

A view of the sculpture "Non-Violence" or "The Knotted Gun" at United Nations Headquarters. The sculpture is a large bronze replica of a 45-calibre revolver with its barrel tied in a knot. It was created in 1980 as a peace symbol by artist Carl Fredrik Reuterswärd. (New York; January 2022) © UN Photo/Mark Garten



KEY PROGRAMMES

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



INDICATIVE RESOURCES

\$30M

\$12M regular assessed and \$18M 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 76/232
- Role of science and technology in the context of international security and disarmament, General Assembly resolution 76/24
- Women, disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control, General Assembly resolution 75/48
- Regional disarmament, General Assembly resolution 76/41
- United Nations study on disarmament and non-proliferation education, General Assembly resolution 75/61
- Youth, disarmament and non-proliferation, General Assembly resolution 76/45



SELECT ENTITIES

- Office for Disarmament Affairs



Disarmament



In support of the African Union Silencing the Guns initiative, the United Nations helps to collect and destroy small arms. In Madagascar, weapons are destroyed by crushing. (Antananarivo; April 2022) © Regional Centre on Small Arms



ALIGNMENT WITH SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

CONTEXT

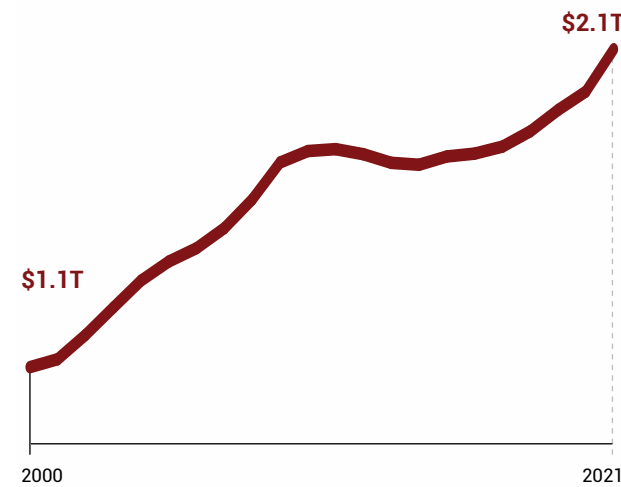
Military expenditure increased to \$2.1 trillion in 2021, the highest level in the past 30 years. Conflict and violence are on the rise in several parts of the world, and the emergence of new technologies, including in the digital space, poses new challenges. In this context, reinforcing the global norms against the use of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction, and working to regulate and limit conventional weapons, is a core priority for the United Nations.

KEY OBJECTIVES

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

MILITARY SPENDING ROSE TO \$2.1T

Global military expenditure, 2000–2021



Source: SIPRI. Figures are in trillions of United States dollars at constant 2018 prices and exchange rates.



“Now is not the moment to abandon dialogue and diplomacy. It is precisely the time for the international community to come together to reinvigorate them.”

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

KEY OUTCOMES

While some milestone meetings had to be postponed owing to the pandemic, we continued to support Member States in the area of disarmament, including in preparations for the tenth Review Conference of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and the First Meeting of States Parties to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

We supported two intergovernmental processes aimed at ensuring a safe, secure and peaceful cyber domain. These discussions yielded important gains, including an agreed normative framework for responsible State behaviour in cyberspace alongside common understanding on international cooperation, capacity-building and the applicability of international law. We subsequently provided substantive support to a new open-ended working group that will continue to build on this work through a five-year mandate. We also assisted expert discussions on

