



# General Assembly

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## Seventy-fifth session

Item 103 (t) of the preliminary list\*

### General and complete disarmament

## Disarmament and non-proliferation education

### Report of the Secretary-General

#### *Summary*

The present report is submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution [73/59](#), in which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to prepare a report reviewing the results of the implementation of the recommendations made in the United Nations study on disarmament and non-proliferation education and reviewing possible new opportunities for promoting disarmament and non-proliferation education. It contains information from Member States, international, regional and non-governmental organizations and academic institutions on the implementation of the 34 recommendations of the 2002 United Nations study ([A/57/124](#)).

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\* [A/75/50](#).



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## I. Introduction

1. In paragraph 2 of its resolution 73/59, entitled “United Nations study on disarmament and non-proliferation education”, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to prepare a report reviewing the results of the implementation of the recommendations made in the study (A/57/124) and possible new opportunities for promoting disarmament and non-proliferation education, and to submit it to the Assembly at its seventy-fifth session. Recommendation 32 of the United Nations study encouraged the Secretary-General to prepare a biennial report along the same lines.

2. Recommendation 31 of the study encouraged Member States, inter alia, to inform the Office for Disarmament Affairs of steps taken to implement the recommendations contained in the study.

3. The present report contains information compiled by the Secretary-General on the implementation of the recommendations by Member States, the United Nations and other international, regional and non-governmental organizations and should be read in conjunction with the 34 recommendations of the study. Pursuant to United Nations guidelines on limiting documentation, the information contained in the present report, as well as additional material, is available at [www.un.org/disarmament/education](http://www.un.org/disarmament/education).

4. Pursuant to that request, a note verbale was sent to Member States on 23 January 2020 inviting them to provide information on the subject. A revised note verbale was sent to Member States on 4 May 2020 extending the deadline for submission of reports until 31 May 2020. The replies received are contained in section II below. Any replies received after 31 May 2020 will be posted on the website of the Office for Disarmament Affairs ([www.un.org/disarmament/](http://www.un.org/disarmament/)) in the original language received. No addenda will be issued.

5. In its resolution 73/79, the General Assembly also requested the Secretary-General to submit to the Assembly at its seventy-fifth session a report covering the implementation by the United Nations system of the activities of the United Nations Disarmament Information Programme. The two reports should be read in conjunction.

## II. Implementation of the recommendations by Member States

### Cuba

[Original: Spanish]

[20 April 2020]

Education relating to the objective of disarmament and non-proliferation should be a priority of all States, since it is a key instrument in the promotion of international peace and security, as well as general and complete disarmament.

At a time when the international arena is becoming increasingly dangerous and complex, our nations are facing unprecedented challenges, with the proliferation of wars and the arms race, and the intensification of non-conventional warfare, acts of aggression, unilateral sanctions, manipulation and politicization of human rights, and disregard for the right to self-determination of peoples.

Cuba supports the need to educate its population, especially children and young people, in a culture of peace that promotes general and complete disarmament, without abandoning national defence and in compliance with the international instruments on the topic, to which Cuba is a State party, all aspects that are included in its long-term education and training programmes.

Nuclear arsenals compromise international peace and security and threaten the future of the human race. Accordingly, Cuba places the highest priority on the objective of nuclear disarmament, and was therefore quick to sign and ratify the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

There is no justification for including the use of these types of weapons in military doctrines. We welcome the fact that the new Treaty also expressly prohibits the threat of the use of nuclear weapons.

Cuban society is now more aware of matters concerning disarmament, non-proliferation and peacekeeping. The mass media have prepared public service messages on the subject, especially during the commemoration of the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons, held on 26 September each year.

As part of their instructional work, Cuban educational centres help to raise awareness among their students of the importance of peace, disarmament and non-proliferation.

As part of their educational programmes, the higher education institutions of the Revolutionary Armed Forces provide information on international conventions concerning disarmament and non-proliferation. The Centre for Disarmament and International Security Studies, which falls under the Ministry of the Revolutionary Armed Forces, provides systematic training to officials and other professionals working in areas related to the subject, which allows them to enhance their expertise in disarmament and international security.

Cuban non-governmental organizations also play an important role in disarmament education. For almost 20 years, the Movimiento Cubano por la Paz y la Soberanía de los Pueblos (Cuban Movement for Peace and Sovereignty of Peoples) and the Sociedad Económica de Amigos del País (Economic Society of Friends of the Nation) have been conducting national peace education workshops in various national educational institutions. The United Nations Association of Cuba also frequently holds events on this subject.

Commander-in-Chief Fidel Castro, the historic leader of the Cuban Revolution, was an indefatigable advocate, nationally and internationally, for nuclear disarmament. In numerous articles and speeches, he drew attention to the implications that the use of nuclear weapons would have for global stability and the life of the planet. We are convinced that the dissemination of information on the dangers of nuclear weapons is crucial for society in general to advocate their total elimination.

Cuba believes that peace education and disarmament are vital to ensure a safer future for upcoming generations. The human race needs a future where most resources are allocated to socially beneficial activities, such as education, culture, health and sport, and not to huge military budgets for waging war, and a future where science and technology are directed towards achieving sustainable development and not developing new and more modern weapons that endanger the existence of the human race.

## **India**

[Original: English]  
[31 May2020]

India is cognizant of the necessity to bridge the overwhelming need for disarmament and non-proliferation education. India is committed to promoting arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation education under General Assembly resolution [71/57](#) entitled “United Nations study on disarmament and non-proliferation education” and in line with the focus on disarmament education in the Secretary-

General's disarmament agenda, *Securing Our Common Future: An Agenda for Disarmament*. To contribute to disarmament and non-proliferation objectives, India has been conducting an annual disarmament and international security affairs fellowship programme since 2019.

India's disarmament fellowship programme aims to promote and deepen discussions on the various aspects of the disarmament and arms control issues in the context of international security challenges faced by the international community today. In line with India's firm belief in a multipolar world, the programme has endeavoured to bring together participants from geographically diverse regions encompassing all the continents, bringing different perspectives in multilateral deliberations, mechanisms and instruments. The programme registered participation of young diplomats from 26 and 23 countries in 2019 and 2020 respectively.

India firmly believes that the global disarmament machinery requires, at the national, regional and global levels, skilled and trained diplomats who can negotiate and decide on complex and existential global security issues. The disarmament fellowship programme reflects the high importance that India attaches to enhancing the understanding of disarmament and non-proliferation through education, as laid out in the final document of the special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament. India strongly believes that the younger generations are important stakeholders in international peace and security and encourages them to make a constructive contribution as national and global citizens to the disarmament dialogue and bring effective change. In pursuance of that objective and aiming towards capacity-building and contributing positively to the disarmament deliberations and negotiations, India has also actively participated in the United Nations disarmament fellowship course over the years.

