

The United Nations Disarmament Machinery

This learning unit will introduce you to technical, historical, political and legal aspects of the UN Disarmament Machinery.

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O. A Message from the Author

A quick video introduction from the home office.

A quick video introduction from the home office, as our planned video production was not possible due to Covid-19.

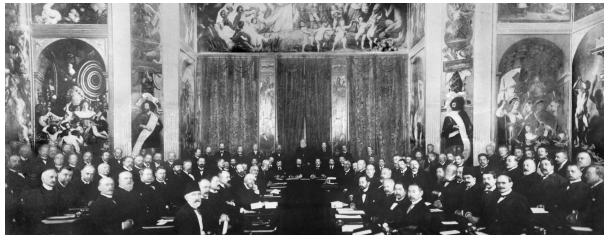
Hi and welcome to this learning unit. My name is Federica Dall'Arche and I am the nonproliferation and disarmament researcher at Istituto Affari Internazionali.

I am also a consultant to the Italian presidency of the council of ministers. This learning unit is dedicated to the United Nations disarmament machinery. I will be very happy to guide you through it, exploring with you not only the historical steps that led to its creation, but also its structure and role.

I really hope you will enjoy it and thank you for choosing our EUNPDC eLearning courses. Ciao.

1. Disarmament in Modern History

Definitions



Delegates at the 1899 Hague Peace Conference
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This video explains:

- the difference between non-proliferation, arms control and disarmament
- disarmament objectives
- why disarmament is important

In learning unit 01 [/1u-01/] you have already explored the distinction between Arms Control, NonProliferation and Disarmament. In this unit, we will specifically look at **Disarmament**, understanding its primary objectives and learning about the efforts of the international community and of the United Nations in promoting it. This learning unit is, in fact, about what is called the **United Nations Disarmament Machinery**.

But before going into details, let me freshen up your memory a little: We have seen that **Arms Control** refers to: bilateral or multilateral agreements that limit or reduce the number of certain weapons, such as for instance **deployed nuclear weapons** or certain activities, such as **nuclear tests**.

While these agreements might ultimately result in disarmament achievements, you should keep in mind that the primary objective of arms control is the maintenance of international **stability**, as well as armaments' costs reduction and damage containment in the event of war.

Examples of arms control efforts are the NewSTART Treaty, the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) or the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe, the CFE-Treaty. You can find more information on these instruments in learning unit 05 [/1u-05/] and learning unit 10 [/1u-10/].

Non-Proliferation, instead, refers to efforts to avoid the spread of certain weapons to countries which do not yet possess them. Non-proliferation is often referred to as a **bargain** as countries which do not have those weapons usually request possessors to engage in disarmament processes.

Therefore, while stability is still an objective of non-proliferation, it might be a temporary one, in favour of the ultimate elimination of the category of weapons.

The cornerstone of the non-proliferation regime is the **Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons**, also known as the Non-Proliferation Treaty, which is also explored in learning unit 05 [/1u-05/].

Differently from arms control and non-proliferation, **disarmament** consists of a broad spectrum of unilateral, bilateral or multilateral measures and agreements aimed at completely eliminating a category of weapons.

Among the primary goals of disarmament, we find the maintenance of peace and security, the prevention or resolution of armed conflicts, and the protection of civilians.

The rationale behind disarmament is that weapons, particularly weapons of mass destruction, have an indiscriminate destructive power and are the primary cause of instability as resources spent for their military build-up are resources taken away from other pressing issues like education and health. According to the promoters of disarmament, therefore, disarming is a direct way to **stability and peace**.

Examples of disarmament efforts are the Convention on The Prohibition of The Development, Production and Stockpiling Of Bacteriological (Biological) And Toxin Weapons and on their Destruction, also known as the **Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention** – which is presented in learning unit 03 [/1u-03/] – and the Convention On The Prohibition Of The Development, Production, Stockpiling And Use Of Chemical Weapons And On Their Destruction, also known as the **Chemical Weapons Convention**, presented in learning unit 02 [/1u-02/].

When it comes to the UN, the international organization has chosen to mainly focus its efforts on disarmament and non-proliferation. This is an important element that you should keep in mind throughout this learning unit.

Looking Back: Key Concepts

Arms Control	Non-Proliferation	Disarmament
limits the number of weapons or activities	prevents the spread of weapons to countries which do not possess them	aims at the complete elimination of a category of weapons
Primary Objectives	Primary Objectives	Primary Objectives
- stability	- contain, and eventually reduce, the number of actors with a specific type of weapon	- prevent and resolve armed conflicts
- costs reduction	Example	- pursue and maintain international peace
- damage containment	- NPT	- protect civilians
Examples		Examples
- New START (weapons)		- BTCW
- CTBT (activities)		- CWC

Disarmament Objectives

Disarmament has many objectives, some are related, some are more individual. They all share a common perspective: **a safer and more humane world.**

The **United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs** is one of the most important actors worldwide in matters of arms control, non-proliferation and disarmament. You will learn more about **UNODA** later in the unit.

At this point, check out the many objectives of disarmament as described by UNODA. Especially look at the many fields where disarmament can be applied.



PRIF, reconstruction based on image of UNODA, incorporating works from <https://www.unposterforpeace.org>

Why is Disarmament Important?



Secretary-General Addresses General Assembly
UN Photo / Marco Castro, https://www.flickr.com/photos/un_photo/3951445191/ (CC BY-NC-ND 2.0)

Massive military spending and new investments in modernizing nuclear weapons have left the world over-armed – and peace under-funded”

Ban Ki-Moon, Former United Nations Secretary General



September 24, 1957 - Dwight D. Eisenhower has a special broadcast on the Little Rock situation

White House Albums, National Park Service (Abbie Rowe): Photographs
<https://www.eisenhowerlibrary.gov/media/3032> (Public domain)

Every gun that is made, every warship launched, every rocket fired signifies, in the final sense, a theft from those who hunger and are not fed, those who are cold and are not clothed”

Dwight D. Eisenhower, 34th U.S. President



Conference on Disarmament 2018
UN Geneva / Violaine Martin, <https://www.flickr.com/photos/unisgeneva/39853154621/> (CC BY-NC-ND 2.0)

Excessive spending on military hardware cannot address challenges such as climate change, mass refugee flows and extreme poverty. In the absence of an urgent global response, these challenges will fuel tomorrow's conflicts and make each of us less safe”

Izumi Nakamitsu, United Nations High Representative for Disarmament Affairs

A Brief History of Disarmament

Humankind has always been perturbed by the use of particularly cruel means of war.

As a result, a number of actions have been taken to restrict such use, and the establishment of the **UN Disarmament Machinery** is one of the greatest achievements in this direction.

These videos explain:

- historical efforts towards Disarmament in Modern History

- developments from 1675 to the creation of the United Nations Disarmament Machinery

Humankind has always been perturbed by the use of particularly cruel means of war.

As a result, a number of actions have been taken to restrict such use, and the establishment of the UN Disarmament Machinery is definitely one of the greatest achievements in this direction.

Let's look how we got here:

The very first international attempt in Modern History to contrast the use of cruel warfare methods and promote their abolition dates back to 1675 with the signature, by France and the Holy Roman Empire, of the **Strasbourg Agreement**. The agreement banned for the first time the use of poisoned bullets — what we could call a primordial example of chemical weapons.

In 1863, the **Lieber Code** signed by US President Abraham Lincoln, forbade any possible use of poison and shortly after, the 1874 **Brussels Declaration** – signed by 14 European Countries – set to do the same.

Efforts in arms limitation continued with the **Hague Conferences** convened by Tsar Nicholas II and the US President Theodor Roosevelt held in 1899 and 1907. The Conferences, attended by twenty-six countries, resulted in the adoption of a number of Conventions, known as the Hague Conventions. Among others, these conventions included declarations prohibiting the use of Asphyxiating Poisonous Gasses, the use of expanding bullets and the discharge of projectiles and explosives from balloons.

