

# Disarmament

## KEY PROGRAMMES

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

## INDICATIVE RESOURCES

**\$40M**  
\$15M regular assessed and \$25M 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 nonproliferation education, General Assembly resolution 75/61
- Youth, disarmament and non-proliferation, General Assembly resolution 76/45

## SELECT ENTITIES

Office for Disarmament Affairs

### Voting Result:

**IN FAVOUR 102**  
**AGAINST 51**  
**ABSTENTION 8**

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**IN FAVOUR 102**  
**AGAINST 51**  
**ABSTENTION 8**

During a First Committee meeting on disarmament and international security issues, the General Assembly votes on a draft resolution addressing information and telecommunications in the context of international security.

(New York; July 2022) © UN Photo/Loey Felipe





António Guterres, Secretary-General, opens the historic first Meeting of States Parties to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, held in Austria.

(Vienna; June 2022) © UNIS Vienna

## CONTEXT

There are mounting concerns over rising global tensions, active armed conflicts, increased military spending and heightened nuclear risk, as well as the threat of other weapons of mass destruction. The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the importance of adequate preparedness to prevent and respond to a broader range of risks, including biorisks. The proliferation and widespread availability of conventional arms, including illicit small arms and light weapons, affect international security, and the emergence of new technologies poses additional challenges.

## KEY OBJECTIVES

The United Nations supports multilateral negotiations and other efforts towards achieving general and complete disarmament. Our key priorities include eliminating 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.

### OUR DISARMAMENT WORK



**43%** increase in States' reporting on their arms exports and imports to the Register of Conventional Arms



**112** arms control-related projects funded, benefiting 147 Member States



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



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





**“The world needs a new vision for disarmament, one that takes into account the geopolitical, technological and cultural changes that have accelerated in recent years.”**

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



## KEY OUTCOMES

In 2022, we supported Member States with milestone multilateral disarmament meetings. The first Meeting of States Parties to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, the Eighth Biennial Meeting of States to Consider 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, and the Ninth Review Conference of the States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction all yielded important gains that will pave the way for future progress. Although the tenth Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons did not reach an outcome, States parties engaged in meaningful discussions, including on reducing nuclear risks and on accountability for nuclear disarmament.

We assisted expert discussions on lethal autonomous weapons systems. In addition, we supported an intergovernmental process aimed at ensuring a safe, secure and peaceful cyber domain, and another on reducing space threats through norms, rules and principles.

To advance disarmament on the ground, we helped to link local ammunition management with disarmament, demobilization and reintegration, as well as community violence reduction programmes. We also continued to support activities on small arms and light weapons control as part of a comprehensive approach to sustainable security and development. To reduce illicit arms flows, we worked with the African Union and six countries to collect illegally held small arms. As a result, more than 9,500 weapons were destroyed.

The Conference on Disarmament meets in Geneva to negotiate arms control and multilateral disarmament agreements.

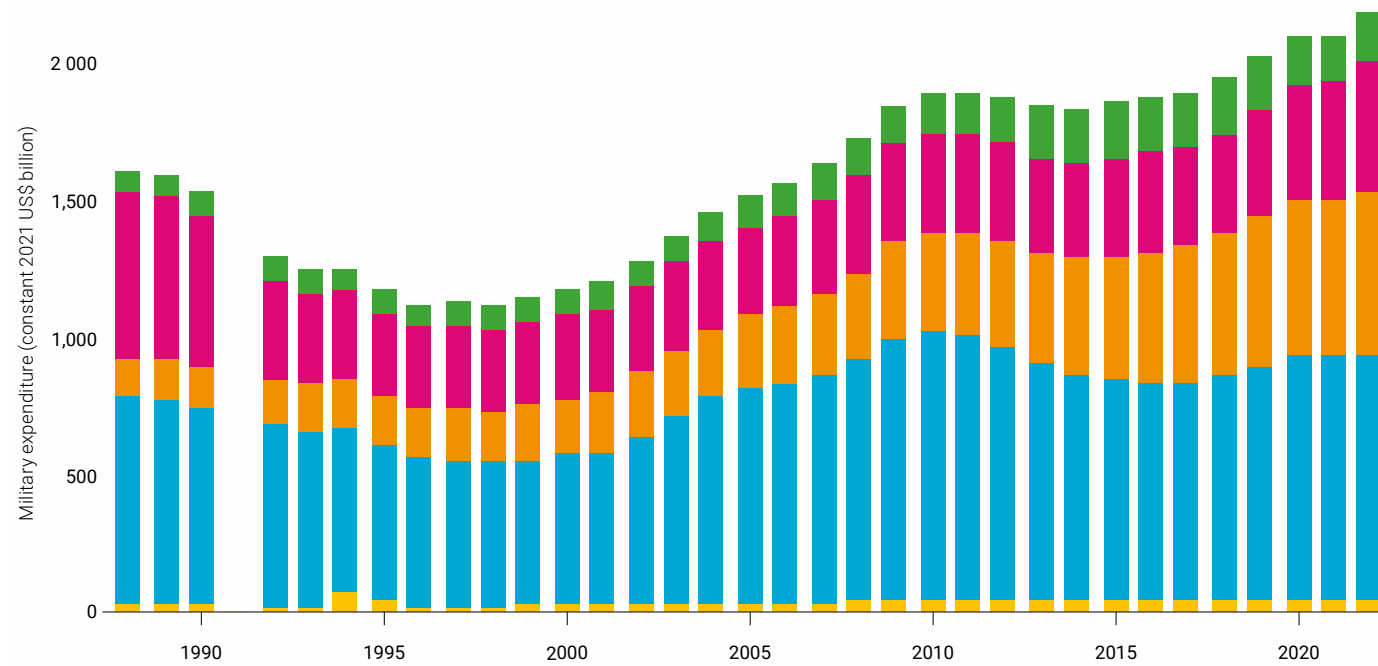
(Geneva; June 2022) © UN Photo/Jean Marc Ferré