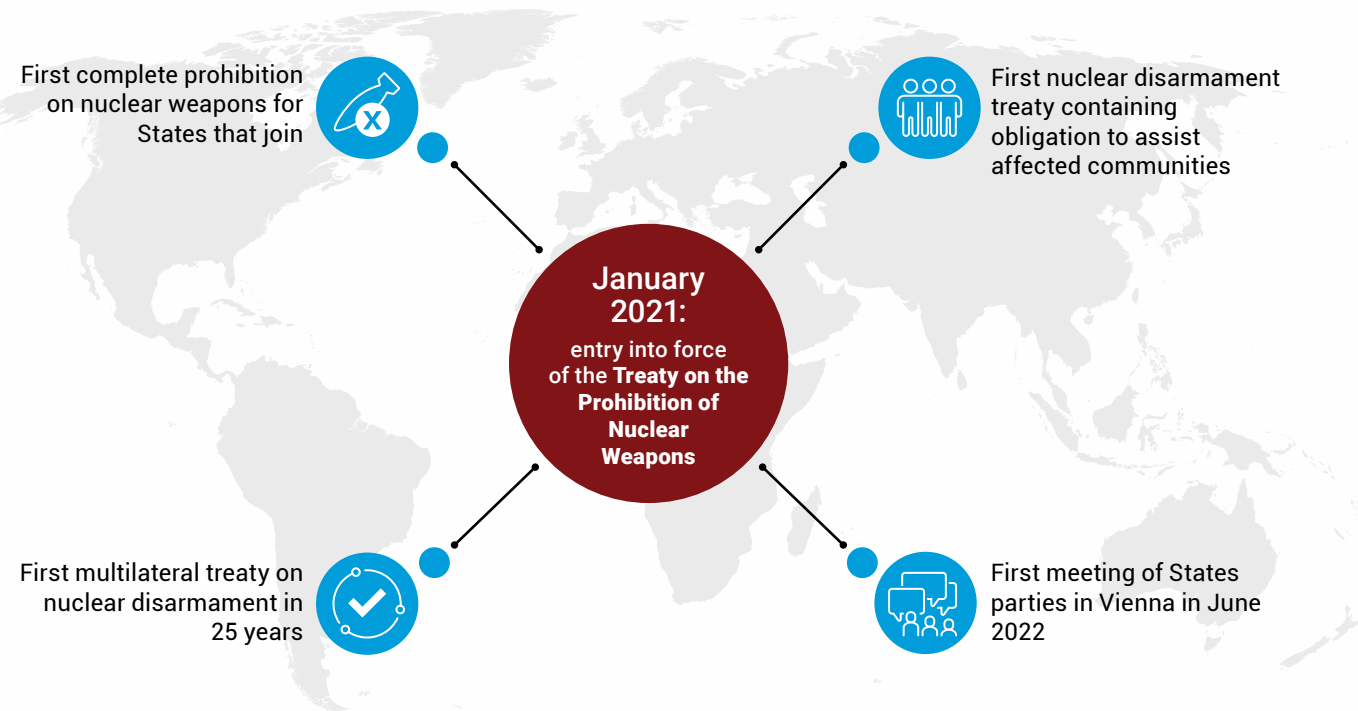
SILENCING THE GUNS

In partnership with the Silencing the Guns initiative of the African Union, the United Nations collaborated with 10 countries in raising awareness on the negative impacts of the illicit proliferation of small arms. As a result, more than 2,000 illicit weapons were collected and destroyed.

lethal autonomous weapons systems and helped to establish a new intergovernmental process to reduce military threats to outer space systems.

We strengthened the operational readiness of the Secretary-General's Mechanism for Investigation of Alleged Use of Chemical and Biological Weapons through tabletop exercises and by expanding the global roster of experts and laboratories. We also

TREATY ON THE PROHIBITION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS



OUR DISARMAMENT WORK



500%

increase in youth participation at disarmament and non-proliferation events through strengthened outreach efforts



104

arms control-related projects funded, benefiting **145** Member States



10

partnerships with sub-Saharan African countries to promote the voluntary hand-over by civilians of illegally held small arms, as part of the African Union's Amnesty Month initiative



494

qualified experts on the roster of the Secretary-General's Mechanism for Investigation of Alleged Use of Chemical and Biological Weapons



The General Assembly marks the International Day against Nuclear Tests with a meeting on general and complete nuclear disarmament. (New York; August 2021) © UN Photo/Loey Felipe

continued to enhance preparedness for a deliberate biological event and to foster a gender-balanced network of young scientists from the global South working on biosafety and biosecurity.