Some of these included:

- Convention with respect to the Laws and Customs of War on Land;
- Declaration concerning the Prohibition of the Discharge of Projectiles and Explosives from Balloons or by Other New Analogous Methods;
- Declaration concerning the Prohibition of the Use of Projectiles with the Sole Object to Spread Asphyxiating Poisonous Gases;
- Declaration concerning the Prohibition of the Use of Bullets which can Easily Expand or Change their Form inside the Human Body such as Bullets with a Hard Covering which does not Completely Cover the Core, or containing Indentations.

International moral restraints, however, began to erode under the pressure of military necessity with the outburst of World War One, which witnessed an extensive use of poisonous gasses.

Nonetheless, the 1919 **Treaty of Versailles** reaffirmed countries commitment towards arms limitation and disarmament. And in 1925, as a result of the public disdain from the use of mustard gas in

World War One and on the footsteps of the Hague Conferences, the Geneva Protocol was adopted. The Protocol was a single article banning the use in war of Asphyxiating, poisonous or other gasses, analogous liquids, materials or devices and of bacteriological methods of warfare.

The Geneva protocol laid the foundations for the Bio-Weapons Convention adopted in 1972 and the Chemical Weapons Convention adopted in 1993, which prohibited also the production and stockpiling of such weapons.

The Geneva protocol was adopted under the auspices of the League of Nations. The League of Nations can be defined as the precursor of the United Nations, and we will learn about it in the next video.

The League of Nations, founded in 1920, was the very first international organization created to achieve world peace. In its charter, signatories committed to reduce armaments “to the lowest point consistent with national safety and security”.

In the years between its creation and the outburst of the Second World War, the League of Nations was particularly active in promoting arms limitation and disarmament, convening international conferences and producing a series of disarmament treaties.

Notably, besides the Geneva Protocol, are the 1922 **Washington Naval Treaty**, the 1927 **Geneva Naval Conference** and the 1930 and 1935 **London Naval Treaty**, which all aimed at preventing an arms race by limiting naval construction.

Between 1932 and 1937 the League also convened the first World Disarmament Conference, also known as the Conference for the Reduction and Limitation of Armaments. This conference, however, failed to meet expectations and ended to be a failed effort due to the delegates' inability to reach consensus over what constituted “offensive” and “defensive” weapons, among other reasons.

The Second World War, with its large-scale use of poisonous weapons, put a significant strain on arms control and disarmament efforts as well as on the work of the League of Nations, which in 1946 permanently ceased its activities. The failure of the League, however, did not deter UN's founders from putting disarmament, arms control and non-proliferation as one of the key objectives of the organization and from establishing what will be known as the UN Disarmament Machinery, which we will study in the next chapter.

Quiz

View quiz at <https://eunpdc-elearning.netlify.app/lu-18/>

2. The United Nations Disarmament Machinery

Towards the United Nations Machinery



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This video explains the creation of the United Nations Disarmament Machinery.

The second World War not only left countries devastated, but also broke the international taboo — arduously elaborated by the League of Nations — around the use of what would be later called weapons of mass destruction; with poisonous gasses returned to be largely used, and nuclear weapons employed for the first time on Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Against this backdrop, resuming efforts towards disarmament and arms limitation felt like an inevitable and owed step.

In 1945, representatives from 51 states established the United Nations and included arms regulation as one of the key missions of the organization.

Specific references to disarmament and arms control were made both in the United Nations Charter and in the very first resolution adopted by the General Assembly in 1946.

As a key proponent of disarmament since its creation, the UN has over the years heavily and naturally contributed to the definition of the disarmament architecture, pursuing two main goals: First, the elimination of weapons of mass destruction. And second, the regulation of conventional arms, particularly the illicit traffic of small arms and light weapons.

To achieve these goals, the UN has set up what it is referred to as the **UN Disarmament Machinery**: a set of multilateral processes, procedures, practices and international bodies whose purpose is to address disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control issues.

In 1978, the UN has cemented its determination to work for general and complete disarmament by dedicating the UNGA's tenth special session to the topic of disarmament. The 10th special session of the General Assembly will pass into history as the **First Special Session of the General Assembly** devoted to Disarmament, or simply the SSOD, and will constitute the UN's "mission statement" on disarmament.

In the next videos, we will explore in details what composes the United Nations Disarmament Machinery: its architecture, its achievements as well as potential areas for improvement.

The UN's Mission Statement on Disarmament

In adopting this Final Document, the States Members of the United Nations solemnly reaffirm their determination to work for general and complete disarmament and to make further collective efforts aimed at strengthening peace and international security; eliminating the threat of war, particularly nuclear war; implementing practical measures aimed at halting and reversing the arms race; strengthening the procedures for the peaceful settlement of disputes; and reducing military expenditures and utilizing the resources thus released in a manner which will help to promote the well-being of all peoples and to improve the economic conditions of the developing countries."

UNGA 27th plenary meeting 30 June 1978

The United Nations Machinery at a Glance I

This video starts explaining the **architecture** of the United Nations Disarmament Machinery by taking a closer look at the **First Committee of the United Nations General Assembly**.

The term "Machinery" was coined during the First Special Session on Disarmament (SSOD) convened by the United Nations General Assembly in 1978. The term initially referred to a basic architecture composed by three institutions: The United Nations General Assembly First Committee, The United Nations Disarmament Commission, and the Conference on Disarmament.

Each institution continues to be part of the machinery today and, like then, has a specific function: the **First Committee of the General Assembly** debates, drafts and adopts disarmament-related resolutions; the **UN Disarmament Commission** deliberates on basic disarmament concepts and principles and makes recommendations; the **Conference on Disarmament** negotiates and adopts multilateral treaties.

Let's now have a closer look to each institution.

Let's start with the First Committee.

The **First Committee** is one of the six main committees of the General Assembly established by the Preparatory Commission of the UN in 1945. The Committee deals specifically with disarmament and

international security, seeking solutions to challenges to international peace and security – such as WMD proliferation and the illicit traffic of small arms and light weapons.

The First Committee meets every year, from October to early November in New York City and is attended by all member states of the UN.

The work of the Committee addresses **seven thematic clusters**:

- nuclear weapons
- other weapons of mass destruction
- disarmament aspects of Outer Space
- conventional weapons
- regional disarmament and security
- other disarmament measures and international security
- disarmament machinery

The work of the First Committee is divided in **three distinctive phases**:

The first phase, which lasts approximately one week, is where the general debate happens and where agenda items are agreed upon.

During the second phase, the thematic discussions phase, high-level officials deliver their statements and panel discussions are organized.

The last phase, referred to as “action on drafts”, is where the Committee votes on any recommendations, resolutions or decisions to be adopted by the General Assembly.

On average, the UNGA-FC annually discusses the adoption of over 50 resolutions on disarmament issues, making it an important player in developing disarmament multilateral norms.

During the annual meetings, the first committee can also decide to create groups of governmental experts and open-ended working groups to address specific issues. It can also convene conferences for the negotiation and adoption of multilateral treaties.

The United Nations General Assembly First Committee

- is also known as the Disarmament and International Security Committee
- is one of the six main committees of the General Assembly
- meets annually in October in New York City – open to all UN Members
- annually debates and votes on over 50 resolutions or decision to be adopted by the General Assembly
- creates groups of governmental experts and open-ended working groups to address specific disarmament issues
- convenes conferences for the negotiation and adoption of multilateral treaties

contains **seven thematic clusters**

-  Nuclear Weapons
-  Other Weapons of Mass Destruction
-  Outer Space (Disarmament Aspects)
-  Conventional Weapons
-  Regional Disarmament and Security
-  Other Disarmament Measures and International Security
-  Disarmament Machinery

Grüebelfabrik, CC BY-NC-SA

The United Nations Machinery at a Glance II

This video further explains the **architecture** of the United Nations Disarmament Machinery:

- the United Nations Disarmament Commission
- the Conference on Disarmament

Let's now look at the two remaining bodies that compose the basic architecture of the UN Disarmament Machinery: the UN Disarmament Commission (UNDC) and the Conference on Disarmament.