### Global military expenditure increased to a record \$2.2 trillion

World military expenditure by region 1988–2022

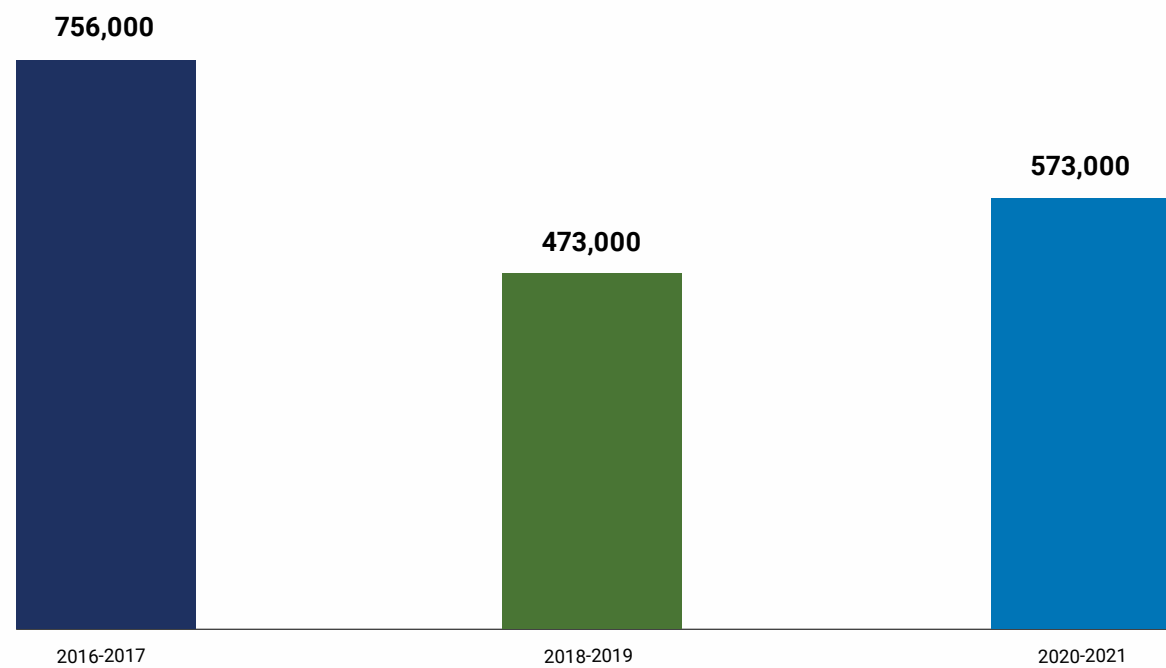
● Africa ● Americas ● Asia and Oceania ● Europe ● Middle East



Note: The absence of data for the Soviet Union in 1991 means that no total can be calculated for that year  
 Source: SIPRI Military Expenditure Database, April 2023.

### Destruction of small arms and light weapons, 2016–2021

Destruction of small arms and light weapons from 2016 to 2021, as reported biennially in the Programme of Action on Small Arms national reports from Member States



Customs officers in the Dominican Republic being trained on arms, ammunition and trade control in the context of Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) and the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

(Santo Domingo; October 2022) © UNLIREC



## Secretary-General's Mechanism for Investigation of Alleged Use of Chemical and Biological Weapons

Through a 10-day field exercise, we worked on strengthening the operational readiness of the Secretary-General's Mechanism for Investigation of Alleged Use of Chemical and Biological Weapons. The goal of the exercise was to ensure that this vital investigation tool would be ready for use if needed.

