Ex-combatant holds up munitions in Attécoubé, Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire. He participated in a Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR) operation.
KEY PROGRAMMES

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

INDICATIVE RESOURCES

$36M
$14M regular assessed and $22M voluntary contributions

SELECT MANDATES

- Disarmament, GA resolution 73/59
- 2020 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and its Preparatory Committee, GA resolution 70/28
- Implementation of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction, GA resolution 73/45
- Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction, GA resolution 73/87
- Report of the Conference on Disarmament, GA resolution 73/81
- The illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects, GA resolution 73/69
- Role of science and technology in the context of international security and disarmament, GA resolution 73/32
- Regional disarmament, GA resolution 73/33
- Disarmament and non-proliferation education, GA resolution 73/59

SELECT ENTITIES

- Office for Disarmament Affairs
From left: Izumi Nakamitsu (Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for Disarmament Affairs), Adam Bugajski (Permanent Representative of Poland to the United Nations Office at Vienna), Ioan Tudor (Secretary of the Preparatory Committee), and Cornel Feruta (Chief Coordinator, Director General’s Office for Coordination, International Atomic Energy Agency) during the opening of the second session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2020 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.
CONTEXT

With protracted conflicts causing large-scale human suffering, the international security environment continues to deteriorate. Armed groups are proliferating, equipped with a vast array of weapons. Global military spending and arms competition are increasing, and the tensions of the cold war have returned to a world that has grown more complex. New threats are beginning to shape the lives of future generations, including the possible weaponization of artificial intelligence, cyberspace and outer space. In today’s multipolar environment, the mechanisms for contact and dialogue between super-Powers that once helped to defuse tensions are eroding. This new reality demands that disarmament and non-proliferation be put at the centre of the work of the United Nations.

THOUSANDS OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS REMAIN IN STOCKPILES ACROSS THE WORLD

Global stockpiles of nuclear weapons

GLOBAL MILITARY EXPENDITURE HAS BEEN INCREASING

Global military expenditure (trillions of US$)

Source: The Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists
Source: Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI)
KEY OBJECTIVES

In that context, the United Nations strives to help Member States to reconcile disparate positions on disarmament, share expertise, create space for dialogue and advance solutions. The Organization’s disarmament programme focuses on supporting multilateral negotiations, the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, other weapons of mass destruction and conventional weapons, regional disarmament efforts and public awareness efforts.

KEY RESULTS

In 2018, the United Nations supported the ongoing preparations for the 2020 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, a framework that has become vital in the light of increased competition between nuclear-armed States and the erosion of the nuclear arms control regime.

The United Nations also provided substantive and procedural support to the Conference on Disarmament. Despite heightened tensions at the international level, the Conference was able to establish five subsidiary bodies on all substantive agenda items and issued four reports.

United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres addresses the Conference on Disarmament’s High-Level Segment, Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland.
DISARMAMENT

In 2018, the Secretary-General launched Securing Our Common Future: An Agenda for Disarmament* to better integrate disarmament into the priorities of the United Nations system, build better partnerships in support of disarmament, peace and security, and the 2030 Agenda, and advance more practical measures for better Member State support.


UNITED NATIONS AGENDA FOR DISARMAMENT

Comments by visitors on the tapestry created by students and teachers from Nutley High School in New Jersey and the Peace Sawdust Carpet Project, in observance of United Nations Day (24 October).
In 2018, the United Nations stepped up its outreach regarding how disarmament affects ordinary citizens, especially young people. The High Representative spoke to students, delivered video messages to young disarmament advocates and released opinion pieces in several prominent publications to advocate a renewed push on disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control.

**REACHING OUT TO YOUNG PEOPLE**

In the area of conventional arms, the United Nations continued to support Member States in developing a political declaration and practical measures to mitigate the humanitarian harm and devastation caused by the use of explosive weapons in populated areas. It also assisted in preparing the successful outcome of the Third United Nations Conference to Review Progress Made in the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects. For the first time, Member States reached a consensus to recognize ammunition as part of the challenge.

To advance the dialogue on the security impact of new science and technology, the United Nations issued a report on current developments in science and technology and their potential impact on international security and disarmament, including artificial intelligence, biotechnology, space-based and electromagnetic technologies (A/73/177). To ensure human control over the use of force, the Organization also assisted an expert group, which adopted a set of proposed guiding principles.

In support of regional disarmament, the United Nations accelerated its work with partners. In 2018, more than 25 cooperation projects were active. For example, the Organization helped countries in the Sahel region in reducing the risk that small arms, light weapons and ammunition would be diverted. As a result, six countries in the region now have legislative norms on arms security and stockpile management.

As in previous years, the United Nations fostered the accumulation of knowledge on disarmament. For example, it published a new handbook entitled Effective Weapons and Ammunition Management in a Changing Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Context. In addition, the Organization adopted an internal action plan to better align its activities with the Sustainable Development Goals.

Reinvigorated disarmament dialogue can help to advance many global objectives, including sustainable development, humanitarian action, human rights, gender equality and peace and security. In the year ahead, disarmament solutions that carry wide and consensual support will likely remain difficult to find. New threats and weaponry, however, will make the disarmament dialogue more urgent than ever.