The **UN Disarmament Commission** was first established by the GA in 1952, with the mandate of proposing treaties regulating and limiting armed forces and all armaments, and eliminating all weapons of mass destruction.

Initially designed to be under the UN Security Council, the Commission was re-established in 1978 as a subsidiary organ of the General Assembly.

Today, the UNDC deliberates on basic disarmament principles and concepts and makes nonbinding recommendations, often in the form of guidelines for collective action.

To facilitate its work, in 1998 the GA decided to limit the UNDC's agenda to only two substantive items per year, including one on nuclear disarmament.

The UNDC is attended by all member states of the UN and this – at times – has contributed in slowing down its work. From 1999 to 2017, in fact, the UNDC was unable to produce any substantial outcome due to the inability of its parties to reach consensus.

In 2017, however, its members succeeded in adopting the “Practical confidence-building measures in the field of conventional weapons”.

And finally, the **Conference on Disarmament**, or CD.

What we know today as the CD is an evolution of previous committees on the matter.

In 1959, the Big Four (namely the UK, the US, France, and the Soviet Union) resumed previously halted disarmament talks and set the basis for the creation of the Ten-Nation Committee on Disarmament in 1960. Composed of 5 states from NATO and 5 from the Warsaw Pact, two years later, the Committee became the Eighteen-Nation Committee

on Disarmament, adding 8 neutral non-aligned States. In 1969, it was further enlarged, becoming “the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament”, with 31 members in 1975. In 1978, the UNGA First Special Session on Disarmament officially recognized the CD, known at the time as the “Committee on Disarmament”, as the sole disarmament negotiating body.

Today, the CD is still considered the single multilateral arms control and disarmament negotiating forum of the international community. It is composed by 65 official members, while other UN Member States can participate as observers.

The CD meets three times per year in Geneva, and adopts its own rules of procedure and agenda, taking into consideration, however, the recommendations of the GA and its Members.

The Conference has a permanent agenda of 10 items, established in 1979 and known as the Decalogue, from which the agenda items and programme of work for the year are established.

All decisions of the CD are taken by consensus.

While not officially a body of the United Nations, the CD has a special relation with the UN. It in fact reports annually to the GA and its budget is included in that of the UN.

Over the years, the CD and its predecessors have negotiated pillar multilateral arms limitation and disarmament agreements, such as the BTWC, the NPT and the CWC.

The United Nations Disarmament Commission

- first established in **1952**, re-established in **1978**
- **meets annually** in the spring in New York City – open to all UN members
- deliberates on **basic principles** and concepts
- evaluates only **two substantive items** per year, including one on nuclear disarmament
- produces **guidelines** and non-binding recommendations
- is based on the **consensus principle** From **1999 to 2017** the UNDC was unable to produce any substantial outcome. In **2017** it succeeded in reaching consensus over adoption of “Recommendations on practical confidence-building measures in the field of conventional weapons [<https://front.un-arm.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/A-72-42-E.pdf#page=11>]”

The Conference on Disarmament

- meets **three times per year** in Geneva
- composed of **65 members**
- negotiates **multilateral** arms control and disarmament treaties
- adopts its own agenda and rules of procedure
- agenda known as the **Decalogue**
- not a body of the UN, but it **reports annually** to the General Assembly

1960-1962 • Ten-Nation Committee on Disarmament

1962-1968 • Eighteen -Nation Committee on Disarmament

1968-1978 • Conference of the Committee on Disarmament

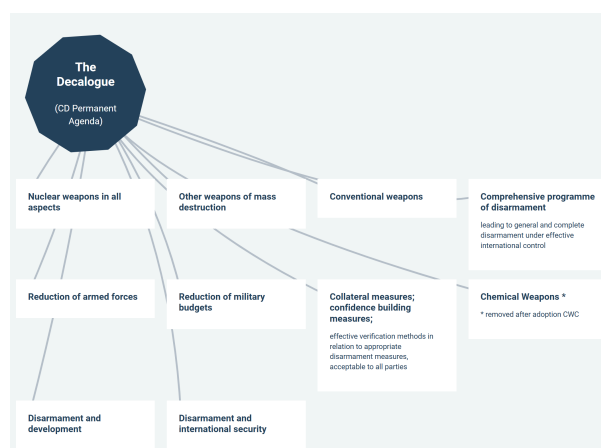
1978-1984 • Committee on Disarmament

The Conference on Disarmament's Agenda

The Conference on Disarmament has a **permanent agenda**, known as **the Decalogue**, as it is composed of 10 items. Established in 1979, the Decalogue serves as a framework to set annual, narrower, agendas and programmes of work.

The current agenda of the CD includes:

- cessation of the nuclear arms race, and nuclear disarmament
- prevention of nuclear war, including all related matters
- prevention of an arms race in outer space (PAROS)
- effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons
- new types of weapons of mass destruction and new systems of such weapons; radiological weapons
- a comprehensive programme of disarmament
- transparency in armament



Grübbelfabrik, CC BY-NC-SA

The United Nations Machinery at a Glance III

In this video you will learn about:

- the role of the Secretary General
- the United Nations Security Council

Since its establishment, the work of the Disarmament Machinery has been supported by the United Nations Secretary General as well as the United Nations Security Council.

As recognized in the 1978 First Special Session on Disarmament, the **Secretary General of the United**

Nations in fact plays a special role in the promotion of arms control and disarmament, and over the years all Secretary Generals have contributed significantly to the definition of the Disarmament Regime through statements and reports.

In 2018, the UNSG António Guterres has announced a new vision, publishing the **Agenda for Disarmament**: a set of practical measures to achieve disarmament by generating fresh perspectives and exploring areas where serious dialogue is required.

The Agenda focuses on three main priorities: weapons of mass destruction, conventional arms and future weapon technologies. It is also based on 4 pillars: Disarmament to Save Humanity, Disarmament that Saves Lives, Disarmament for Future Generations and Strengthening Partnerships for Disarmament.

The **UN Security Council** has also been crucial in the development of the arms control, nonproliferation and disarmament agenda.

In 2004, the UNSC adopted **Resolution 1540**: one of the most far-reaching international instruments to counter the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems – recognized as a serious threat to international peace and security.

The binding character of the resolution required all members of the UN to adopt and enforce domestic regulation to counter the spread of WMDs to non-state actors.

The resolution was adopted in response to growing concern that non-state actors could succeed in acquiring WMDs, and following the unveiling, in January 2004, of a clandestine nuclear weapons technology proliferation network – also known as the A. Q. Khan network.

In 2009, the UNSC convened an historic summit-level meeting chaired by United States President Barack Obama and unanimously adopted **Resolution 1887**, calling on all countries to sign and ratify the NPT and the CTBT and to refrain from conducting nuclear tests.

The summit was only the fifth in the Council's history to be held at the level of heads of states and governments.

Besides the broad scope of Resolutions 1540 and 1887, the Council has also focused on specific regional cases over the years. Some examples are the resolutions adopted on Iraq's WMD programme, on India and Pakistan's nuclear tests, on Syria's chemical weapons or on the DPRK's nuclear and missile programmes, just to name a few.

To summarize, the support of the United Nations Secretary General, and of the United Nations Security Council, have been paramount to strengthen the work of the United Nations Disarmament Machinery and to advance the global Disarmament Agenda.

The United Nations Secretary General's Agenda for Disarmament

In 2018, the UNSG António Guterres has announced a new vision, publishing the Agenda for Disarmament

"Securing our Common Future."

It's a **set of practical "actions"** to achieve disarmament by generating **fresh perspectives** and exploring areas where serious dialogue is required.

The Agenda focuses on **three main priorities**:

1. weapons of mass destruction
2. conventional arms
3. future weapon technologies

It is based on **four pillars** as shown in the picture.