We supported States in advancing a political declaration on strengthening the protection of civilians from the humanitarian consequences arising from the use of explosive weapons in populated areas. Over 80 States endorsed the declaration. We also continued to empower women, young people and other partners through our Disarmament Education Dashboard and Youth for Disarmament initiative.

At the regional level in Latin America and the Caribbean, we helped with national action plans and monitoring frameworks to advance 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. We also worked with national authorities in Africa, Asia and the Pacific, and Latin America and the Caribbean on small arms control and the prevention of gender-based violence.



Testing the readiness of the Secretary-General's Mechanism for Investigation of Alleged Use of Chemical and Biological Weapons.

(Berlin; September 2022) © UNODA



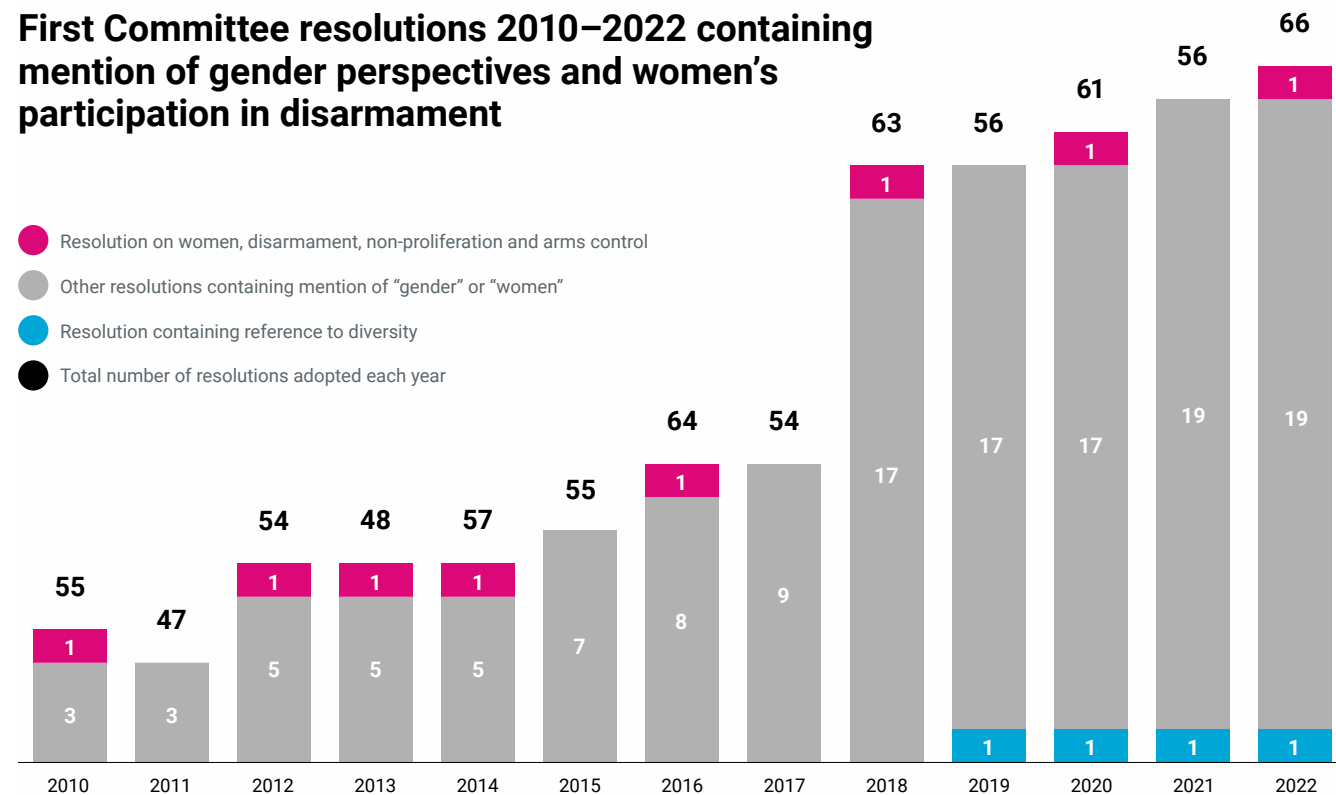
### Protecting civilians against explosive weapons in populated areas

States that endorsed the Political Declaration on Strengthening the Protection of Civilians from the Humanitarian Consequences Arising from the Use of Explosive Weapons in Populated Areas



### First Committee resolutions 2010–2022 containing mention of gender perspectives and women’s participation in disarmament

- Resolution on women, disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control
- Other resolutions containing mention of “gender” or “women”
- Resolution containing reference to diversity
- Total number of resolutions adopted each year



### Gender parity in disarmament

In line with the Secretary-General’s Agenda for Disarmament, launched in 2018, 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.