## Japan

[Original: English]  
[31 May 2020]

As the only country to have ever suffered atomic bombings during war, Japan is committed to ensuring that the humanitarian consequences and tragedies of Hiroshima and Nagasaki will never be forgotten. With that aim, and also as champion of action 38, entitled "Establish a platform for youth engagement", under the Secretary-General's disarmament agenda, *Securing Our Common Future: An Agenda for Disarmament*, Japan places utmost importance on disarmament and non-proliferation education, especially for the younger generation, so as to encourage that generation to think for itself and act on matters of international security, and disarmament and non-proliferation, at the national, social and individual levels.

The final document of the Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, held in 2010, highlighted education as a useful and effective means to advance nuclear disarmament. It encouraged all States to implement the recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations study on disarmament and non-proliferation education of 2002. Japan reiterates the significance of those recommendations and encourages all States Members of the United Nations to put them into practice.

Japan is of the view that it is important to carry out disarmament and non-proliferation education in an inclusive and collaborative way with all relevant actors, in all States and regions, and for everyone regardless of generation or gender. In his 2002 report, the Secretary-General stressed the importance of partnerships among Governments, international and regional organizations, and civil society

organizations. Japan has made an effort to encourage dialogue and strengthen cooperation among a diverse range of actors.

Japan's efforts have included the following:

(a) Japan has invited young diplomats from various countries through the United Nations disarmament fellowship programme every year since 1983, and to date, 958 fellows have travelled to Japan and visited Hiroshima and Nagasaki to learn about the realities of the use of nuclear weapons.

(b) Japan has been sponsoring United Nations Conference on Disarmament issues in different cities since 1989, where representatives of States, the United Nations, academic institutions and civil society from around the world engage in useful discussions.

(c) During the preparatory process for the 2020 Review Conference of the Parties to the Non-Proliferation Treaty, Japan submitted a joint working paper on disarmament and non-proliferation education together with the members of the Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Initiative to the first and third sessions of the Preparatory Committees for the Review Conference, following a joint working paper submitted to the 2015 Review Conference. Japan also made a joint statement on disarmament and non-proliferation education on behalf of the 55 countries at the third session of the Preparatory Committee.

(d) Japan has published white papers that provide useful information on disarmament and non-proliferation, as well as pamphlets summarizing Japan's efforts.

(e) Japan started a programme, in 2010, entitled "Special communicators for a world without nuclear weapons" for the purpose of sharing the first-hand experience of the survivors of the atomic bombing (who are known as the *hibakusha*). In addition, Japan launched a new programme, entitled "Youth communicators for a world without nuclear weapons," in 2013. Under that programme, young people are expected to share the tragic consequences of nuclear weapons and their thoughts about possible steps across borders and generations. As at 31 May 2020, a total of 299 special communicators, on 101 occasions, and a total of 405 youth communicators, on 35 occasions, have been dispatched around the world through these commission programmes.

(f) Japan has held the forum of Youth Communicators for a World without Nuclear Weapons three times since March 2016 with a view to revitalizing the activities of Youth Communicators for a World without Nuclear Weapons and strengthening the networks of youth communicator alumni in Japan and other countries.

(g) Japan has undertaken efforts to make testimonies of the *hibakusha* more widely available and has translated them into 13 languages: English, German, Dutch, Romanian, Turkish, Spanish, Polish, Hindi, Urdu, French, Russian, Ukrainian and Indonesian.

(h) In March 2018, Japan held a screening event for *Nagasaki: Memories of my Son* at the Vienna International Centre in Austria.

(i) Further to the recommendation contained in the 2002 report by the Secretary-General to use new information and communications technology in order to promote education on disarmament and non-proliferation, Japan has opened a Facebook account and made the most of social media so as to provide relevant material on nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament to people worldwide.

(j) In 2015, the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, in cooperation with the Japanese Government, opened a permanent exhibition on the atomic bombings at the

United Nations Office at Vienna, following those in New York and Geneva, to promote understanding of the terrible devastation caused by the use of nuclear weapons.

## **Mexico**

[Original: Spanish]  
[20 April 2020]

For Mexico, education and promotion of the values, actions and objectives of disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation are vital for the achievement of a world free of nuclear weapons, and for the consolidation of a culture of peace and a safer world.

Mexico believes that it is highly important for upcoming generations to have the tools they need to achieve and maintain a peaceful and weapons-free world.

Over the past few years, Mexico has been promoting various educational and dissemination activities relating to disarmament, primarily nuclear disarmament, with a view to enhancing knowledge, strengthening debates on the subject and highlighting new initiatives for the achievement of a world free of such weapons. In that connection:

The study plans and programmes of the Ministry of Defence and the Ministry of the Navy, respectively, include courses on disarmament and non-proliferation with the goal of educating teachers and students alike about the implications for the country of the proliferation of weapons, primarily small and light weapons. In that connection, the National Defence College has included a learning unit entitled “Risks and threats to national security” and a competency unit entitled “Classification of terrorism and weapons of mass destruction” in its training.

The Matías Romero Institute (diplomatic academy of Mexico) includes courses on disarmament in its training programmes not only for Mexican diplomats and military and naval graduates, but also for federal officials affiliated with the Mexican Foreign Service who will be assigned to Mexican missions abroad.

The Ministry of Public Education, through the Department of Basic Education, takes measures designed to promote “a culture of peace and the peaceful settlement of disputes”.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has participated in various round tables, forums and classes of educational institutions in Mexico and abroad with discussions on nuclear disarmament and the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons.

Since 2014, Mexico, in coordination with the James Martin Centre for Non-Proliferation Studies, the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (OPANAL), and the Matías Romero Institute, has been holding an annual summer course on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation for Latin American and Caribbean diplomats.

The objective of the course is to provide a space for analysis, reflection and discussion on the importance of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation through comprehensive training on the basic concepts, technologies and policies relating to nuclear weapons; the multilateral nuclear disarmament processes that gave rise to nuclear weapons treaties; and new developments and perspectives.

Mexico believes that this initiative contributes to the training of new nuclear disarmament experts in the region, who will in turn help to generate debate on the subject and develop new initiatives for the achievement of a world free of nuclear weapons.

At the regional level, Mexico worked together with OPANAL as part of the group on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation education responsible for designing the OPANAL course on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation education.

As part of the Organization of American States, since 2004, Mexico has been submitting a resolution that generally makes reference to the importance of promoting in society a culture of non-violence and peace among States.

