 • Eastern European States: 2 • Western European and other States: 1 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bosnia and Herzegovina • Chile • Colombia • Greece • Lebanon • Mexico* • Oman • Pakistan • Spain* 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On time • On time • On time • On time • On time • On time • On time • On time • On time 	1 (9)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Asian States: 3 • Eastern European States: 1 • Latin America and Caribbean States: 3 • Western European and other States: 2
Follow-up to the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the <i>Legality of the Threat or Use of Nuclear Weapons</i> (resolutions 62/39 & 63/49; reports A/63/135 & A/64/139)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Canada • Cuba* • Japan* • Qatar* 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On time • On time • On time • On time 	2 (28)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Asian States: 2 • Latin America and Caribbean States: 1 • Western European and other States: 1 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cuba* • El Salvador • Japan* • Lebanon • Lithuania • Mexico • Nicaragua • Qatar* 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On time • On time • On time • On time • On time • On time • On time • On time 	4 (56)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Asian States: 3 • Latin America and Caribbean States: 4 • Eastern European States: 1

Title of Report	63 rd session of the General Assembly				64 th session of the General Assembly			
	Member States who submitted views	Timeliness	Participation of Main Sponsors	Regional distribution	Member States who submitted views	Timeliness	Participation of Main Sponsors	Regional distribution
Measures to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction (resolutions 62/33 & 63/60; reports A/63/153 & A/64/140 and Add.1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cambodia • Canada • China • Cuba* • Norway • Panama* • Poland* • Qatar* • Slovakia • Ukraine* 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On time • On time • On time • On time • On time • On time • On time • On time • On time • On time 	1 (21)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Asian States: 3 • Latin America and Caribbean States: 2 • Eastern European States: 3 • Western European and other States: 2 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Andorra • Belarus • Cuba* • Kazakhstan • Lebanon • Mexico • Nicaragua • Panama* • Poland* • Qatar* • Tajikistan • Thailand • Ukraine* 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On time • On time • Late • On time • On time • On time • On time • On time • On time • On time • On time • On time • On time 	2 (50)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Asian States: 5 • Latin America and Caribbean States: 4 • Eastern European States: 3 • Western European and other States: 1
Strengthening of security and cooperation in the Mediterranean region (resolutions 62/58 & 63/86; reports A/63/138 & A/64/119 and Add.1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bosnia and Herzegovina • Netherlands* • Poland* • Qatar • Ukraine* 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On time • On time • On time • On time • On time 	2 (33)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Asian States: 1 • Eastern European States: 3 • Western European and other States: 1 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lebanon • Netherlands* • Panama • Poland* • Spain • Ukraine* 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Late • On time • On time • On time • Late • On time 	3 (41)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Latin America and Caribbean States: 1 • Eastern European States: 2 • Asian States: 1 • Western European and other States: 2

Title of Report	63 rd session of the General Assembly				64 th session of the General Assembly			
	Member States who submitted views	Timeliness	Participation of Main Sponsors	Regional distribution	Member States who submitted views	Timeliness	Participation of Main Sponsors	Regional distribution
Relationship between disarmament and development (resolutions 62/48 & 63/52; reports A/63/134) & A/64/153)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cuba* • Dominican Republic • Lebanon* • Qatar* • Serbia 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On time • On time • On time • On time • On time 	3 (1) ¹	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Asian States: 2 • Latin America and Caribbean States:2 • Latin America and Caribbean States 1 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cuba* • Lebanon* • Panama • Philippines • Qatar* 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On time • On time • On time • On time • On time 	4 (1 ¹)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Asian States: 3 • Latin America and Caribbean States: 2

Table III

Reports of the First Committee containing ODA's contributions to their substance
64th Session of the General Assembly

Resolution	Title of Report
38/183 O	Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters (A/64/286)
63/52	Relationship between disarmament and development <i>{also includes views from governments}</i>
63/66 & 63/72	Consolidated report on (a) Assistance to States for curbing the illicit traffic in small arms and light weapons and collecting them, and (b) The illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects
63/74	United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean
63/80	United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa
63/77	United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific
63/78	Regional confidence building measures: activities of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa
63/23	Promoting development through the reduction and prevention of armed violence <i>{also includes views from governments}</i>
63/82	Conference on Disarmament (A/64/27 (Supplement No. 27))