Graphic based on a [UN postcard](<https://www.un.org/disarmament/sg-agenda/en/assets/img/disarmament-agenda-postcard.pdf>)
Grüebelfabrik, CC BY-NC-SA

Information on the brochure "Securing our Common Future"

[<https://disarmament.unoda.org/publications/more/securing-our-common-future/>]

The United Nations Security Council



The UNSC meets in its designated chamber in the United Nations Conference Building.

UN Photo / Eskinder Debebe <https://www.flickr.com/photos/mrecic-argentina/34192880001/> (CC BY 2.0)

Since the establishment of the United Nations Disarmament Machinery, the **United Nations Security Council** (UNSC) has played a crucial supporting role.

Over the years, the UNSC has contributed to the development of the arms control, non-proliferation and disarmament agenda through the adoption of binding resolutions, including **UNSCR 1540** which is one of the most far reaching international instruments to counter the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery.

More information on the UNSC Resolution 1540
[<https://www.un.org/en/sc/1540/1540-fact->

sheet.shtml]

But **many other resolutions**, often on individual regional cases, were also adopted, including Resolution 687 (1991) on Iraq's WMDs program, Resolution 1172 (1998) condemning Indian and Pakistani nuclear tests, Resolution 2118 (2013) on Syria's chemical weapons, or Resolution 2231 (2015) on the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action.

There are also numerous resolutions against North Korea's nuclear weapons and missiles program.

The United Nations Security Council Resolution 1540

The United Nations Security Council Resolution 1540 is one of the most far reaching international instruments to **counter the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction** and their means of delivery – recognized as a serious threat to international peace and security.

The **binding character** of the resolution required all members of the UN to adopt and enforce domestic regulation to counter the spread of WMDs to non-state actors.

The Resolution imposes mandatory national reporting mechanisms to monitor countries commitment and implementation of the resolution.



Commemoration of 100th Anniversary of the Beginning of WWI
UN Photo / Evan Schneider, <https://dam.media.un.org/asset-management/2AM9LOBUCU2GV?WS>

I urge all States and stakeholders to reaffirm their common commitment to achieve the great goals of this resolution and to devote their utmost efforts to save present and future generations from the double threat posed by terrorism and weapons of mass destruction."

Former Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, [Message on the Tenth Anniversary of the Adoption of Security Council Resolution 1540 (2004). New York, 28 April 2014.] (<https://unoda-web.s3-accelerate.amazonaws.com/wp-content/uploads/assets/WMD/1540/pdf/1540-tenth-English.pdf>)

The resolution was adopted in response to growing concern that non-state actors could succeed in acquiring WMDs; and following the unveiling, in January 2004, of a clandestine nuclear weapons technology proliferation network – known as the A. Q. Khan network.

UNSCR 1540 has a preventive character and a **global application**, differently from most UNSCR, which respond to regional events and developments.

Security Council Calls for World Free of Nuclear Weapons During Historic Summit



Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, and US President Barack Obama adopt Resolution 1887 in 2009.

UN Photo / Mark Garten, <https://dam.media.un.org/asset-management/2AM9LOWNSVZ6>

In 2009, the UNSC convened an historic summit-level meeting chaired by United States President Barack Obama and unanimously adopted Resolution 1887, calling on all countries to sign and ratify the NPT and the CTBT and to refrain from conducting nuclear tests.

The summit was only the fifth in the Council's history to be held at the level of heads of state and governments.

Read a more detailed coverage of the summit on UN News

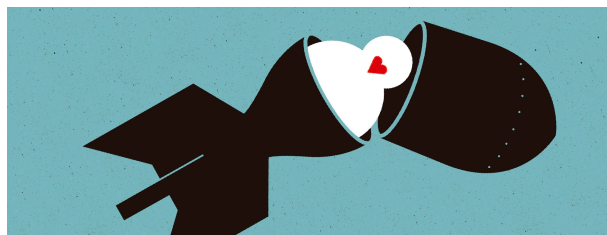
[<https://news.un.org/en/story/2009/09/314122>]

Quiz

View quiz at <https://eunpdc-elearning.netlify.app/lu-18/>

3. Supporting the United Nations Disarmament Machinery

Supporting the United Nations Machinery I: UN Bodies



UNODA

This video explains:

- the United Nations **Institute for Disarmament Research**
- the **Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters**

While the first Special Session on Disarmament held by the UNGA in 1978 originally identified the First Committee, the UNDC and the CD as the only components of the 'Disarmament Machinery,' over the years other institutions have been created and have contributed to the machinery's work, actively participating in the strengthening of the disarmament agenda.

Some by providing support through research, others by organizing experts' meetings and events, and others, by implementing major non-proliferation and disarmament treaties.

Let's now have a closer look to each of these institutions, and let's start with UNIDIR.

The **United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research**, also known as UNIDIR, was established in 1980 by the UNGA as an autonomous research institute – to conduct independent and impartial research and to facilitate multilateral dialogue on disarmament and arms control.

By organizing experts' meetings, conducting and publishing research projects, and working with governmental and non-governmental organisations, civil society and the private sector, UNIDIR acts as a bridge-builder between UN Member States and the research community.

With over 30 experts, researchers and fellows, UNIDIR's programme of work currently focuses on 5 thematic areas:

- WMD and Other Strategic Weapons
- Conventional Arms
- Security and Technology

- Gender and Disarmament
- Middle East Weapons of Mass Destruction Free Zone

The work of UNIDIR is reviewed by a Board of Trustees, officially known as the Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters.

The board is nominated by the Secretary General, who chooses its components among experts in the field of disarmament and international security from all regions of the world.

The board has 15 members and UNIDIR's Director is an ex officio member.

The United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research



UNIDIR

- established in 1980 by the UNGA
- organizes experts' meetings
- conducts and publishes research projects
- works with governmental and non-governmental organizations, civil society and the private sector
- its programme of work is based on the final document of the SSOD

Its **five thematic areas of work**:

1. WMD and Other Strategic Weapons
2. Conventional Arms
3. Security and Technology
4. Gender and Disarmament
5. Middle East Weapons of Mass Destruction Free Zone

For more information see UNIDIR's website
[<https://unidir.org/>]

The Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters



The Members of the Secretary General's Advisory Board on Disarmament (ABDM). Geneva, January 2020.
United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs

- established in 1978 pursuant to paragraph 124 of the Final Document of SSOD, it received its current mandate in 1999 pursuant to UNGA decision 54/418
- nominated by the UN SG
- 15 members
- meets two times per year, alternatively in Geneva and New York City

Its **main functions**:

- serves as the Board of Trustees of UNIDIR
- advises the SG on matters within the area of arms limitation and disarmament and on the implementation of the United Nations Disarmament Information Programmes

Further information on the Advisory Board
[<https://disarmament.unoda.org/institutions/advisoryboard/>]

Supporting the United Nations Machinery II: The UNODA

This video takes a closer look at the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs.

The **United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs** – usually known by its acronym UNODA – was originally established in 1982 upon the recommendation of the UNGA's Second Special Session on Disarmament. Previously under the names of Centre for Disarmament Affairs and Department for Disarmament Affairs, the Institution officially became the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs in 2007.

UNODA's main purpose is to provide substantive and organizational support to the Disarmament Machinery and to UN Member States and to contribute to the achievement of the ultimate goal of general and complete disarmament.

The UNODA achieves this purpose through, among other things: multilateral dialogue, transparency and confidence-building measures and through objective, impartial and up-to-date information on arms control and disarmament issues.

The Office also supports the development and implementation of practical disarmament measures after a conflict, such as disarming and demobilizing former combatants and helping them to reintegrate in civil society.

UNODA's work is organized in five main branches:

- the CD Secretariat and Conference Support Branch (Geneva), which provides assistance to the CD
- the Weapons of Mass Destruction Branch (WMD), which contributes to strengthen the non-proliferation regime
- the Conventional Arms Branch (CAB), which focuses on all weapons not considered WMD and their illicit trafficking
- the Information and Outreach Branch (IOB), which organizes events, produces UNODA's publications and maintains and updates content for the UNODA's website and its databases
- the Regional Disarmament Branch (RDB), through which the UNODA oversees and coordinates the activities of the regional centres for peace and disarmament in Lima, Lomé, and Kathmandu

You will learn more about these institutions and the regional centres of the UNODA in the next section.