Since 2019, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Congress, the Government of Mexico City, the Cuauhtémoc city council and OPANAL have been organizing the annual celebrations marking the opening for signature of the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean, held on 14 February, to commemorate the contributions and validity of that important Treaty.

The commemoration is part of the national efforts to promote peace and disarmament education activities in Mexican society. In particular, it is aimed at raising awareness among upcoming generations of the danger that nuclear weapons represent for the very existence of the human race.

At the United Nations, Mexico submits the draft resolution entitled “United Nations study on disarmament and non-proliferation education” every two years in the First Committee of the General Assembly.

Almost 20 years since the adoption of the resolution on the United Nations study on disarmament and non-proliferation education, its outcomes and recommendations remain valid. Governments must make a commitment and work together with civil society and academic institutions to promote disarmament education, non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and a culture of peace.

In the First Committee, Mexico was also one of the sponsors of the first resolution on youth, disarmament and non-proliferation (submitted by the Republic of Korea and adopted as General Assembly resolution [74/64](#)), which contains major provisions on disarmament and peace education.

Mexico has positioned itself as a champion of various actions on the disarmament agenda put forward by the Secretary-General, especially those relating to Action 38.

The Permanent Mission of Mexico to the United Nations has also maintained its Youth Delegate Programme, with youth delegates participating specifically in the consideration of disarmament and non-proliferation issues during the work of the First Committee.

The Government of Mexico works in close collaboration with various civil society organizations and coalitions in affirming the centrality of education for current and future generations.

The National Autonomous University of Mexico continues to hold promotional events on disarmament and non-proliferation among the student and academic community. Its bachelor’s degree programme in international relations also includes a course covering the topics of conventional, chemical, biological and nuclear disarmament.

Mexico will continue to call upon all Governments to take measures to promote disarmament and non-proliferation education, out of conviction that all States have the possibility and the duty to contribute to this cause.

## Qatar

[Original: Arabic]

[16 April 2020]

With regard to General Assembly resolution [73/59](#) entitled “United Nations study on disarmament and non-proliferation education”, please find below measures taken by Qatar to promote disarmament and non-proliferation education:

1. Qatar established a National Committee for the Prohibition of Weapons within the Ministry of Defence in accordance with Cabinet Decision No. 26 of 2004. The Committee’s competences include following up implementation of international conventions on disarmament. The National Committee for the Prohibition of Weapons acts as a point of contact between the State of Qatar and international disarmament organizations.
2. Under Cabinet Decision No. 45 of 2007, the competences of the National Committee for the Prohibition of Weapons were amended to include drafting and implementing programmes to raise awareness of the content of international arms prohibition conventions.
3. The State of Qatar has acceded to numerous international conventions and treaties on the elimination of weapons of mass destruction and other prohibited weapons.
4. The National Committee for the Prohibition of Weapons disseminates information and raises awareness about those agreements among the civilian population to promote disarmament and non-proliferation education. It also holds annual awareness workshops for male and female students at high schools, universities, private colleges and military colleges, and for employees of State institutions and civil society organizations, to raise national capacities in this area, in line with Qatar National Vision 2030.
5. The National Committee for the Prohibition of Weapons publishes information on conventions on weapons of mass destruction and on disarmament awareness in coordination with the relevant authorities through the Committee’s website ([www.ncpw.org.qa](http://www.ncpw.org.qa)).
6. As part of its annual educational and awareness programmes, the National Committee for the Prohibition of Weapons has set aside funds for prizes to encourage male and female high school and university students to conduct scientific research and design awareness posters on conventions on weapons of mass destruction, and other internationally prohibited weapons and their dangers. It has awarded valuable monetary prizes to contest winners. That demonstrates the commitment of the National Committee for the Prohibition of Weapons to fulfilling its duty to affirm and support the role of Qatar in maintaining international peace and security. Qatar is in fact a world leader in trying out such experiments at the national, regional and international levels.
7. Awareness and educational lectures on weapons of mass destruction (biological, chemical and nuclear) have been given at a number of independent secondary schools for females and males to educate students about the dangers of such weapons. Such lectures are a part of the field campaign of the National Committee for the Prohibition of Weapons and its mission to raise awareness at workplaces within various sectors of society about weapons of mass destruction and disarmament agreements.
8. The National Committee for the Prohibition of Weapons has put together a 225-page booklet entitled “Non-War-Related Military Operations: Disarmament”,

which deals with topics related to disarmament education. It has also put together a 55-page booklet entitled “Activities of the National Committee for the Prohibition of Weapons during the 2011–2013 period”, which was distributed to the armed forces and Government ministries in Qatar.

9. In 2016, the National Committee for the Prohibition of Weapons prepared information digests on weapons of mass destruction (nuclear, chemical and biological) for inclusion in high school curricula in coordination with the Ministry of Education and Higher Education of Qatar.
10. In 2012, Qatar established the Doha Regional Centre for Training on the Conventions on Weapons of Mass Destruction in collaboration with the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons. It operates under the aegis of the National Committee for the Prohibition of Weapons, and provides training and education services on disarmament and non-proliferation at the local, regional, Asian and international levels.
11. In 2014, the National Committee for the Prohibition of Weapons concluded a memorandum of understanding with Georgetown University in Qatar, and in 2015, it signed a memorandum of understanding with Qatar University. Both memorandums concerned cooperation agreements between the two parties to involve students and faculty in academic and research activities that tie together theoretical and applied aspects of the role of arms prohibition conventions in supporting international peace and security, and to promote disarmament and non-proliferation education.
12. The National Committee for the Prohibition of Weapons has for the first time included university students in national delegations to international disarmament conferences. Those delegations have included the following:
  - (a) In 2016, one male and one female student from Georgetown University in Qatar attended the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) General Conference.
  - (b) Also in 2016, two female students from Qatar University attended the eighth Review Conference of the States Parties to the Biological Weapons Convention.
  - (c) In 2017, four students from Qatar University attended the Review Conference of the States Parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention in The Hague and the Review Conference of the States Parties to the Biological Weapons Convention in Geneva.
  - (d) In 2018, a student from Qatar University attended the fourth Review Conference of the States Parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention in The Hague.
13. From 2017 to 2020, in collaboration with the Qatar Debate Centre of the Qatar Foundation, the National Committee for the Prohibition of Weapons held four public debates on conventions on weapons of mass destruction for university students in Qatar. Participants included Qatar University, Georgetown University in Qatar, Carnegie Mellon University in Qatar, Weill Cornell Medical College in Qatar and Sherborne School in Qatar.

