



DDA 1998 Update

UN Reform and DDA

In July 1997, the Secretary-General stated his intention to place the disarmament programme under a department to be headed by an Under-Secretary-General. The General Assembly approved this action by resolution 52/12 on 12 November. Thus, on 1 January 1998, the Department for Disarmament Affairs, which had originally been established in 1982—after the General Assembly's second special session on disarmament—and had continued until 1992, was re-established. Secretary-General Kofi Annan appointed Jayantha Dhanapala of Sri Lanka as Under-Secretary-General of the new Department—the smallest in the Secretariat. Mr. Dhanapala assumed his responsibilities on 1 February. In addition, later that month, the Secretary-General appointed him as a Commissioner and as the Head of the Special Group on visits to presidential sites in Iraq.

Mission Statement

To provide advice to the Secretary-General and assist him in the discharge of his responsibilities under the Charter and mandates, given by the General Assembly and the Security Council and other legislative organs of the UN system, on disarmament and related security matters; monitor and analyse developments and trends in the field of disarmament; support the review and implementation of existing disarmament agreements; assist Member States in multilateral disarmament negotiation and deliberation activities towards the development of disarmament norms and the creation of agreements; promote openness and transparency in military matters, verification, confidence-building measures, and regional approaches to disarmament; interact with NGOs, academic institutions, research institutes and individuals active in the field of disarmament, and cooperate with organizations of the UN system and other intergovernmental organizations on matters related to disarmament; and provide to Member States and the international community objective information on disarmament and international security matters.

Structure of DDA

The Department is structured in five branches:

CD Secretariat & Conference Support Branch (Geneva)

Weapons of Mass Destruction Branch

Conventional Arms (including Practical Disarmament Measures) Branch

Regional Disarmament Branch

Monitoring, Database & Information Branch

Increased visibility to disarmament through:

- ◆ Disarmament Week activities
- ◆ Michael Douglas' appointment as a Messenger of Peace (with emphasis on disarmament) 30 July
- ◆ organization of seminars and meetings on disarmament issues
- ◆ renovation of UN disarmament exhibit in Conference Building
- ◆ press briefings and interviews with the Under-Secretary-General on UN radio and in the World Chronicle
- ◆ publications for diplomatic, research and general use
- ◆ webpage (DDA web page can be found at www.un.org/Depts/dda/)
- ◆ documentary on small arms

CD Secretariat & Conference Support Branch (Geneva)

Conference on Disarmament

DDA, through the Geneva Branch, provides organizational and substantive servicing to the CD, the single multilateral disarmament negotiating forum of the international community, and its ad hoc committees. It assists the Secretary-General of the Conference and Personal Representative of the Secretary-General.

Prohibiting the Production of Fissile Material for Weapons Purposes

On 11 August, following 3 years in which it had not been able to take action on this issue, the CD agreed to establish an ad hoc committee to commence negotiations on a ban on the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices. Decision CD/1547 reads:

- z “The Conference on Disarmament decides to establish under item 1 of its agenda entitled “Cessation of the nuclear arms race and nuclear disarmament” an ad hoc committee which shall negotiate, on the basis of the report of the Special Coordinator (CD/1299) and the mandate contained therein, a non-discriminatory, multilateral and internationally and effectively verifiable treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices.

The Ad Hoc Committee shall present a report to the Conference on Disarmament on the progress of its work before the conclusion of the 1998 session.”

The President made the following statement:

- z “In connection with the decision we have just taken I should like, in my capacity as President of the Conference, to state that the adoption of this decision is without prejudice to any further decisions on the establishment of further subsidiary bodies under agenda item 1 which may result from the provisions of paragraph 1 of decision CD/1501 [see below] , and that the Presidency will continue to pursue intensive consultations and to seek the views of the members of the Conference on appropriate methods and approaches for dealing with agenda item 1 entitled ‘Cessation of the nuclear arms race and nuclear disarmament’, taking into consideration all proposals and views in this respect”.

On 20 August, the CD appointed Mark Moher of Canada as Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee.

