

Public entrance to United Nations Headquarters in New York, showing the sculpture "Non-Violence" or "The Knotted Gun" by noted Swedish sculptor Carl Fredrik Reuterswärd. The sculpture was a gift from the Government of Luxembourg to the United Nations. It is an oversize revolver with a knotted barrel, to symbolize peace and non-violence.



Disarmament



KEY PROGRAMMES

- Multilateral negotiations and deliberations
- Weapons of mass destruction
- Conventional arms
- Information and outreach
- Regional disarmament



INDICATIVE RESOURCES

\$30M

\$14M regular assessed and
\$16M voluntary contributions



SELECT MANDATES

- Disarmament, General Assembly resolution S-10/2
- The illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects, General Assembly resolution 74/60
- Role of science and technology in the context of international security and disarmament, General Assembly resolution 74/35
- Women, disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control, General Assembly resolution 73/46
- Regional disarmament, General Assembly resolution 74/37
- Study on disarmament and non-proliferation education, General Assembly resolution 73/59
- Youth, disarmament and non-proliferation, General Assembly resolution 74/64
- The Arms Trade Treaty, General Assembly resolution 74/49



SELECT ENTITIES

- Office for Disarmament Affairs



Ali, 6 years old, stands in the rubble of what used to be his home, destroyed when a missile hit the house next door (Bayt Mayad neighbourhood, Sana'a, Yemen, 7 July 2015)



ALIGNMENT WITH SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

CONTEXT

Given rising military expenditures, a deteriorating security environment and weakening arms control, disarmament remains particularly relevant. In 2019, military expenditure rose to \$1.9 trillion, the highest level since the end of the cold war.

KEY OBJECTIVES

The United Nations supports multilateral negotiations and efforts aimed at achieving the goal of general and complete disarmament, focusing on the elimination of nuclear weapons, upholding the prohibition of other weapons of mass destruction, regulating conventional weapons and promoting regional disarmament efforts and public awareness.

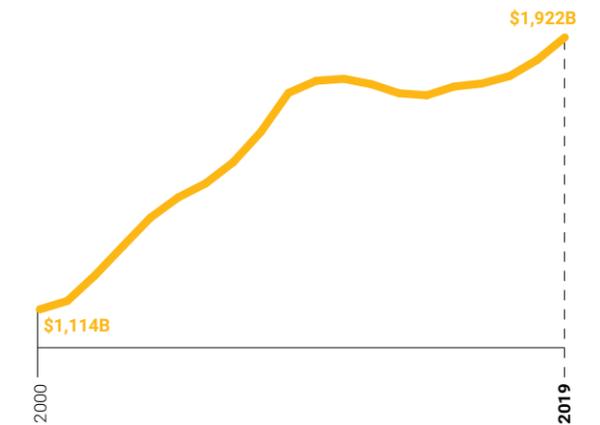
KEY OUTCOMES

In 2019, the Organization implemented key elements of my Agenda for Disarmament, which proposes and tracks 40 concrete actions to advance disarmament across five domains. Already, the Agenda has contributed to a rethinking of disarmament in the context of new and emerging technologies, threats and actors. Within the Agenda, special emphasis has been placed on explosive weapons in populated areas and supporting Member States in efforts to develop a political declaration.

In pursuit of a world free of nuclear weapons, we supported the preparations for the tenth Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. We have also continued to support disarmament work on lethal autonomous weapon systems, including the adoption of guiding principles and efforts to develop recommendations on the normative and operational framework.

GLOBAL MILITARY EXPENDITURE HAS BEEN INCREASING

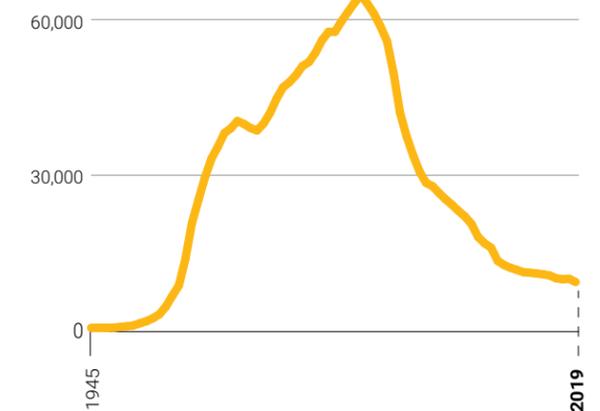
At constant 2018 prices and exchange rates



Source: SIPRI

THOUSANDS OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS REMAIN IN STOCKPILES ACROSS THE WORLD

Global stockpiles of nuclear weapons



Source: The Bulletin of Atomic Scientists

Notes: Does not include DPRK

Bulletin has not reported on 2018 or 2019 figures for UK or Israel, 2017 figures have been substituted



“In disarmament, no single actor alone is able to achieve the outcomes required. We need to work together to achieve progress.”