The United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs



UNODA
UNITED NATIONS OFFICE FOR
DISARMAMENT AFFAIRS

UNODA

- established in 1982, upon the recommendation of the GA's Second Special Session on Disarmament (SSOD II)
- formerly "Centre for Disarmament Affairs" and "Department for Disarmament Affairs"
- provides substantive and organizational support to the UN Machinery and UN Member States

Some of its main activities:

- multilateral dialogue
- transparency and confidence-building measures
- objective, impartial and up-to-date information on arms control and disarmament issues
- outreach and education

Its **five main branches**:

1. the CD Secretariat and Conference Support Branch
2. the Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) Branch
3. the Conventional Arms Branch (CAB)

4. the Information and Outreach Branch (IOB)
5. the Regional Disarmament Branch (RDB)

Further information on UNODA
[\[https://disarmament.unoda.org/\]](https://disarmament.unoda.org/)

The United Nations Regional Centres for Peace and Disarmament

The United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa (UNREC)

Established in **1986** by the UNGA, UNREC is based in Lomé, Togo.

UNREC provides support to Member States of the **African region** towards the realization of measures to achieve **peace, arms limitations and disarmament**. To this scope, UNREC cooperates with the African Union, coordinating the implementation of regional activities.

More information on UNREC
[\[https://www.unrec.org/\]](https://www.unrec.org/)

The United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific (UNRCPD)

Established in **1987** by the UNGA, UNRCPD is based in Kathmandu, Nepal.

UNRCPD assists 43 countries in the region in their efforts to promote and implement **peace, security and disarmament** goals through education programmes, the promotion of dialogue, confidence-building measures and the organization of major annual conferences.

More information on UNRCPD
[\[https://www.unrcpd.org/\]](https://www.unrcpd.org/)

The United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Latin America and the Caribbean (UNLIREC)

Established in **1986** by the UNGA, UNLIREC is based in Lima, Perú.

UNLIREC supports the 33 States of the **Latin American and Caribbean region** in their implementation of **peace and disarmament** measures. Its main function is to translate the decisions, instruments and commitments of Member States in the field of disarmament and non-proliferation into action, at national, sub-regional and regional levels.

More information on UNLIREC
[\[https://www.unlirec.org/\]](https://www.unlirec.org/)

Interview with Angela Kane

In this video, Angela Kane speaks about her time as High Representative for Disarmament Affairs and Under Secretary-General.

Hi! I'm Angela Kane and I am the former High Representative for Disarmament Affairs and Under Secretary-General from 2012–2015, capping a long career in the United Nations.

I had worked in disarmament in the mid to late eighties and it was a difficult time at the time, simply because it was very hard relations between the United States and the then Soviet Union. When I came back to the department at the beginning of 2012, I was really surprised that not much had changed in terms of the structures. The structures were still the same! The same commissions, the same matter of organising ...

By that time in 2012, the optimism of the breakup of the fall of the wall in the late eighties / early nineties of the Soviet Union, and also the energy that was created by president Obama who had advocated reducing the numbers but particularly also the role of nuclear weapons in the US international security had already dissipated.

What was a highlight of the time that I spent as High Representative was clearly the adoption of the Arms Trade Treaty. That was a project that was twenty years in the making. It came to conclusion in 2013 and the treaty entered relative quickly into force already in December 2014. It was definitely a highlight and it now has 110 states parties with another 30 who are waiting to ratify the treaty – so that is definitely a success story of that time. Before the ATT, there was really no global set of rules which governed the trade in conventional weapons and there was a lot of diversion, particularly also to non-state actors, which was very dangerous. Now also at the time we had established a trust fund to assist states in their reporting for the ATT and which also funded NGOs to educate about the Arms Trade Treaty. This continues until today and in fact is extremely successful, witnessed by the fact that its member states continue to fund it.

An absolute highlight of my tenure was really the investigation of the chemical weapons attack in Syria in 2013. That was the first time that a chemical weapons investigation was carried out within days of its occurrence and which proved without a doubt that Sarin was used. No one has ever questioned the results of that investigation as it happened on the ground and with a chain of custody of samples that has remained until now unprecedented. It was incredibly stressful but I am very proud that we were able to move the goal post and that resulted in Syria joining the Chemical Weapons Convention. While the issue is still under monthly consideration by the Security Council, the impact continues to be there with more scrutiny and more investigations that followed. That was definitely a highlight during my tenure as High Representative for Disarmament Affairs.

Supporting the United Nations Machinery III: Other Multilateral Bodies

This video explains:

- the **CTBTO**
- the **OPCW**
- the **IAEA**

Among the institutions that support the work of the UN Disarmament Machinery we find those that are essential in implementing major non-proliferation and disarmament treaties. Among these, the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty Organization, the CTBTO, the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, the OPCW, and the International Atomic Energy Agency, the IAEA.

The **CTBTO**, officially the **Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty Organization** is the interim implementing body of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty – the treaty that prohibits any kind of nuclear weapons testing: on the Earth's surface, in the atmosphere, underwater and underground.

Since the Treaty is not yet in force, the organization is called the Preparatory Commission. Despite this, it has been very active and has established a remarkable, unique and comprehensive verification regime to ensure that no nuclear explosion goes undetected. Founded in 1996, and based in Vienna, the CTBTO has its own membership and budget, but it has a Relationship Agreement with the UN since the year 2000. Today, it has over 180 member states and will become fully operational when the Treaty will enter into force: that is, when all the 44 countries holder of nuclear technologies will sign and ratify the Treaty. As of January 2021, only eight countries are still missing: China, Egypt, India, Iran, Israel, North Korea, Pakistan and the United States. Of these, India, North Korea and Pakistan have also yet to sign the CTBT.

The **Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons**, or the **OPCW**, is the implementing body of the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC). Established in 1997, the organisation oversees the global endeavour to permanently and verifiably eliminate chemical weapons. The OPCW signed a Relationship Agreement with the UN in 2001. Today, the organisation has 193 member states and is responsible for the destruction of over 97% of all declared chemical weapons stockpiles worldwide.

In recognition of its extensive efforts and commitments, in 2013 the OPCW was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.

And finally, the **IAEA**.

While strictly not a disarmament organization, The **International Atomic Energy Agency**, also known as the IAEA, plays a fundamental role in countering the proliferation of nuclear weapons. The Agency, in fact, is responsible for the international safeguards system: a set of technical measures through which the IAEA verifies that states are not diverting their nuclear materials and technologies into nuclear weapons

programmes, using them only for peaceful purposes – honoring their international legal obligations.

Among other functions, the IAEA also encourages the development of peaceful applications of nuclear energy, science and technology and promotes the implementation of nuclear safety and nuclear security standards.

Established in 1957, the IAEA is an autonomous international organisation within the UN system. The IAEA Director General is a member of the UN Chief Executive Board and regularly participates in the meetings chaired by the SG of the UN.

The Agency is the world's central intergovernmental forum for scientific and technical cooperation in the nuclear field and its work is reported periodically to the UNGA and UNSC. It has over 170 member states and like the OPCW, in 2005 was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.

To learn more about the Chemical Weapons regime and the CWC please refer to learning unit 02 [/1u-02/].

To learn about the CTBTO, have a look at chapters 4 and 5 of learning unit 04 [/1u-04/].

Finally, you can learn about the work of the IAEA in learning unit 13 [/1u-13/].