Other actions

During 1998, the Conference also:

- z Initiated negotiations in an ad hoc committee on effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons (decision (CD/1501, taken 26 March). The Ad Hoc Committee was chaired by Antonio de Icaza of Mexico.
- z Decided that the Presidency would pursue intensive consultations and seek the views

of its members on appropriate methods and approaches for dealing with the agenda item entitled “Cessation of the nuclear arms race and nuclear disarmament” (decision CD/1501); see also the statement of the President on 11 August, above).

- z Appointed Special Coordinators to seek views of members regarding 3 substantive issues: prevention of an arms race in outer space; questions related to anti-personnel landmines, taking into account developments outside the CD; and transparency in armaments (decision CD/1501).
- z Also appointed Special Coordinators on the review of the agenda of the Conference; the expansion of its membership; and its improved and effective functioning.

Other Conference and Programme Support

In addition to work related to the CD, the Geneva Branch provides organizational and substantive services to the meetings of the Ad Hoc Group of States Parties that is drafting a verification protocol to the Biological Weapons Convention, and to meetings of multilateral disarmament agreements held in Europe. It also oversees the implementation of the UN disarmament fellowship, training and advisory services programme. It maintains liaison with UNIDIR, permanent missions to the UN in Geneva, with organizations of the UN system and NGOs in Europe.

Weapons of Mass Destruction Branch

DDA provides substantive support for the role of the UN in the area of weapons of mass destruction. As stated in the programme budget, “The main focus during the biennium 1998–1999 will be on weapons of mass destruction, notably nuclear weapons. Their systematic and progressive reduction, with the ultimate goal of complete elimination, remains a priority task of the international community.”

Nuclear Issues

DDA follows closely all developments regarding nuclear issues in order to keep the Secretary-General fully informed and to provide information to Member States and the international community.

Review Process of the NPT 2000 Review Conference

- ◆ The NPT has by far the widest adherence (187 parties) of any disarmament and arms limitation treaty, with Brazil being the most recent adherent.

As a continuation of the new review process agreed to in 1995, which was launched in 1997, the second session of the Preparatory Committee was held in Geneva, 27 April–8 May 1998. The lack of significant progress at that session highlights the urgency of the parties’ reaching a common understanding of the most appropriate way in which to meet their commitments under the Treaty and those embodied in the decisions taken at the 1995 Review and Extension Conference. In the coming months, DDA will assist the parties in ensuring that the strengthened review process fulfils the purpose for which it was instituted in 1995.

Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty

DDA is following closely the ratification process of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT), opened for signature in 1996. Thus far, 10 of the 44 States whose ratification is necessary for entry into force have deposited their instruments; but 3 (Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, India and Pakistan) have not yet signed. The Treaty provides for a conference of States parties 3 years after the date of the anniversary of its opening for signature, if it has not entered into force by then, at which parties will decide what measures consistent with international law might be undertaken to accelerate the ratification process. DDA maintains liaison with the Preparatory Commission for the CTBT Organization and its Provisional Technical Secretariat, located in Vienna.

Nuclear testing in South Asia in May and the UN's response

In response to the nuclear tests conducted by India on 11 and 13 May and by Pakistan on 28 and 30 May, the Secretary-General appealed to both States to reduce tensions in the region, called upon them to sign the CTBT and to freeze their nuclear weapons development programmes, and urged maximum restraint on the part of all States with a view to facilitating nuclear non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament. On 18 May, the Under-Secretary-General gave a press briefing. On 8 July, in response to Security Council resolution 1172 (1998), adopted on 6 June, the Secretary-General sent a letter to the President of the Security Council in which he reported on his own efforts to encourage India and Pakistan to enter into dialogue and on the information furnished to him by those two States in connection with the resolution. DDA continues to monitor the situation closely.

Prohibiting the Production of Fissile Material for Weapons Purposes

DDA follows closely developments in the CD through the Geneva Branch (see page 2) and in the First Committee through its Weapons of Mass Destruction Branch.