### III. Implementation of the recommendations by the United Nations and other international and regional organizations

#### A. Office for Disarmament Affairs

[Original: English]

6. The Office for Disarmament Affairs continued to build upon its work to promote disarmament and non-proliferation education, focusing on further implementation of the recommendations contained in the 2002 United Nations study on the matter.

7. Several new elements were added to the content of the disarmament education website. Those elements included an award-winning historical novel about a young girl who lived with her family in Hiroshima, Japan, during the last year of the Second World War. Entitled *The Last Cherry Blossom*, the fictional account of author Kathleen Burkinshaw is based on the life of her mother, who as a 12-year-old child witnessed the horror of the world's first atomic bomb.

8. The Office also partnered with Hibakusha Stories, an initiative of the non-governmental organization Youth Arts New York, to host a workshop aimed at helping New York City public high school teachers to encourage their students to think critically about nuclear-weapon issues. The teach-the-teacher workshop, held at United Nations Headquarters, included testimonies from hibakusha advocates, a briefing on developments in the First Committee at the seventy-fourth session of the General Assembly and a presentation on the destructive effect of a nuclear explosion in a populated urban area.

9. In a new addition to its collection of work by students from around the world, the disarmament education website featured a second project undertaken by students at Nagasaki Higashi High School, Japan, on the impact of the atomic bombings as seen through the eyes of their survivors (hibakusha).

10. During the reporting period, diplomats and other officials from 50 Member States participated in the United Nations Programme of Fellowships on Disarmament, an initiative established by the General Assembly at its tenth special session in 1978 and implemented by the Office for Disarmament Affairs. By providing specialized training to disarmament fellows, the Programme continued to support greater expertise in disarmament, arms control and non-proliferation issues, and a better understanding of the challenges and opportunities in the field of multilateral disarmament and international security.

11. The Office continued offering opportunities, through the United Nations Associate Expert Programme, for young university graduates to build professional experience. In addition, the Office trained more than 25 graduate students in New York, Geneva and Vienna through the United Nations internship programme in 2018.

12. In 2019, a number of milestones were reached in efforts to support the entry of young people into the field of disarmament. By its resolution [74/64](#) of 12 December 2019, entitled "Youth, disarmament and non-proliferation", the General Assembly reaffirmed the important and positive contribution that young people can make in sustaining peace and security. In addition, the Office launched a new youth outreach initiative, called Youth4Disarmament, with the aim of connecting geographically diverse young people with experts to learn about current international security challenges, the work of the United Nations and how young people can be active participants. Under the initiative, the Office on several occasions brought together young people to discuss international peace and security.

13. With generous financial support from the Government of Germany, the Office launched a call for applications for the Youth Champions for Disarmament training programme, which provides learning opportunities to 10 young people on disarmament issues and a two-week study tour to Vienna, Geneva, Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

14. During the reporting period, the Vienna office of the Office for Disarmament Affairs continued to expand its engagement in awareness-raising and education related to disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control, and organized a range of outreach activities and capacity-building programmes for young professionals, particularly women. Moreover, the Vienna office established a range of self-paced online courses on issues related to disarmament and non-proliferation on its online learning platform, the Disarmament Education Dashboard, and continued to improve the Dashboard's substance and functionalities.

15. The Dashboard has grown into an essential tool used by training course participants, partners, donors and, in increasing numbers, the general public. It allows for the creation of tailor-made training courses, both basic and advanced, in accordance with audience demand.

16. The Vienna office continued its engagement with Vienna-based organizations and entities in the areas of disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control, supporting a range of outreach and education activities, particularly for young professionals in the field. It continued its partnership with the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) to implement a capacity-building and training programme for young professionals in the OSCE region. During the reporting period, OSCE provided, through its Scholarship for Peace and Security, online scholarships for 250 early-career professionals and in-person training for a limited number of sponsored participants, with an emphasis on female candidates.

17. Throughout the reporting period, the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean worked with States to empower youth in ensuring that their educational and recreational spaces remain safe havens protected from the scourge of small-arms violence.

18. Through media-monitoring research, the Regional Centre tracked incidents involving small arms in schools across the region; the incidents included acts of violence committed with arms and simply the illegal presence of arms on school grounds. The Regional Centre examined the growing phenomenon of small-arms-related violence in schools across the region, along with existing national public policy and legislative responses. The result was a comprehensive study published by the Regional Centre on the approaches taken by Latin American and Caribbean States to address the phenomenon of small arms in schools, and the associated challenges and responses. The study was successful in contributing to effective and informed programmatic responses designed to strengthen the institutional capacity of States to address the challenge, and in generating momentum for social transformation.

19. Peru invited the Regional Centre to replicate that work at the local level by targeting municipal education boards and teachers, and a Lima-based network of youth group leaders, concerning the link between arms and schools.

20. The United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific conducted, from March to November 2019, a baseline assessment of peace and disarmament education needs in selected States in the region. The project aimed to determine how best to support Member States in enhancing the effectiveness of disarmament education in promoting international peace, security and sustainable development. The assessment was conducted in Bangladesh, Indonesia, Kyrgyzstan, Myanmar, Nepal, the Philippines, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka and Tajikistan.

21. The baseline assessment for disarmament education provided an in-depth understanding of the gaps in knowledge and programming in the selected countries. It also indicated potential themes and needs at the subregional and regional levels, including the mainstreaming of disarmament education and awareness-raising campaigns; the development of programmes for gender and youth; and the importance of educating the educators. The baseline assessment provided a foundation for future disarmament education activities focused on building safer and more secure environments for future generations in Asia and the Pacific. The Regional Centre developed and launched two projects, entitled “Responsible innovation for a secure environment in Asia and the Pacific” and “Educating the educators: strengthening academic infrastructures for disarmament and non-proliferation education in Asia”, which address areas of critical importance to disarmament education.

22. In 2019 and 2020, the Regional Centre continued active collaboration with the Hiroshima office of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research in implementing the Nuclear Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Training Programme, dedicated to the seventy-fifth anniversary of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and the fiftieth anniversary of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

23. The Regional Centre actively worked to engage youth on issues of arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation. From 15 to 19 July 2019, it supported the United States Embassy in Nepal and the Youth Thinkers’ Society, a local non-governmental organization, in welcoming 200 young delegates from 20 Asian countries to the Everest International Model United Nations conference, held in Kathmandu. On 21 and 22 August 2019, the Regional Centre followed up on that support by contributing to the Rotaract Global Model United Nations conference, which was held in Pokhara, Nepal, by the Nepal-Bhutan District of Rotary International and brought together about 100 young people from Bhutan, India, Lebanon, Nepal, Pakistan and Uganda to participate in a simulated United Nations conference. At both meetings, the Regional Centre held expert sessions on issues ranging from nuclear non-proliferation to cybersecurity, preventing violent extremism, and the women and peace and security agenda.

