

FACT SHEET

ADVISORY BOARD ON DISARMAMENT MATTERS

Mandate of the Advisory Board

The Secretary-General's Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters was established in 1978 pursuant to paragraph 124 of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly, and received its current mandate pursuant to General Assembly decision 54/418 of 1 December 1999.

The functions of the Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters

- To advise the United Nations Secretary-General on matters within the area of arms limitation and disarmament, including on studies and research under the auspices of the United Nations or institutions within the United Nations system
- To serve as the Board of Trustees of the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR)
- To advise the Secretary-General on the implementation of the United Nations Disarmament Information Programme

Work of the Advisory Board

The Advisory Board holds two sessions per year, alternating between New York and Geneva. It adopts its agenda based on requests from the Secretary-General for advice on specific disarmament issues and upon its own recommendations of items to be considered. In order to allow the Board to hold more in-depth discussions on specific items, a decision was made a few years ago to have the Board consider the items in its agenda throughout its two sessions per year. Some of the topics discussed by the Board in recent years included more traditional issues related to both nuclear and conventional disarmament issues, as well as newer topics such as verification, emerging weapons technologies, including armed unmanned aerial vehicles and cyber warfare/security.

The chairperson of the Board is appointed annually by the Secretary-General on the basis of regional rotation and personally reports on the sessions to the Secretary-General. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 38/183 O of 20 December 1983, the Secretary-General reports annually to the General Assembly on the activities of the Advisory Board.

The Board also sits as the Board of Trustees of UNIDIR and reviews reports of the work of the Institute, including completed and ongoing projects, personnel and financial matters, and future activities.

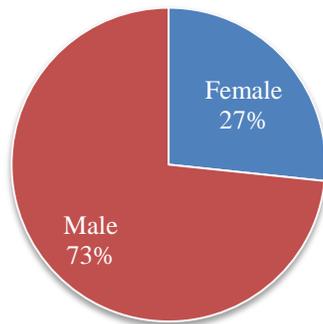
Composition of the Advisory Board

All Board members are appointed by the Secretary-General to serve in their personal capacities and do not represent their respective governments. The criteria used for the selection of members for the Advisory Board have been 1) expertise/experience in disarmament and international security issues; 2) regional balance; 3) gender balance; and 4) professional balance between government and academic backgrounds. Recently, efforts have also been initiated to have a generational balance be factored in when searching for new members.

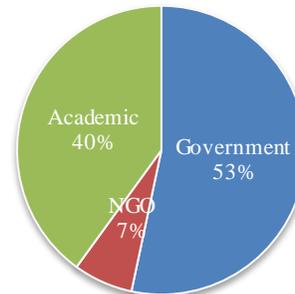
The fifteen-member Board is composed of government officials, individuals working in non-governmental organizations and academics. The Director of UNIDIR is an *ex officio* member. Since the Advisory Board's establishment almost forty years ago, a total of 176 individuals have served on the Board from 63 countries.

In terms of gender balance on the Board, the historical composition of the membership has been overwhelmingly male. However, efforts are continuously made to promote gender balance.

ABDM Membership by Gender
2015 - 2016



ABDM Membership by Background
2015 - 2016



For more information: <https://www.un.org/disarmament/institutions/advisoryboard/>