Nuclear-weapon-free zones

Treaties concluded

DDA follows developments with respect to the four existing treaties—Tlatelolco Treaty (Latin America and the Caribbean), Rarotonga Treaty (South Pacific), Bangkok Treaty (Southeast Asia) and Pelindaba Treaty (Africa).

- z ***Bangkok Treaty.*** Entered into force in 1997. DDA is monitoring ongoing consultations between the parties and the nuclear-weapon States concerning the Protocol that they are eligible to sign.
- z ***Pelindaba Treaty.*** The Treaty, in the negotiation of which DDA was closely involved, is in the process of gaining the required number of ratifications (28) for entry into force. At present, approximately 1/3 of the African signatories have completed the ratification process in their own countries or have reached an advanced stage. The 5

nuclear-weapon States have signed the Protocols pertaining to them, and France and China have also ratified them.

- z ***Tlatelolco Treaty.*** DDA maintains close liaison with the Organization for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (OPANAL).

Proposed Central Asian nuclear-weapon-free zone

As requested in a General Assembly resolution adopted in 1997, DDA is providing assistance to the 5 Central Asian States—Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan—in the preparation of the form and elements of a nuclear-weapon-free zone agreement. Work is proceeding through informal consultations organized by DDA, UN-assisted expert group meetings, and consultations and meetings organized by the 5 Central Asian States.

Biological Weapons

DDA supports the parties to the Biological Weapons Convention in the holding of review conferences and special conferences, as requested, and in preparing and disseminating an annual compilation of the reports of parties on the implementation of confidence-building measures. Effort has focused this year, over a series of four sessions of the Ad Hoc Group of States Parties, on developing the rolling text of a verification protocol to the Convention.

Chemical Weapons

DDA maintains close liaison with the implementing organ for the Chemical Weapons Convention, the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), in The Hague, and continues to play an advocacy role vis-à-vis the Convention, urging its universalization. As of 8 September, there were 117 States parties to the Convention.

Conventional Arms Branch

The focus of efforts in the conventional field is on promoting transparency and confidence-building, curbing the flow of small arms to regions of tension, and developing measures of practical disarmament, as described below.

Transparency and Confidence-Building

Universal commitment to greater openness and transparency in military matters can contribute to confidence-building, and thus facilitate the achievement of security at lower levels of arms. DDA is working with Member States to encourage wider participation in the two existing instruments for promoting transparency:

- z Register of Conventional Arms (established 1992)
- z Instrument for the Standardized Reporting of Military Expenditures (established 1980)

Register of Conventional Arms

Thus far in 1998, 92 Governments have submitted data and information on arms transfers in the Register's 7 categories of major conventional weapons. For the first time—following the recommendation of the 1997 Expert Group—background information on military holdings and procurement through national production will be included in the Secretary-General's annual report. Moreover, to assist in achieving more efficient reporting and to help in clarifying submissions, Member States have designated an official point of contact for Governments on matters directly relating to reporting to the Register. The expansion of the Register to include new categories of weapons will depend upon the emergence of consensus on the matter among Member States.

Instrument for the Standardized Reporting of Military Expenditures

With a view to ascertaining the requirements for adjusting the present instrument and promoting wider participation in it, DDA convened, in April, consultations with representatives of the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, NATO, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, and the US Arms Control and Disarmament Agency—organizations that receive reports on military expenditures—and with interested delegations. The results of the consultations have been reported by the Secretary-General to the 53rd session of the General Assembly.

Small arms and light weapons

In order to carry forward the work on small arms initiated in 1995, two new groups, serviced by DDA, were established in 1998:

- z Group of Governmental Experts on Small Arms. Composed of 23 members, including the 5 permanent members of the Security Council, the Group was established (pursuant to resolution 52/38 J, para. 5) to follow up on the progress made in implementing the recommendations of the Secretary-General's 1997 report on small arms. It held its first session in May, and will report to the 54th session of the General Assembly. A workshop, hosted by the Government of Japan, was held in Tokyo in September.
- z Study Group on Ammunition and Explosives. Composed of experts participating in their individual capacity, the Group was established (pursuant to resolution 52/38 J, para. 3) and met in April. It has sent out a questionnaire to Member States and research institutes to gather the requisite information. It will report to the 54th session of the General Assembly.