24. The Regional Centre partnered with and contributed to the fourteenth International Youth Media Summit, held in July and August 2019 in Pokhara. The summit brought together young film-makers from 30 nations and provided media skill-building workshops at which they produced thematic films about current global issues, such as discrimination, the environment, poverty, gender-based violence and youth empowerment.

25. In February 2020, the Regional Centre, in partnership with the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs and the Republic of Korea, initiated a project dedicated to the issue of youth and disarmament, entitled “A future without weapons: youth perspectives on disarmament and non-proliferation in Northeast Asia”.

26. The United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa continued to distribute its electronic newsletter to about 8,000 global subscribers, providing information about not only the mandate and activities of the Regional Centre but also current trends and future directions in the disarmament community.

## **B. Department of Global Communications**

[Original: English]

27. The global network of 59 United Nations information centres of the Department of Global Communications continued to inform, engage and educate local audiences in local languages on disarmament and non-proliferation issues.

28. During the reporting period, the information centres organized events and campaigns to promote the work of the United Nations on disarmament and non-proliferation, and to educate youth and the general public on those issues and the devastating consequences of nuclear weapons.

29. In 2018, to mark the International Day against Nuclear Tests on 29 August, the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization and the Spanish non-governmental organization (NGO) Paz y Cooperación launched a campaign in which students aged 17 and under were invited to submit artwork to promote putting an end to nuclear explosions and working together for a safer world. To mark the International Day in 2019, the winning entries were displayed at an event held at the United Nations Office at Vienna and moderated by the Director of the United Nations Information Service in Vienna.

30. In December 2018, two participants from the Visitors Service of the United Nations Information Service in Vienna joined counterparts from New York and Geneva in the second round of a briefing programme on the destructive power of nuclear weapons, hosted by the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum, Japan. The programme aimed to equip United Nations Visitors Service staff and tour guides with first-hand knowledge to help them explain exhibits on the subject and effectively communicate the United Nations goal of a world without nuclear weapons.

31. In 2019, the United Nations office in Kyiv displayed online a series of photographs that had been collected from United Nations entities and partners in Ukraine and depicted the risks of landmines, demining activities and affected populations. The photographs were also exhibited in Kyiv city centre during the commemoration of the International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action in April 2019, and were later displayed in eastern regions of Ukraine. In addition, the office provided communication support to the mine action subcluster of the humanitarian country team and, together with the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, developed a communication campaign for the International Day on Facebook and Instagram. The office also developed a quiz on mine awareness, which reached more than 32,000 people on Facebook.

32. In September 2019, the Director of the United Nations information centre in Tokyo moderated an event to commemorate the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons, co-hosted by the centre and civil society organizations. The speakers, who included the renowned actress Yoshinaga Sayuri, stressed the importance of using all possible outlets to work towards the abolition of nuclear weapons.

33. The United Nations information centre in Tokyo subtitled and, in September 2019, posted on its YouTube channel a video entitled “What is the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons?” in Japanese. The centre, together with the Japan NGO Network for Nuclear Weapons Abolition, organized a symposium to commemorate the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons at the United Nations University headquarters building. The centre presented the Secretary-General’s message for the International Day, together with messages related to peace, followed by presentations by representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the NGO Network.

34. In September 2019, the United Nations Regional Information Centre for Western Europe in Brussels supported the opening of an exhibit on the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and the consequences of nuclear proliferation. The Centre’s Desk Officer for Germany delivered the opening remarks.

*Dag Hammarskjöld Library*

35. The Dag Hammarskjöld Library analysed and indexed all documents issued and considered by the First Committee during the seventy-third and seventy-fourth sessions of the General Assembly, as well as speeches and votes related to disarmament, and made them available for online access to delegates, United Nations officials and researchers worldwide.

*Website and social media*

36. The Department created and maintained the multilingual, branded and fully accessible website of the 2020 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, and updated and maintained the website of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004) and the website of the Military Staff Committee.

37. The Department also updated and maintained the multilingual and fully accessible websites of the following International Days mandated by the General Assembly:

- International Day against Nuclear Tests (29 August)
- International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons (26 September)
- International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action (4 April)
- Day of Remembrance for all Victims of Chemical Warfare (30 November)

38. During the reporting period, the social media team continued to feature and promote the work of the United Nations on disarmament activities in all six official languages, and in Portuguese, Kiswahili and Hindi. The social media team provided regular advice to the communications teams' offices across the United Nations system on creating impactful social media messaging and worked to foster better understanding, among general audiences, of the importance of disarmament, highlighting the Organization's work towards achieving general and complete disarmament. Posts and activities were linked to news events, report launches, statements by the Secretary-General and other senior officials, and the commemoration of United Nations international days and observances.

39. The Department's news and content producers provided multimedia coverage of a wide array of disarmament-related activities, including landmine clearance, the rehabilitation and integration of former combatants, and world military expenditure, as well as issues such as the impact of small arms and light weapons, and the representation of women in disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation.

40. The Department's UNifeed operation, which produces video packages for use by broadcasters around the world, produced 45 packages on disarmament issues from June 2018 to May 2020. The Department also produced video features that covered calls for a world without weapons, including the call made in the Secretary-General's meeting with His Holiness Pope Francis in December 2019, a special feature on the Preparatory Committee for the Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons in May 2019 and the visit of the hibakusha to United Nations Headquarters in October 2019.

*United Nations Academic Impact*

41. United Nations Academic Impact launched an interview series on disarmament education in March 2020. The Focal Point for Youth Engagement at the Office for Disarmament Affairs participated in an interview that focused on the educational programmes launched by the Office for youth, such as the Youth4Disarmament

initiative and the “Poster for peace”, “Art for peace” and “Poetry for peace” contests. The series also included an overview of the importance of disarmament and peace as an integral part of education, an interview with Yoshiro Tanaka of J. F. Oberlin University, Tokyo, and an interview with Kehkashan Basu, a young activist who has done impactful work in the areas of climate justice and disarmament.

### **C. United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research**

[Original: English]

42. Recognizing the importance of disarmament and non-proliferation education and training, in late 2019 the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research initiated a visiting researcher programme to enable researchers from around the world to spend up to four months in Geneva and contribute to the quality and diversity of disarmament research and dialogue there. The Institute also established a graduate professional programme to facilitate the exploration by young people of international security and disarmament issues as a potential career path. The Institute continues to offer briefings to visiting scholars, parliamentarians, government officials and student groups, and, in 2019, hosted over 30 events, of which a majority were open to the public and a number were webcast live.