Supporting the United Nations Machinery

The Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization



CTBTO Logo
CTBTO Preparatory Commission

- established in 1996
- interim implementing body of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty – the treaty that prohibits any kind of nuclear weapons testing: on the Earth's surface, in the atmosphere, underwater and underground
- 184 Member States

More information on CTBTO
[<https://www.ctbto.org/>]

The Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons

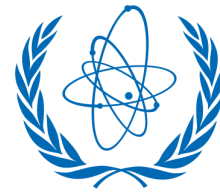


The OPCW logo emblem may be reproduced for use in materials documenting the work of the OPCW, <https://www.opcw.org/media-centre/opcw-logo>

- established in 1997
- implementing body of the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC); the organisation oversees the global endeavor to permanently and verifiably eliminate chemical weapons
- 193 Member States

More information on OPCW [<https://www.opcw.org/>]

The International Atomic Energy Agency



IAEA

International Atomic Energy Agency

Atoms for Peace and Development

International Atomic Energy Agency, <https://www.iaea.org/>

- established in 1957
- responsible for the international safeguards system: a set of technical measures through which the IAEA verifies that states are not diverting nuclear materials and technology into nuclear weapons programmes
- 171 Member States

More information on IAEA [<https://www.iaea.org/>]

Quiz

View quiz at <https://eunpdc-elearning.netlify.app/lu-18/>

4. Accomplishments and Shortcomings

Major Accomplishments Achieved Within the Framework of the Machinery

The **United Nations Disarmament Machinery** plays an invaluable role in the negotiation and adoption of major multilateral arms control, non-proliferation and disarmament treaties.



MINUSCA Peacekeepers Patrol PK5 Neighbourhood in Bangui, CAR
UN-Photo / Eskinder Debebe,
https://www.flickr.com/photos/un_photo/37173675904/in/album-72157614778816043/
(CC BY-NC-ND 2.0)

In this chapter you will learn more about some of the **major accomplishments** of the Disarmament Machinery.



The "Non-Violence" sculpture, also known as the "Knotted Gun," by Swedish artist Carl Fredrik Reuterswärd has been on display at the entrance to the General Assembly building at UN Headquarters in New York City since 1988.

Håkan Dahlström, [<https://www.flickr.com/photos/dahlstroms/16344250606/in/photolist-qUhyhf-8YP1SS-cQSNdh-4BGj29-2czpJw-CrfqmJ-73DszX-2jBX8B7-c7aFX-2itGXkZ-Etvbr-d4Aaxj-2kGDf6k-2kNGfiW-2g2Yaq3-zr2bZL-54F4yx-Du3xLd-8cpSZk-cNFt9A-Kj1SGz-7ZkWP-8ctdJU-7YH176-DGtGxx-zgUreP-2kM5wH1-iZoVgx-6brEqq-c8vGQh-Des66N-3atq8S-211qGot-8ohbAi-oJQCYp-N9PcaP-GqP1nb-7YLg7-fhHhC-bgjxHp-7unYJh-E246ac-GFGtEk-7ZhHsT-8Nfrid-7ZhJWD-7YGZAn-7ZhK5P-7zSgQM-7ZgwSY>] (CC BY 2.0)

Major Accomplishments Achieved Within the Framework of the Machinery - Weapons of Mass Destruction

• NPT - The Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty NPT The Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty

Negotiated in: the 18-Nation Disarmament Commission (later known as the CD) Commended by the UNGA with Res 2373

[[https://docs.un.org/en/A/RES/2373\(XXII\)](https://docs.un.org/en/A/RES/2373(XXII))]

Opened for signature: **1968** In force: **1970 191** Members

More info: LU 05: Nuclear Weapons II [/1u-05/] www.un.org/disarmament/wmd/nuclear/npt [<http://www.un.org/disarmament/wmd/nuclear/npt>]

• BTWC - The Biological Weapons Convention BTWC The Biological Weapons Convention

Negotiated in: the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament (later known as the CD) Commended by the UNGA with Res 2826 [<https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/192069?ln=en>]

Opened for signature: **1972** In force: **1975 183** Members

More info: LU 03: Biological Weapons [/1u-03/] www.un.org/disarmament/biological-weapons [<http://www.un.org/disarmament/biological-weapons>]

• CWC - The Chemical Weapons Convention CWC The Chemical Weapons Convention

Negotiated in: the Conference on Disarmament (CD) Commended by the UNGA with Res 47/39 [<https://undocs.org/en/A/RES/47/39>]

Opened for signature: **1993** In force: **1997 193** Members

More info: LU 02: Chemical Weapons [/1u-02/] www.un.org/disarmament/wmd/chemical [<http://www.un.org/disarmament/wmd/chemical>]

• CTBT - The Comprehensive Test Ban Non-Proliferation Treaty CTBT The Comprehensive Test Ban Non-Proliferation Treaty

Upgrade to the Limited Test Ban Treaty (1963) Negotiated in: the Conference on Disarmament (CD) Adopted by the UNGA with Res 50/245 [<https://undocs.org/en/A/RES/50/245>]

Opened for signature: **1996 Not yet in force 184** Members

More info: LU 04: Nuclear Weapons I [/1u-04/] www.un.org/disarmament/wmd/nuclear/ctbt/ [<http://www.un.org/disarmament/wmd/nuclear/ctbt/>]

• NWFZ - Nuclear Weapons Free Zones NWFZ Nuclear Weapons Free Zones

Definition, scope and obligations for States firstly negotiated in the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament (later the CD), and then adopted by the UNGA with Res 3472

[[https://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/3472\(XXX\)](https://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/3472(XXX))] - **1975**

Resulted in the adoption of numerous NWFZ treaties

More info: LU 06: WMD-Free Zones [/lu-06/] www.un.org/disarmament/wmd/nuclear/nwzf/ [http://www.un.org/disarmament/wmd/nuclear/nwzf/]

- **TPNW - The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons**

TPNW The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons

Negotiated in 2017 in a UN Conference convened by the UNGA through Res 71/258

[https://undocs.org/A/RES/71/258] Adopted in 2017 by a vote of 123 States in favour

Opened for signature: **2017** It officially entered into force on January 22, 2021

More info: LU 09: Humanitarian Arms Control I, Chapter 5 [/lu-09/follow-up-initiatives-and-challenges/]

www.un.org/disarmament/wmd/nuclear/tpnw/ [http://www.un.org/disarmament/wmd/nuclear/tpnw/]

Major Accomplishments Achieved Within the Framework of the Machinery - Conventional Weapons and Other Issues

- **CCW - The Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons**

CCW The Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons

Negotiated in 1980 in a UN Conference convened by the UNGA through Res 32/152

[https://treaties.un.org/doc/source/docs/A_RES_32_152-E.pdf] and Res 33/70

[https://treaties.un.org/doc/source/docs/A_RES_33_70-E.pdf].

Adopted in 1980 by a vote of 50 States in favour

Opened for signature: **1981** In force: **1983**,

Amended in **2001 125** Members

More info: LU 09: Humanitarian Arms Control I, Chapter 1 [/lu-09/introduction/]

[https://www.un.org/disarmament/the-convention-on-certain-conventional-weapons/]

- **APM - The Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention**
APM (Ottawa Treaty) The Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention

Started in the CCW, negotiations were carried out through the Ottawa Process Treaty welcomed by the UNGA with Res 52/38

[https://undocs.org/A/RES/52/38]

Opened for signature: **1997** In force: **1999 164** Members

More info: LU 09: Humanitarian Arms Control I, Chapter 2 [/lu-09/historical-overview-of-international-humanitarian-law-and-weapons-rules/] www.apminebanconvention.org [http://www.apminebanconvention.org]

- **PAROS - Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space - UN Resolution**
PAROS Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space - UN Resolution

Reaffirming the principles of the 1967 Outer Space Treaty and advocating for a ban on the weaponization of space, Res 52/37 [https://gafo-vote.un.org/UNODA/vote.nsf/91a5e1195dc97a630525656f005b8adf/e584577b93025c1305256541005798d7?OpenDocument] was adopted by the UNGA in 1997

Currently discussed in the Conference on Disarmament

More info: LU 08: Missiles and Space, Chapter 3 [/lu-08/intentional-threats-to-space-operations/]

www.un.org/disarmament/topics/outerspace [http://www.un.org/disarmament/topics/outerspace]