To advance disarmament in conflict-affected areas, we worked across departments to link weapons and ammunition management activities with disarmament, demobilization and reintegration processes, as well as our community violence reduction programmes. We also continued to engage, educate and empower young people through our Youth for Disarmament (#Youth4Disarmament) initiative.

At the regional level, we supported the implementation of the Road Map for Implementing the Caribbean Priority Actions on the Illicit Proliferation of Firearms and Ammunition across the Caribbean in a Sustainable Manner by 2030 and worked with national authorities in Africa, Asia and the Pacific and Latin America on small arms control and gender-based violence prevention.

GENDER PARITY IN DISARMAMENT

In line with the Secretary-General's 2018 Agenda for Disarmament, the United Nations is continuing to make progress in the full and equal participation of women in all decision-making processes related to disarmament and international security.

Youth Champions for Disarmament



5 women and 5 men

Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters



8 women and 8 men sit on the Board

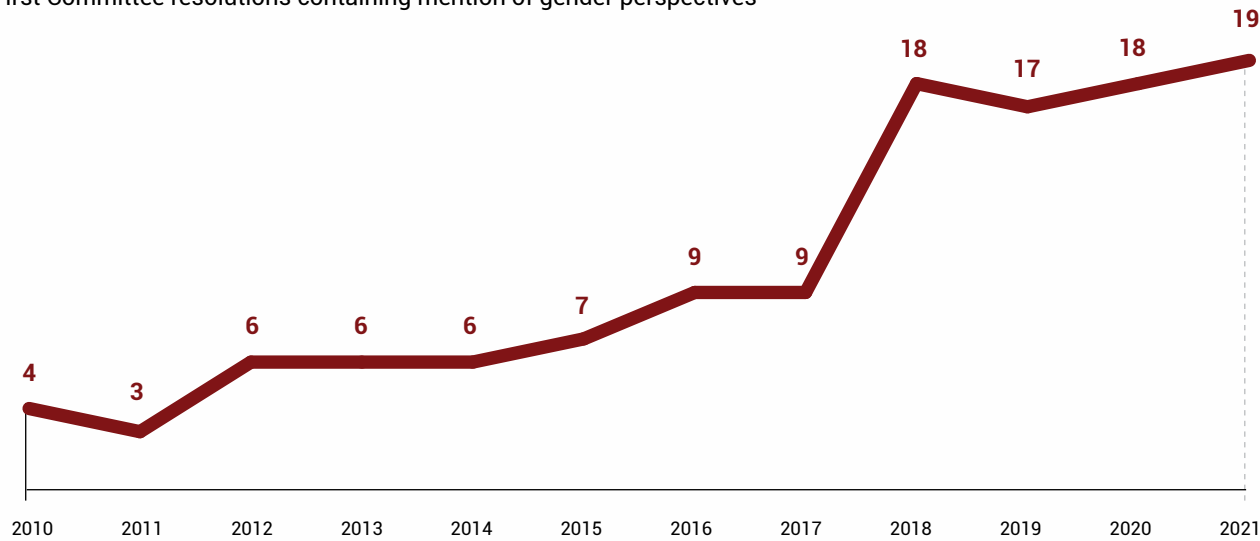
Scholarship for Peace and Security



150 young professionals in the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe region

GREATER INCLUSION OF GENDER PERSPECTIVES IN DISARMAMENT

First Committee resolutions containing mention of gender perspectives



35% of delegates to the First Committee of the General Assembly (New York) and the Conference on Disarmament (Geneva) were women



To enhance weapons tracing, the serial number restoration course trains forensic firearms teams on the restoration and recovery of serial numbers that have been removed from firearms. The course is part of the assistance provided under the implementation efforts of the Roadmap for Implementing the Caribbean Priority Actions on the Illicit Proliferation of Firearms and Ammunition across the Caribbean in a Sustainable Manner by 2030. (Georgetown, Guyana; December 2021) © UNLIREC