43. In 2019, the Institute issued 42 publications; an increasing number of its publications are issued not only in English but also in French and Spanish. With a view to making its research and knowledge accessible to broader and younger audiences, the Institute expanded its output to include short animations on disarmament issues, short commentaries and analyses, and the development of online resource hubs related to issues such as gender and cyberpolicy.

44. In 2019, the Geneva branch of the Office for Disarmament Affairs and the Institute initiated a disarmament orientation programme, primarily for newly arrived diplomats and representatives in Geneva. The purpose of the course is to familiarize Geneva-based practitioners with critical security issues and to draw attention to the knowledge, analysis and tools available to them as they seek to advance, deliberate and negotiate international arms control and disarmament issues and agreements. The course was broadly welcomed and, given the interest shown in it, will be repeated in 2020.

45. In addition, the Institute continues to support the annual Nuclear Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Training Programme of the office of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research in Hiroshima, Japan.

46. Many of the Institute’s education-related activities described in previous reports of the Secretary-General are ongoing. More detailed information about specific aspects of such activities is available in the annual report of the Director, transmitted to the General Assembly, or at [www.unidir.org](http://www.unidir.org).

### **D. International Atomic Energy Agency**

[Original: English]

47. The outreach and training courses of the International Atomic Energy Agency are conducted to promote the conclusion and support the implementation of the comprehensive safeguards agreements and additional protocols through seminars, briefings, training and publications. Between 2018 and 2019, the Agency organized outreach workshops for diplomats from permanent missions and embassies located in Berlin, Brussels, Geneva and London, national workshops for Nepal and Oman, and country visits to Cabo Verde, Eritrea, and Sao Tome and Principe. In addition, the

Agency held consultations with representatives of a number of member States and non-member States in Addis Ababa, Bangkok, Geneva, Jakarta, Lisbon, New York and Vienna.

## **E. Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization**

[Original: English]

48. The Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization continued its programme of integrated outreach and capacity-building, education and training throughout the reporting period, with the aim of raising awareness and enhancing understanding of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty and its verification regime.

49. In addition to engaging with States, international and regional organizations, and non-governmental organizations, the Commission also sought to enhance its cooperation with universities and academic institutions with a view to encouraging research and analysis related to the Treaty and its verification regime, and promoting the integration of the Treaty in academic curricula.

50. The seventh Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Science and Technology Conference was held in Vienna from 24 to 28 June 2019 to reinforce the strong relationship between the scientific and technological community and the Commission.

51. The Commission welcomed fellows of the United Nations Disarmament Fellowship, Training and Advisory Services Programme for intensive study visits in 2018 and 2019.

52. The Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization Youth Group accelerated its efforts to promote the entry into force of the Treaty and the establishment of its verification regime. Youth Group members organized and participated in conferences and events, wrote op-eds, published articles, and advocated for the Treaty in global forums on international peace and security.

## **F. Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons**

[Original: English]

53. Education and outreach is vitally important to the continuing implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention. In recognition of this, the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) actively engaged, during the reporting period, with its key stakeholders, namely, the States Parties to the Convention, the chemical industry, the scientific community, academia and educators, and the general public.

54. The OPCW Advisory Board on Education and Outreach continued to advise and assist the OPCW Technical Secretariat on critical education and outreach issues. Currently, its work focuses on supporting efforts to increase targeted awareness of OPCW activities and the urgency of preventing the re-emergence of chemical weapons.

55. Education and outreach efforts are integrated into the Organisation's programmes and seek not only to educate the key audiences of OPCW but also to establish and maintain a process of engagement, thereby supporting the implementation of the Convention. Education will also be an important consideration

in the design and construction of the new OPCW Centre for Chemistry and Technology.

## **G. Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean**

[Original: Spanish]

56. Since 2016, the General Conference of the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (OPANAL) has adopted documents CG/E/05/2016, of 10 November 2016, and CG/07/2019, of 7 November 2019, providing information on the Agency's activities in disarmament and non-proliferation education. It has also adopted resolutions CG/E/Res.04/2017, of 28 September 2017; CG/E/Res.03/2018 and CG/E/Res.04/2018, of 15 November 2018; and CG/Res.10/2019 and CG/Res.11/2019, of 7 November 2019, dealing with the promotion and continuation of activities on the subject.

57. In November 2015, the General Conference adopted resolution CG/Res.01/2015, through which it reopened the internship programme, which is run following two methods: with financial support, for Caribbean member States, and without financial support, for the rest of the world.

58. The financially supported internship programme is intended to encourage Caribbean member States to participate in the work of OPANAL. To that end, on 26 November 2015, OPANAL and the Kingdom of the Netherlands, a State party to Additional Protocol I, signed a cooperation agreement to provide financial support to Caribbean interns.

59. Since then, 8 young people from Belize, Dominica, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica and Saint Lucia have participated in the programme under the first method, while 15 students from Bolivia, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, France, Germany, Japan, Mexico and the United States have participated under the second method.

60. Every year since 2014, OPANAL collaborates with the Matías Romero Institute of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mexico and the James Martin Center for Nonproliferation Studies of the Middlebury Institute of International Studies in Monterey in running the summer school on disarmament and non-proliferation for diplomats from Latin America and the Caribbean. Five editions had been held up to 2019, with the sixth expected to take place in 2020.

61. Since 2017, four editions of the course on disarmament and non-proliferation of nuclear weapons have been held in Montevideo, Uruguay from 11 to 15 December 2017, in La Paz, Bolivia from 3 to 7 December 2018, in Guatemala City, Guatemala from 13 to 17 May 2019, and in Managua, Nicaragua from 24 to 27 September 2019. The courses were given in person, in Spanish, with the support of Sergio de Queiroz Duarte, former United Nations High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, as instructor.

62. Through the joint statements issued twice a year by the Agency, on 14 February, in commemoration of the opening for signature of the Treaty of Tlatelolco, and on 26 September, in commemoration of the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons, member States reiterate the importance of encouraging disarmament and non-proliferation education, out of conviction that it is an effective contribution to the consolidation of international peace and security.

63. The international seminar entitled "A world free of nuclear weapons: is it desirable? Is it possible? How could it be achieved?" was held in 2017, on the fiftieth anniversary of the Treaty of Tlatelolco, with the participation of 12 experts of

different nationalities. On the fifty-first anniversary, celebrated in 2018, a series of cultural seminars were held on the relevance of the Treaty of Tlatelolco. The series of conferences on the background to the signing of the Treaty of Tlatelolco and the importance of the Treaty of Tlatelolco were held during the fifty-second anniversary celebrations in 2019, while the talk entitled “Relevance and validity of the Treaty of Tlatelolco in the face of current challenges to nuclear disarmament” was held during the fifty-third anniversary celebrations in 2020.