Izumi Nakamitsu, Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for Disarmament Affairs

Under the auspices of the United Nations, progress was made on new technologies in the context of international security through two intergovernmental groups on this issue, which held consultations with regional organizations, the private sector, civil society and academia. On issues of outer space security, we facilitated discussions that led to agreement on the new Guidelines for the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities.

To uphold norms against the use of other weapons of mass destruction, we enhanced the operational readiness of my Mechanism for Investigation of Alleged Use of Chemical and Biological Weapons, in accordance with its established mandates, including through the training of experts.

In contributing to the regulation and limitation of conventional arms, a group of governmental experts recommended in 2019 to expand the Register of Conventional Arms by encouraging States to report international transfers of small arms and light weapons. In 2020, a new group of governmental experts began consideration of concrete means of addressing ammunition safety and security challenges, such as unplanned explosions and diversion to the illicit market.

OUR DISARMAMENT WORK



182
multilateral meetings and deliberations facilitated



46%
rise in participation in the high-level segment of the Conference on Disarmament



Since 2008
124
Member States contributing to United Nations conventional arms register



8
in-depth publications on disarmament



22
projects to support regional disarmament

EXPLOSIVE WEAPONS IN POPULATED AREAS

66% of all deaths and injuries from explosive weapons were civilians

Total reported deaths and injuries: 29,499
Total civilian deaths and injuries: 19,407

Populated areas

91% of all deaths and injuries from explosive weapons used in populated areas were civilians

Non-populated areas

15% of all deaths and injuries from explosive weapons used in non-populated areas were civilians

When explosive weapons are used in populated areas, civilians bear the brunt.

In his Agenda for Disarmament, the Secretary-General places special emphasis on addressing the use of explosive weapons in populated areas and has committed to support Member States in their efforts to develop a political declaration as well as appropriate limitations, common standards and operational policies in conformity with international humanitarian law.

Civilian deaths and injuries by weapon launch method

49%
civilian harm caused by improvised explosive devices



29%
civilian harm caused by airstrikes



20%
civilian harm caused by ground-launched explosives



The Secretary-General addressing the first session of the Conference on the Establishment of a Middle East Zone Free of Nuclear Weapons and Other Weapons of Mass Destruction held in New York on 18–22 November 2019.

From left to right: Mr. Tijjani Muhammad-Bande, President of the seventy-fourth session of the General Assembly; Mr. Antonio Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations; Ms. Sima Bahous, President of the first session of the Conference; and Ms. Izumi Nakamitsu, United Nations High Representative for Disarmament Affairs.

DISARMAMENT

The first session of the Conference on the Establishment of a Middle East Zone Free of Nuclear Weapons and Other Weapons of Mass Destruction was held in 2019. The Conference

adopted a political declaration, confirming the commitment of participating States to pursuing the establishment of such a zone in an open and inclusive manner.

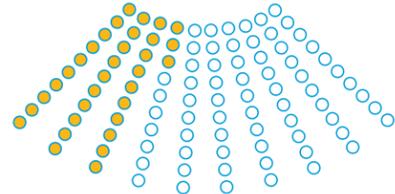
GENDER IN DISARMAMENT FORUMS

Ensuring women's equal, full and effective participation in disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control is a priority of the Secretary-General. Yet despite

growing attention to the issue, 2019 saw no significant progress towards achieving women's equal participation in multilateral disarmament meetings.

2019 General Assembly First Committee

33% of delegations are women



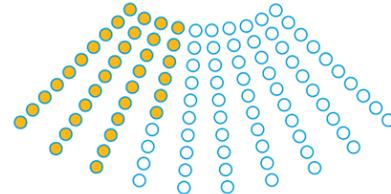
32% of heads of delegations are women

45 delegations included no women and 10 delegations included no men

1 in 4 statements were delivered by women and 7% of the Rights to reply (of 67 total) were made by women

2019 Conference on Disarmament

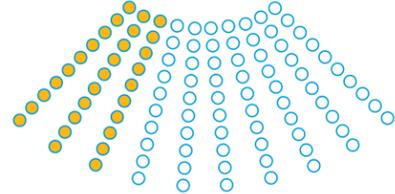
36% of delegations are women



23% of heads of delegations are women

2019 Preparatory Committee for the 2020 Review Conference of the NPT

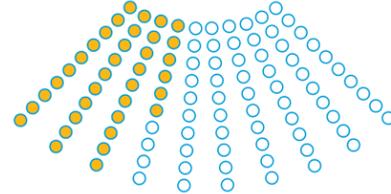
30% of delegations are women



25% of heads of delegations are women

2019 Biological Weapons Convention Meeting of States Parties

36% of delegations are women



20% of heads of delegations are women



Participants at the #Youth4Disarmament event "74 Years of Nuclear Disarmament and the Contribution of Youth beyond 2020" (New York, 24 January 2020)

YOUTH FOR DISARMAMENT

On International Youth Day, we launched the Youth for Disarmament (#Youth4Disarmament) initiative to empower young people with knowledge and skills for change. As part of the initiative, 75 young

people spent a day during the session of the First Committee with United Nations officials, diplomats and civil society representatives.