Coordinating Action on Small Arms (CASA)

The Secretary-General has designated DDA as the focal point for all action on small arms within the UN system. In order to carry out this task, DDA launched CASA, a coordinating mechanism, on 4 August. CASA has 3 priorities in the near future:

- ◆ An advocacy campaign to promote better public awareness of the direct and indirect consequences of the excessive accumulation and proliferation of small arms
- ◆ Resource mobilization for responding to specific requests for assistance by affected States
- ◆ The holding of an international conference on all aspects of the illicit arms trade

Practical Disarmament Measures

The UN is receiving requests for assistance from Governments in the collection, disposal and destruction of weapons and in the reintegration of former combatants into civil society. In some cases, such requests relate directly to post-conflict peace-building, while in others, they arise from an integrated approach to the issues of disarmament and development. DDA is working closely with a group of States interested in the consolidation of peace through practical disarmament measures. The Group of Interested States (established pursuant to resolution 52/38 G) is devoted to:

- ◆ Examining and, wherever possible, jointly supporting concrete projects of practical disarmament, particularly projects designed and initiated by affected countries.
- ◆ Exchanging information about relevant lessons learned in this field and disseminating them to interested countries. For example, Guatemala is organizing a workshop on lessons learned in weapons collection and demobilization, which will take place before the end of 1998, and a training seminar in practical disarmament measures has been held in Cameroon (see section on Standing Advisory Committee, page 7).

Assistance in Weapons Collection

In 1998, DDA received two requests from Governments for assistance and cooperation in this area.

Albania

In June, at the request of the Government of Albania, the Secretary-General dispatched a mission to evaluate the situation with a view to developing a programme for retrieving and collecting weapons from the civilian population with its cooperation. As a result, a pilot project for weapons collection will be undertaken in cooperation with the Government of Albania. With UNDP as its partner in the field, DDA will pursue a 5-fold strategy of: symbolism, advocacy, community involvement and reward, voluntary surrender and public destruction of weapons, including ammunition.

Niger

DDA is currently seeking more information from the Government of Niger in connection with its request for assistance in implementing its weapons collection programme.

Regional Disarmament Branch

The regional approach received impetus this year with the Secretary-General's report on the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa. DDA is following closely the work of the Security Council's Ad Hoc Working Group on the subject as it pertains to peace-building and security issues. In addition, DDA participated in the ECPS's preparation of substantive follow-up action to the Secretary-General's report.

Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa

The Advisory Committee convened a ministerial meeting in April in Gabon, and a second is scheduled for mid-October. In pursuit of its objective of encouraging confidence-building, arms limitation and development, the Committee convened two other meetings:

- ◆ Subregional Conference on Democratic Institutions and Peace in Central Africa, financed by UNDP, May, Equatorial Guinea
- ◆ Subregional Seminar on the Training of Trainers in Practical Disarmament Measures, July, Cameroon

West African Moratorium on Small Arms Transfers

DDA has collaborated with the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) as they have developed a moratorium on the import, export and manufacture of small arms and light weapons, and will follow closely its implementation.

Regional Centres for Peace and Disarmament

DDA oversees and coordinates the activities of the 3 Regional Centres, established by the General Assembly with their respective mandates, for Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, and Asia and the Pacific. This work will be reinvigorated by the appointment of directors for the Centre for Africa and for the Centre for Latin America and the Caribbean, respectively, which are expected to be announced before the end of the year. The substantive work of all 3 Centres is supported entirely by voluntary contributions.

The Centre for Africa, despite severe financial constraints, expanded its contacts and cooperation with governmental organizations, NGOs and research and academic institutions, and continued to publish the quarterly *African Peace Bulletin/Bulletin Africain de la Paix*.