64. OPANAL considers that continued cooperation with academia, civil society organizations, non-governmental organizations, research centres and other similar institutions is one of the best ways of promoting disarmament and non-proliferation education.

#### **IV. Implementation of the recommendations by civil society and non-governmental organizations**

##### **A. California Polytechnic State University Ethics + Emerging Sciences Group**

65. In the last two years, the Ethics + Emerging Sciences Group – based at California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo, United States of America – has continued to break new ground in artificial intelligence and robotics, especially in security, defence, and intelligence. This is a field that the Group helped to define, and its work continues to set research agendas worldwide. For instance, the Group has recently started a new project on the ethics of predictive policing, funded by the United States National Science Foundation. While this is a domestic issue now, it also has applications and implications for international security. In recent years, the Group has also focused on identifying and exploring new issues in other domains, such as future conflicts in the Arctic and outer space. In addition to academics, it advises industry, government agencies and non-governmental organizations in technology ethics.

##### **B. Geneva Centre for Security Policy**

66. The Geneva Centre for Security Policy, an international foundation that was established in 1995 on the initiative of Switzerland and now has 54 member States, provides executive education on a wide range of security-related issues, including disarmament and non-proliferation, to hundreds of representatives of Governments, international organizations, civil society and the private sector from all over the world. Specific executive courses on those topics from 2018 to 2020 covered the Arms Trade Treaty as well as arms control in the Middle East and North Africa region and international disarmament law. Modules on disarmament and arms proliferation were included in most other advanced courses. More information is available at [www.gcsp.ch](http://www.gcsp.ch).

##### **C. James Martin Center for Nonproliferation Studies**

67. Since its founding in 1989, the James Martin Center for Nonproliferation Studies has sought to combat the spread of weapons of mass destruction by training the next generation of non-proliferation specialists while raising global public awareness on such issues. Graduate students on the Master of Arts course in Nonproliferation and Terrorism Studies pursue a two-year degree programme that combines formal in-class coursework through the Middlebury Institute of

International Studies at Monterey, United States of America, with on-the-job training at the Center and internships at international organizations in the field of non-proliferation and disarmament. Besides graduate students, high school instructors and students, undergraduate students, government officials, diplomats and scientists also have opportunities to receive specialized training from experts of the Center through a variety of formats. The Center has increasingly made use of various forms of online learning tools and new technologies to reach out to more diverse communities. Seminars and events led by the Center are recorded and uploaded regularly on its website to facilitate public access to educational content related to non-proliferation and disarmament. In addition, the Center increasingly utilizes social media to disseminate information and reach out to a wide range of audiences, and has launched training programmes using open-source tools and technologies, such as geospatial imaging, three-dimensional modelling and big-data analysis in order to enhance non-proliferation and disarmament verification. The Center has also recently increased its outreach to young women to encourage them to study and work in the field of disarmament and non-proliferation. More information on the educational activities of the Center, including online multimedia programmes, is available at [www.nonproliferation.org](http://www.nonproliferation.org).

#### **D. Lawyers Committee on Nuclear Policy**

68. The Lawyers Committee on Nuclear Policy engages in research and advocacy in support of the global elimination of nuclear weapons and a more just and peaceful world through respect for domestic and international law. In October 2018, the Human Rights Committee found the threat and use of nuclear arms to be incompatible with the right to life. The Lawyers Committee analysed and publicized that finding in events and writings. It commented upon developments in the nuclear weapons arena, from the dispute over the Treaty between the United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics on the Elimination of Their Intermediate-Range and Shorter-Range Missiles to a Security Council meeting concerning the upcoming Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. The Lawyers Committee urged authorities to take seriously the destabilizing effects of new technologies, effects that are increasing the danger of nuclear war. A member of the Board of the Committee taught a law school seminar on international law and nuclear weapons, and the Executive Director of the Committee spoke at several law schools.

#### **E. Mayors for Peace**

69. As part of its efforts to foster and increase international public support for the realization of a world without nuclear weapons, Mayors for Peace runs the following peace education initiatives to encourage younger generations to get involved in peace activities: (a) the Youth Exchange for Peace Support Program, through which young people are invited to Hiroshima, Japan, to attend programmes focused on the experiences of hibakusha and their desire for peace; (b) an internship during which staff from overseas member cities work as interns at the Mayors for Peace secretariat; (c) the Youth Peace Volunteers scheme, through which students in Hiroshima are trained to be English-language tour guides at the Peace Memorial Park; (d) the Youth Forum, at which young people present and discuss the thoughts that they have developed about peace through peace activities; (e) the promotion of peace education to raise awareness among younger generations; (f) the promotion of the Hiroshima-Nagasaki Peace Study Course certification for university courses that convey the realities of the atomic bombings.

## **F. NGO Committee on Disarmament, Peace and Security**

70. The NGO Committee on Disarmament, Peace and Security has been an effective voice advocating disarmament since 1970. From the beginning, it focused on the need to abolish nuclear weapons. That continues to be a focus, and the abolition of nuclear weapons needs to remain within the framework of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, but that progress must be made in the areas of arms reduction, control and inspections. The Committee supports the Treaty between the United States of America and the Russian Federation on Measures for the Further Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms and the full implementation of the United Nations agreement with Iran. Also, since 1970, the Committee has published the *Disarmament Times*, which is now available online at <https://ngodisarm.org/>. In that publication, it highlights articles by authors from the Office for Disarmament Affairs, the Lawyers Committee on Nuclear Policy and institutions of higher learning that focus on disarmament issues. The Committee receives support from the Japanese branch of Religions for Peace and publishes the views of religious leaders who call for a world without nuclear weapons.

## **G. Nuclear Age Peace Foundation**

71. The Nuclear Age Peace Foundation was founded in 1982. Its mission is to educate and train people of all ages and backgrounds to solve the most dangerous technological, social and psychological issues of our time, and to survive and thrive in the twenty-first century. Its work is primarily focused on its Peace Literacy Institute, which provides a free curriculum to students of all ages and trains teachers in the effective use of that curriculum. More information is available at [www.peaceliteracy.org](http://www.peaceliteracy.org). The Foundation engages in numerous educational activities focused on international peace, such as producing online and printed educational materials, lectures, and curricula for use in schools. The key activities of the Foundation include the following:

- Publications by Foundation staff members
- Over 100 public lectures on the need for nuclear weapons abolition
- Engagement with students through the internships and peace literacy curriculum of the Foundation

## **H. Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-proliferation and Disarmament**

72. Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-proliferation and Disarmament is a cross-party global network of over 700 parliamentarians from 90 countries who work cooperatively to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons, reduce the risks of the use of nuclear weapons and achieve a nuclear-weapon-free world.