#### Group of Governmental Experts on Nuclear Disarmament Verification



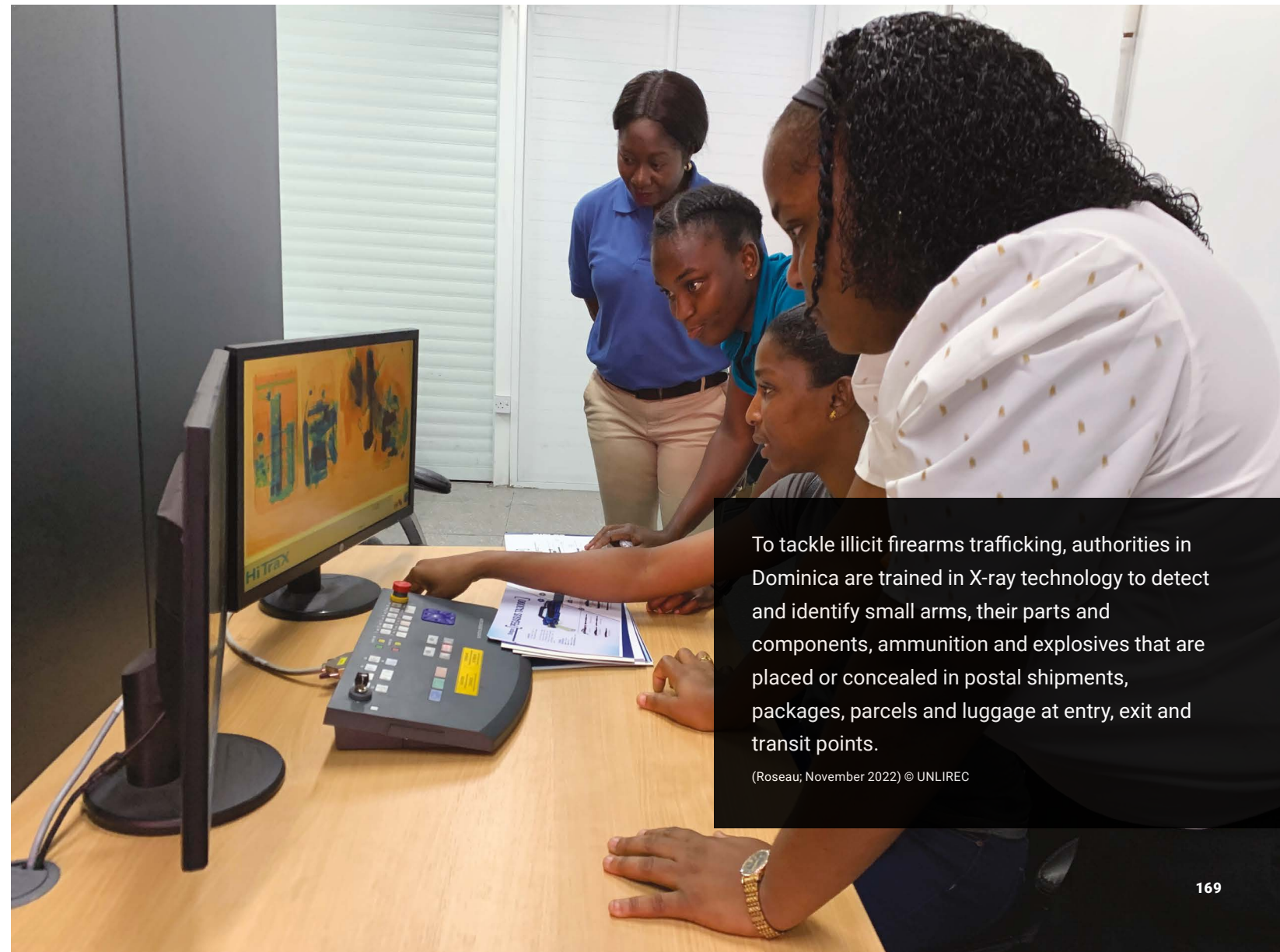
#### Group of Governmental Experts on the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms



#### Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters



#### United Nations Disarmament Fellowship, Training and Advisory Services Programme



To tackle illicit firearms trafficking, authorities in Dominica are trained in X-ray technology to detect and identify small arms, their parts and components, ammunition and explosives that are placed or concealed in postal shipments, packages, parcels and luggage at entry, exit and transit points.

(Roseau; November 2022) © UNLIREC