- **PoA - Programme of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons**

PoA Programme of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons

Negotiated in 2001 in a UN Conference convened by the UNGA through Res 54/54 part V

[https://undocs.org/A/RES/54/54]

Adopted by all UN Member States, which in 2005 also adopted the International Tracing Instrument (ITI)

More info: LU 10: Humanitarian Arms Control II [/lu-10/] [http://unrcpd.org/conventional-weapons/poa/]

- **CCM - The Convention on Cluster Munitions**
CCM The Convention on Cluster Munitions

Started in the CCW, negotiations were carried out through the Oslo Process UNGA urged all States to join with Res 70/54

[https://docs.un.org/A/RES/70/54]

Opened for signature: **2008** In force: **2010 108** Members

More info: LU 09: Humanitarian Arms Control I [/lu-09/]

[https://www.un.org/disarmament/ccm/]

- **ATT - Arms Trade Treaty**

ATT The Arms Trade Treaty

Negotiated in a UN Conference convened by the UNGA through Res 64/48

[https://undocs.org/A/RES/64/48]

Adopted by the UNGA with Res 67/234B [https://undocs.org/A/Res/67/234B]

Opened for signature: **2013** In force: **2014 130** Members

More info: LU 10: Humanitarian Arms Control II [/lu-10/] www.un.org/disarmament/convarms/att [http://www.un.org/disarmament/convarms/att]

The Role of Civil Society

Civil society plays a fundamental role in the advancement of **disarmament goals** and in assisting the United Nations Disarmament Machinery achieve its major accomplishments in the field.



Bertrand Russell, philosopher and logician, leads an anti-nuclear march in London, February 1961.

Tony French, https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Bertrand_Russell_leads_anti-nuclear_march_in_London_Feb_1961.jpg (CC BY-SA 4.0)



Visitors could leave their message during the global chalk art project 'CHALK4PEACE' at the UN Headquarters on International Day of Peace, 2016.

UN Photo / Laura Jarriel, https://dam.media.un.org/asset-management/2AM9LOB2B2B?WS=SearchResults&FR_1=W=1531&H=455

- marches
- studies and publications
- conferences
- side events at international conferences

... are only some of the ways in which civil society is able to generate incredible impact often resulting in the adoption of well-informed national policies and ground-breaking international treaties.

The Role of Civil Society: Example TPNW

The **Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW)** is one of the latest examples and results of civil society's efforts in promoting disarmament.

Adopted: 7 July 2017 **Opened for signature:** 20 September 2017 **Entered into force:** 22 January 2021

The treaty is the first **legally binding** international agreement that outlaws nuclear weapons, prohibiting their use, possessing, development, production, testing, stockpiling and transferring, among other things.

The ultimate goal of the TPNW is the total elimination of nuclear weapons.

The treaty was adopted following decades of international advocacy campaigns organized by civil society.

One of the major architects of the Treaty was **The International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN)**, a coalition of non-governmental organizations, which in 2017 was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in recognition of its efforts to draw attention to the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of the potential use of nuclear weapons.



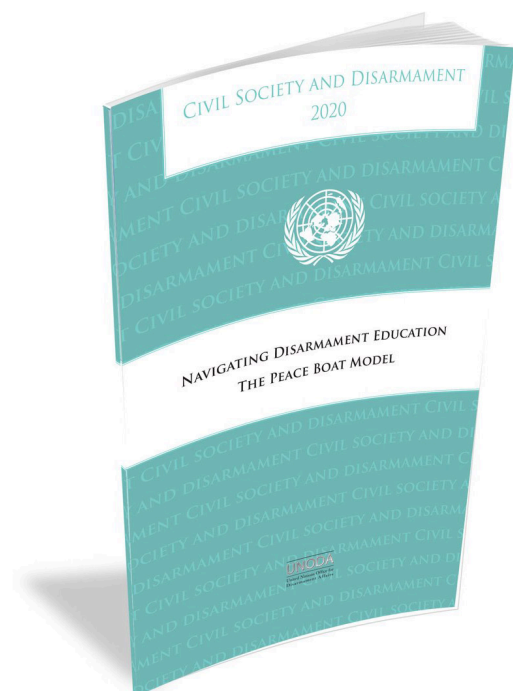
In 2016, two ICAN campaigners dressed as nuclear bombs express their confidence that a treaty banning nuclear weapons is on its way.

Tim Wright, <https://www.flickr.com/photos/icanw/26382368654/> (CC BY 2.0)

Civil Society and Disarmament Paper Series

The Office for Disarmament Affairs publishes the series entitled "Civil Society and Disarmament".

The series is published within the context of the General Assembly resolutions on the United Nations Disarmament Information Programme and the United Nations Study on Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Education.



In 2016, two ICAN campaigners dressed as nuclear bombs express their confidence that a treaty banning nuclear weapons is on its way.
UNODA / Peaceboat,
https://peaceboat.org/english/news/navigating_disarmament_event

The publication provides a forum for the views of civil society in order to further an informed debate on topical issues of arms limitation, disarmament and security.

More information on civil society and disarmament is provided on the United Nations website.
[<https://disarmament.unoda.org/publications/civilsociety/>]

The United Nations Disarmament Machinery: Some Criticism

The **UN** has historically been the laboratory and factory for the production of arms control and disarmament achievements, over the years.

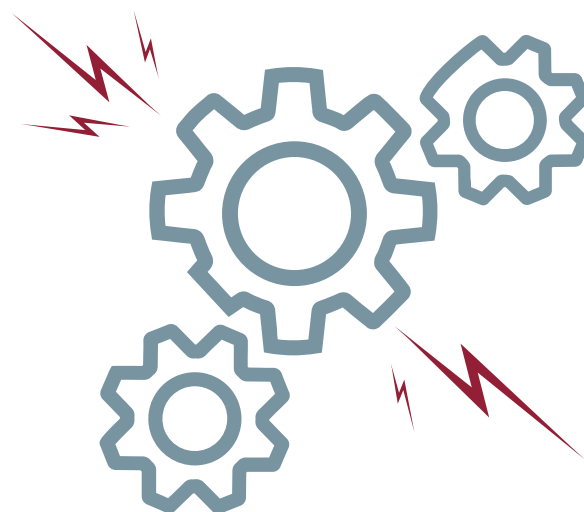
However, the work of the machinery has been subjected to some **considerable criticism**, mainly due to the inability of its bodies to produce substantive progress for the past several years.

In the following pages you will find some of the **main criticisms** that have been moved to the machinery, as well as some of the **main proposals** to overcome them.



Unbalanced United Nations Security Council
Zapiro, <https://www.zapiro.com/040926st>, All rights reserved

The United Nations Disarmament Machinery: Shortcomings



Grübelfabrik, CC BY-NC-SA

United Nation General Assembly First Committee

- Many of the adopted resolutions reiterate same ideas and proposals without producing concrete actions nor behavioural change.
- A large number of items in the agenda prevents focus on the real needs of the international community.

Jorge Morales Pedraza, The Reform of the United Nations Disarmament Machinery
[<https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s11115-015-0314-2>]

Conference on Disarmament

- Its consensus rule, originally designed to facilitate agreement among states, has instead provided a convenient cover for those who aim at blocking progress, leading to a stalemate.
- Political and regional groupings have never changed and reflect Cold War era divisions (i.e. some NATO countries are still in the Eastern Group).

Patricia Lewis, Ramesh Thakur, Arms Control, Disarmament and the United Nations
[<https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/517020?ln=en>]

United Nations Disarmament Commission

- Its work has been affected by a lack of political will to deal with certain issues at the multilateral level.
- Its reports to the UNGA often focus on the disagreements on disarmament issues rather than on ways to produce conceptual and substantive progress.

Sergio Duarte, How to Revitalize Disarmament Efforts
[<https://carnegieendowment.org/research/2013/01/how-to-revitalize-disarmament-efforts?lang=en>]

United Nations

- Security Council Resolutions
- United Nations sanction regimes resulted from the UN Security Council Resolutions at times have proved to be ineffective in curbing nuclear weapons programmes and ambitions.