73. The organization's projects and activities from 2018 to 2020 included the following:

- Implementation of the Parliamentary Action Plan for a Nuclear-Weapon-Free World, which was developed by the organization in cooperation with the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe
- Actions and events for Move the Nuclear Weapons Money, a global campaign to cut nuclear weapons budgets, end investments in the nuclear weapons

industry, and reallocate those budgets and investments to support peace, the climate and sustainable development

- Actions and events for Unfold Zero, a platform to advance United Nations initiatives to achieve a nuclear-weapons-free world
- Actions and events to promote Securing Our Common Future: An Agenda for Disarmament, announced by the Secretary-General in May 2018, with a focus on engaging parliamentarians, women and youth
- Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) and peace and disarmament

## **I. Peace Boat**

74. During the reporting period, Peace Boat continued to actively engage in disarmament education, notably through its Hibakusha Project, which brings survivors of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki around the world to share their tragic experiences, educate people about the humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons and call for the abolition of such weapons. Peace Boat held meetings with policymakers (municipal, national and regional government officials, and parliamentarians), gave public testimonies and addressed diplomats, youth groups and the media. As an active member of the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons, Peace Boat held over 200 disarmament-related public events in Japan, including coordinating a youth disarmament education programme with Hiroshima Prefecture and the Campaign, and the first visit to Hiroshima of the 2018 Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, Denis Mukwege. These activities helped to draw public attention to the nuclear disarmament discussion. Approximately 6,000 people from Japan and around the world joined the on-board educational programmes of Peace Boat from 2018 to 2020.

## **J. Simons Foundation**

75. The Simons Foundation, based in Canada, once again provided its Graduate Research Awards for Disarmament, Arms Control and Non-Proliferation in 2019 and 2020, in partnership with Global Affairs Canada; produced briefing papers on nuclear disarmament and Arctic security; co-convened the Annual Outer Space Security Conference of the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research at the Palais des Nations in Geneva in 2018 and 2019; funded an adjunct professorship in international studies and a fellowship in international security at Simon Fraser University, Canada, in 2019; and continues to fund the activities of the Simons Chair in Disarmament, Global and Human Security at the School of Public Policy and Global Affairs of the University of British Columbia, Canada. The President of the Foundation is also a founding partner and the Foundation is a principal sponsor, of the Global Zero campaign, which combines cutting-edge policy development and direct dialogue with Governments with public outreach, including media, online and grassroots initiatives to make the elimination of nuclear weapons an urgent global imperative.

## **K. Soka Gakkai International**

76. Between July 2018 and May 2020, Soka Gakkai International conducted a wide range of disarmament education activities, particularly focusing on raising public awareness of the dangers of nuclear weapons, including through exhibitions, lectures, discussions and film screenings, often led by young people. The organization worked

to promote the importance of disarmament education in United Nations forums through its public statements and presentations at side events. It partnered with the Government of Guyana and the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons to organize a Caribbean forum on the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons to raise awareness among key stakeholders. Activities such as informational briefings to raise awareness of the threats related to lethal autonomous weapons systems, also known as fully autonomous weapons, were conducted. Additionally, Soka Gakkai International worked to reach out to those outside the disarmament community to raise awareness, including through linkages with the Sustainable Development Goals and in the areas of non-violence and peacebuilding.

## **L. Vienna Center for Disarmament and Non-Proliferation**

77. The Vienna Center for Disarmament and Non-Proliferation is an international non-governmental organization established in Vienna at the initiative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Austria. The Vienna Center is managed by the James Martin Center for Nonproliferation Studies at the Middlebury Institute of International Studies at Monterey, United States of America. The Vienna Center serves as a dedicated platform for independent debate, research, outreach, education and training for national Governments, international organizations, academia and civil society.

78. Among the feature programmes of the Center is a biannual short course on nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament for diplomats, especially those from developing countries. The course includes an online preparatory module. During the reporting period, the Center piloted three new courses on nuclear issues for different audiences. The Center also hosts numerous workshops on non-proliferation and disarmament matters for educators, journalists and members of the international community, and partners with international organizations and academia in delivering training and outreach programmes. More information on the activities of the Center is available at <http://vcdnp.org>.

## **M. Women's International League for Peace and Freedom**

79. The Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, through its national sections and its disarmament programme, Reaching Critical Will, undertook activities related to recommendations 2, 3, and 4 between July 2018 and May 2020.

80. The Reaching Critical Will programme, and the national sections of Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Colombia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Sweden, all published a number of disarmament resources, guides and fact sheets online and in print.

81. Representatives of Reaching Critical Will and of the national sections of Sri Lanka, Sweden and the United States of America spoke at many local and international events on nuclear and conventional disarmament and non-proliferation, and on military expenditure. Reaching Critical Will also catalogued primary documentation from intergovernmental meetings on nuclear disarmament and conventional arms on its website.

82. In addition, Reaching Critical Will led training on the Arms Trade Treaty, fully autonomous weapon systems and the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. The national sections of the League in Sri Lanka and Sweden delivered training on nuclear disarmament and peacebuilding.

## **N. Youth Arts New York/Hibakusha Stories**

83. Youth Arts New York/Hibakusha Stories conducted disarmament education workshops in high schools and universities in New York City and the states of Alaska, Massachusetts and Oklahoma, United States of America; professional development days for high school educators at United Nations Headquarters; a workshop for teenagers on peace action; and nuclear guardianship sails on the Hudson River. It produced educational materials for the Office of the New York City Comptroller and for the City Council, to assist them in nuclear weapons divestment and disarmament legislation. In the arts, it presented a short animated film at an exhibit in Colorado, United States, completed the documentary *The Vow from Hiroshima*, provided content for several international documentaries and updated its websites. It participated in the Global Citizens' Assembly in Nagasaki, Japan, and the Paris Forum of the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons, and educated lawmakers in Andorra, France and Spain on the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. The programme director was honoured by the New York City Council for her work on nuclear disarmament.

## **V. Conclusions**

84. Disarmament and non-proliferation education remains an important way to bring the discussion of those critical issues to schools in all countries to inform and empower young people to become agents of peace by helping them to mobilize, act and promote the importance of disarmament and non-proliferation.

85. As in-person meetings are severely restricted because of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, Governments, international organizations and civil society groups have increased their provision of digital content and their use of and access to new technologies, such as social media tools, to disseminate information and reach a wider audience. New platforms and online tools are being developed and are widely used to facilitate virtual meetings in lieu of in-person meetings.

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