The Centre for Asia and the Pacific has continued its activities, providing a forum where regional security concerns can be addressed and globally agreed disarmament measures and principles can be translated into the context of the region. Upon the request of Member States and interested organizations within the region, the Centre extended its support to encourage cooperation in Northeast Asia and the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Central Asia. In 1998, the Centre organized 3 meetings:

- ◆ UN Regional Disarmament Meeting in Southeast Asia, February, Jakarta
- ◆ 10th Regional Disarmament Meeting in Asia and the Pacific, February, Kathmandu
- ◆ 2nd United Nations Conference on Disarmament Issues, November, Nagasaki

Monitoring, Database & Information Branch

Outreach programme

In addition to organizing a wide variety of special events and programmes designed to give high visibility to the UN's mandate in the field of disarmament (noted on page 2), to producing publications (*The Disarmament Yearbook*, updates of the *Status of Multilateral Arms Regulation and Disarmament Agreements* and occasional papers and ad hoc publications) and to maintaining a home page—activities supported in part by voluntary contributions—DDA also:

- z Maintains close *liaison* with UNIDIR, the UN Institute for Disarmament Research.
- z Maintains *liaison* with research and educational institutes outside the UN and organizations such as the International Association of University Presidents, with NGOs, and civil society, and provides advisory services as appropriate; co-sponsors panel discussions with the NGO Committee on Disarmament; facilitates the participation of NGOs in UN disarmament bodies and conferences of States parties in so far as their respective rules of procedure allow.
- z Coordinates the accessibility of *databases in specialized areas*, such as arms transfers reported to the Register of Conventional Arms and the status of treaties, which are presently accessible or will be shortly, through its home page.
- z Serves as the secretariat for the *Secretary-General's Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters*, composed of members from all regions of the world, selected by the Secretary-General for their knowledge and expertise in the field. The Board meets twice a year.

- z Is developing a programme of events featuring the recently appointed *Messenger of Peace*, Michael Douglas (see photo on page 11).
- z Trains graduate students serving as *interns*, assigning them to follow the debates in disarmament bodies, assist in research tasks, draft portions of publications and contribute to the databases.

Anti-Personnel Mines

- ◆ DDA is designing a database to enable the Secretary-General to meet his responsibilities relating to provisions on transparency measures and facilitation and clarification of compliance under the Ottawa Convention.
- ◆ As a participant in the Inter-Agency Group on Mine Action, DDA chaired a Working Group on Advocacy, Verification and Compliance that contributed to the UN's policy paper on mine action and effective coordination.
- ◆ DDA follows closely the status of the two legal instruments on anti-personnel mines:
 - ◆ Ottawa Convention: 40th ratification deposited 16 September; to enter into force 1 March 1999
 - ◆ Amended Protocol II of the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons: to enter into force 3 December

DDA & UN Disarmament Bodies

First Committee

DDA is substantively responsible for the First Committee. It prepares reports of the Secretary-General, as mandated by the General Assembly, and consults with delegations and assists them, as requested, on all substantive matters, in particular on the content of draft resolutions. It maintains liaison with the regional groups. At the current session, there are 16 disarmament items on the agenda, 3 of which have multiple sub-items.

Disarmament Commission

At its spring session, the Commission established three working groups, for two of which DDA staff served as secretaries, to deal with:

- ♦ Establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones on the basis of arrangements freely arrived at among the States of the region concerned
- ♦ Fourth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament
- ♦ Guidelines on conventional arms control/limitation and disarmament, with particular emphasis on consolidation of peace in the context of General Assembly resolution 51/45 N (Consolidation of peace through practical disarmament measures)

The first and third items were in their second year of consideration, and will continue in 1999. It was not possible to reach agreement on the second item, which was in its third year of consideration, and this issue will be brought to the General Assembly at its 53rd session.