John Hudson, David Francis, Why Did Sanctions Fail Against North Korea?
[<https://foreignpolicy.com/2016/09/09/why-did-sanctions-fail-against-north-korea/>]

The United Nations Disarmament Machinery: Some Proposals for Change

Over the years, various parties have voiced their opinion and made proposals on how to develop the Disarmament Machinery.

Within the United Nation General Assembly First Committee

- attach concrete actions to resolutions
- set specific timetables and deadlines for concrete actions
- limit number of resolutions
- limit speaking time in general debate
- resolutions to become binding if approved by consensus or $\frac{3}{4}$ of voters (currently UNGA Resolutions are not binding)

Within the Conference on Disarmament

- reconsider the composition of regional and political groups
- reconsider consensus rule, at least for the adoption of the agenda
- consider enlargement of the membership

Within the Machinery

- encourage dialogue among main bodies
- convene a SSOD-IV to put a stronger emphasis on nuclear disarmament, reaffirming the SSOD-I's mandate

Quiz

View quiz at <https://eunpdc-elearning.netlify.app/lu-18/>

5. The EU and the United Nations Disarmament Machinery

The EU and the United Nations Machinery I



EU HR Borrell meets UN Secretary General Guterres
European Union, <https://newsroom.consilium.europa.eu/permalink/p121474>

This video gives an overview of the EU's role supporting the UN Disarmament Machinery.

The European Union has always actively and fully supported the work of the United Nations, defined as “the cornerstone of multilateralism, the bridge to a better humanity, a better world”, in the words of the former President of the European Commission Jean-Claude Juncker.

The EU has also repeatedly expressed its support towards the work of the United Nations Disarmament Machinery.

In a statement at the United Nations General Assembly First Committee, in October 2019, the EU reiterated its support for the three mutually reinforcing fora of the Disarmament Machinery: the UN General Assembly First Committee, the Conference on Disarmament and the UN Disarmament Commission – as we have studied in chapter 2.

In the same statement, the EU also stressed the importance of continued financial support to the machinery and its various instruments, without which it could not otherwise properly function to achieve the global goal of international peace and security.

In the next slide, Eran Nagan from the European External Action Services will provide some brief comments on the work of the European Union in this field.

The EU and the United Nations Machinery II

In this video, Eran Nagan from the European External Action Service answers two questions:

- What is the EU's role in the UN disarmament system?
- How can the EU contribute to multilateral arms control?

Hi! My name is Eran Nagan from the European External Action Service. I'm the Chair of COARM, the Working Group for Conventional Arms Exports.

What is the EU's role in the UN disarmament system?

The EU is working towards a renewed rules-based multilateralism in order to make it fit for the 21st century – a model of multilateralism that serves good governance as well as EU and global interests and values. Cross-border challenges – like disarmament, non-proliferation – can only be addressed if countries work together. The United Nations system is the framework through which the international community can create greater security and stability for all. The EU is an extremely active player in the multilateral UN system. Together with member states, we operate as one delivering with a single voice. That's how we make the most out of our political and economic leverage. At the Council Working Party on Non-Proliferation and Arms Exports in Brussels, we prepare EU positions with member states. The EU Permanent Missions to the UN in New York, Geneva, and Vienna, also coordinate on non-proliferation and disarmament matters. This enables the EU to express common decisions at UN meetings, also to engage in negotiations on resolutions and to implement our shared arms control interests in the treaty bodies.

How can the EU contribute to multilateral arms control?

Now that the international arms control architecture is under severe pressure from geopolitical tensions, the EU will do more than ever to preserve and to strengthen it. We promote the full implementation of arms control treaties and lobby states to fulfil their obligations to prevent the use and spread of certain weapons. Our support to the Mine Ban Treaty and to the Biological Weapons Convention, guarantees a world without biological weapons and – in the future – also without landmines. We will join forces with our partners to keep arms control regimes fit for purpose in light of new technological developments. The Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons is a successful essential multilateral instrument that has prevented a global nuclear arms race for half a century. The EU supports its faithful implementation by all. Our assistance to the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons will continue to ensure that the ban on chemical weapons is upheld and that those using chemical weapons are held to account. The prevention of an arms race in outer space has the EU's special attention. We also support establishing a programme of action to advance responsible state behaviour in cyberspace. And the EU is helping to re-vitalize the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva, so that it will again serve as the principal negotiation

forum on disarmament. Through the budget for common foreign security policy, the EU supports the UN system's institutions and their treaty bodies for disarmament, including for instance the OPCW, the International Atomic Energy Agency, CTBTO, UNODA, UNIDIR ...

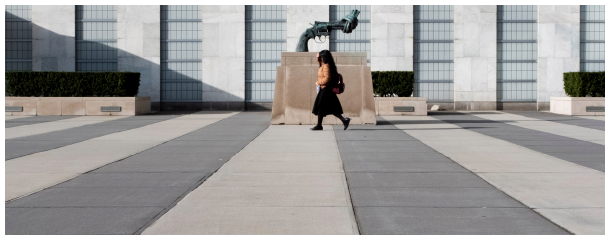
Our support amounts to over 200 million euros since the year 2004. It is part of our commitment to be a long-standing, reliable ally of the UN system, while discussing the changes these institutions need to make to meet modern challenges. This makes the EU-UN bond a truly strategic relationship. Finally, the EU

sponsors ten actions of the UN secretary-general's agenda for disarmament. These actions address nuclear, biological, chemical weapons, conventional arms, the participation of young people and women and much more.

In short: The EU promotes the reform of global governance. We are helping to create a multilateral system that makes effective, timely decisions. A system that is more inclusive, where governments, citizens and industries collaborate to build a safer world.

6. Summary and Further Reading

Summary I



Scene at UN Headquarters in New York
UN Photo / Manuel Elías, <https://dam.media.un.org/asset-management/2AM9L08B172>

Since its creation, the **United Nations** has been at the forefront of the global effort to **eliminate weapons of mass destruction and to regulate the trade of small arms and light weapons**.

To achieve these goals, the UN has set up what is referred to as the **UN Disarmament Machinery** – a set of multilateral processes, procedures and practices and international bodies whose purpose is to address disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control issues.



UN Flag on Opening Day of 65th General Debate
UN Photo / Mark Garten, <https://dam.media.un.org/asset-management/2AM9LOMGPAWH?WS=SearchResults>

The **UN Disarmament Machinery**, as established in the first Special Session on Disarmament (SSOD) convened by the United Nations General Assembly in 1978, is composed of:

- the United Nations General Assembly First Committee – which debates, drafts and adopts disarmament-related resolutions
- the United Nations Disarmament Commission – which deliberates basic disarmament concepts and principles and makes recommendations
- the Conference on Disarmament – which negotiates and adopts multilateral treaties

Summary II

The work of the UN Disarmament Machinery is supported by other institutions, which contribute to the definition and the achievement of the **Disarmament Agenda** through statements, research, experts' meetings and events and by monitoring the implementation of major non-proliferation and disarmament treaties.

These institutions are:

- the UN Secretary General
- the UN Security Council
- the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research
- the Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters
- the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs and its regional centers
- the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty Organization
- the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons
- the International Atomic Energy Agency

While over the years the **United Nations Disarmament Machinery** and its related institutions have been subjected to **growing criticism**, it is undeniable that it has played a **fundamental role** in shaping the arms control, non-proliferation and disarmament agenda and in providing a framework for the adoption of groundbreaking and extraordinarily forward-looking multilateral treaties.

Summary: the UN Disarmament Machinery Institutions that set norms

- UNGA – 1st Committee
- UN Disarmament Commission
- Conference on Disarmament
- UN Security Council

Supporting institutions

- UN Secretary General
- UN Office for Disarmament Affairs
- UN Institute for Disarmament Research

Institutions that implement norms (WMD treaties)

- IAEA
- OPCW
- Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty Organization

Some Useful Readings

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