Rationalization of Work and the Resumed Session of the First Committee

At its resumed session, 29 June, the Committee approved draft decisions concerning rationalization of the work of the First Committee and of the Disarmament Commission, which were subsequently adopted by the General Assembly on 8 September. The salient points are:

First Committee

- ♦ Will make every effort to conduct and conclude its substantive work in not less than 30 meetings and not exceeding 5 weeks
- ♦ Will combine the two phases of its programme of work: structured discussion of specific subjects on the adopted thematic approach and consideration of all draft resolutions

Disarmament Commission

- ♦ The annual substantive session should last 3 weeks
- ♦ As of 2000, the agenda should normally comprise 2 substantive items per year, including one on nuclear disarmament
- ♦ The possibility of a third item would be retained if there were consensus
- ♦ Items should be considered for 3 years

DDA & the UN System

DDA participates in a number of mechanisms established to ensure coordination among various parts of the UN system.

z **Senior Management Group**

Established by the Secretary-General as part of his reform, the SMG meets weekly under the chairmanship of the Secretary-General to assist him in leading the process of change and instituting sound management throughout the UN.

z **Executive Committee for Peace and Security (ECPS)**

Established by the Secretary-General as part of his reform to facilitate joint strategic planning and decision-making among DPA, DPKO, DDA, OCHA, UNDP, UNHCR, OHCHR and UNSECOORD. It is convened by DPA.

z **The High-Level Steering Group on Disarmament and Development**

DDA coordinates and substantively services the Group, in which DDA, DESA and UNDP are represented. DDA serves as the focal point for disarmament and development within the Secretariat.

z **CASA**

With DDA as the focal point, CASA coordinates inputs from: DDA, DPA, DPKO, OCHA, DPI, DESA, UNDP, CPCJ, UNICEF, SRSG/CAC, and UNHCR.

z **MAS** (Mine Action Service)

With DPKO/MAS as the focal point, DDA collaborates with OCHA, UNDP, UNICEF, UNOPS, UNHCR, WFP and WHO.

Acronyms

ACDA	(US) Arms Control and Disarmament Agency
APMs	Anti-personnel mines
CASA	Coordinating Action on Small Arms
CD	Conference on Disarmament
CPCJ	Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice
CTBT	Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty
CWC	Chemical Weapons Convention
DDA	Department for Disarmament Affairs
DESA	Department of Economic and Social Affairs
DPA	Department of Political Affairs
DPI	Department of Public Information
DPKO	Department of Peace-keeping Operations
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
ECPS	Executive Committee for Peace and Security
MAS	Mine Action Service
NATO	North Atlantic Treaty Organization
NGOs	Non-governmental organizations
NPT	Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty
OCHA	Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
OHCHR	Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
OPANAL	Organization for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean
OPCW	Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons
OSCE	Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe
SMG	Senior Management Group
SRSG/CAC	Special Representative of the Secretary-General/Children and Armed Conflict
UNDC	United Nations Disarmament Commission
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNIDIR	United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research
UNOPS	United Nations Office for Project Services
UNSECOORD	United Nations Security Coordinator
WFP	World Food Programme
WHO	World Health Organization

“My vision of the Organization places disarmament near the centre of its mission of peace and development.”

“We are at a critical moment in the history of efforts to reduce the danger posed by nuclear weapons. Any increase in the number of nuclear-weapon States will have serious implications for peace and security.”

“Our efforts must always be set in the context of the broader work of the Organization aimed at preventing and resolving conflicts, and at building cultures which reject violence.”

EXCERPTS FROM THE REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON THE WORK OF THE ORGANIZATION



Actor and producer Michael Douglas (left), appointed “Messenger of Peace” by Secretary-General Annan (right) on 30 July 1998. “This is a tremendous honour . . . it means as much to me as the two Oscars I’ve gotten,” he told reporters at UN Headquarters in New York. “I hope to use the entertainment and communication abilities that we have around the world to talk a little less about movies and hopefully a lot more about some of the issues pertaining to the United Nations.” Mr. Douglas said he would focus his efforts on the problem of nuclear proliferation, calling it a human rights issue, and pledged to call attention to the proliferation of small arms. *UN/DPI Photo by Eskinder Debebe*