

# United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific



...strengthening peace and security through disarmament

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## NEWSLETTER

### Building Capacity for the Implementation of the Arms Trade Treaty in the Pacific

In September 2016, UNRCPD, in cooperation with the Government of Samoa, held a regional workshop on building capacity for the implementation of the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) in Apia, Samoa. The workshop brought together 25 participants from ten Pacific Island States (Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu), as well as representatives from Australia, New Zealand, the United Nations, non-governmental organizations and academia.



The three-day workshop sought to enhance the capacity of participating States in meeting the Treaty's provisions on the establishment and maintenance of national control systems for conventional arms transfers. Expert presentations delivered by representatives of UNODA, UNRCPD, Australia, New Zealand, Massey University, the Pacific Small Arms Action Group and Small Arms Survey, covered issues related to the relevance of the ATT for the Pacific States, adaptation and, where required, the development of national legislation and synergies between the ATT and other global instruments on conventional arms regulation, with a focus on Small Arms and Light Weapons control. Representatives from Fiji, Kiribati, Samoa, Tuvalu and Vanuatu shared national practices and experiences related to preparations for ATT implementation, highlighting their support of the ATT as well as mentioning challenges encountered in their efforts towards ratification. The workshop also aimed to introduce different tools and options offering support for ATT implementation including fostering regional cooperation.

These activities were further complemented by a special session on the status of the Convention of Cluster Munitions in which the wider importance of universalizing the convention was highlighted and its obligations relevant to the Pacific Region were explained. The event concluded with a practical exercise on the preparation of national reports to the UN Programme of Action on small arms and light weapons, the Register of Conventional Arms and the Report on Military Expenditures. This workshop was made possible with financial support from the Governments of Australia and New Zealand.

Read more at [bit.ly/2cqgXC9](http://bit.ly/2cqgXC9)



## UNRCPD'S COOPERATION WITH REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

### UNODA – OSCE Joint Project on Facilitating Regional Implementation of UNSCR 1540 (2004)

#### National Round Table in Kyrgyzstan



UNRCPD, together with the OSCE and the Government of Kyrgyzstan, organized a national roundtable meeting to assess the development of the National Action Plan (NAP) on the implementation of UN Security Council resolution (UNSCR) 1540 (2004). The meeting took

place from 15 to 17 September 2016 in Bulan-Sogottu village in the Issyk-Kul province, Kyrgyzstan.

During the three-day meeting, the participants reviewed the progress that had been achieved towards the NAP. As a result of the discussions, the first draft of updates to the NAP were constructed and submitted to the 1540 Committee and its Group of Experts for review.

#### Peer-Review Meeting in Belarus

From 2 to 5 August 2016, UNRCPD and the OSCE Conflict Prevention Centre organized in Minsk a trilateral Peer-Review Meeting of experts from Belarus, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan on Facilitating Regional Implementation of UNSCR 1540 (2004).

Representatives of three countries shared experiences and discussed progress in their work on implementing UNSCR 1540 (2004). Delegations also paid on-site visits to the national airport (Minsk-2) a leading global manufacturer of radiation detection equipment (Polimaster Ltd.) and the National Academy of Science of Belarus to learn about practical detection and control work done by border and customs control services. Participants discussed national legislative and enforcement systems for the identification of



chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear materials. These discussions included a particular focus on export control legislation, including control lists, licensing system and identification of dual-use goods.

This trilateral format of the peer-review was introduced for the first time at the request of Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan in order to learn from a country with more advanced 1540 implementation standards. Belarus agreed to share its legislation, regulations and enforcement practices. This round of the peer-review was shaped to address the questions presented by Bishkek and Dushanbe in advance with emphasis on export controls, bio security and chemical security.

#### Training Workshop for National Points of Contact in the Russian Federation



As part of the UNODA - OSCE Joint Project on Facilitating Regional Implementation of UNSCR 1540 (2004), UNRCPD and the OSCE Conflict Prevention Centre, in cooperation with the 1540 Committee and the Russian

Federation, held a three-day training for National Points of Contact (PoCs), from 28 June to 1 July 2016 in Kaliningrad, Russia. The meeting provided a training platform for national PoCs of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan on numerous 1540 obligations and effective implementation practices. Participants discussed the current developments, including the ongoing 2016 Comprehensive Review process, as well as the coordination of national and regional activities among interested States and international organizations. Participants also had the opportunity to visit a border crossing point and familiarize themselves with the work of a commodity identification centre.



## REGIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

**Kazakhstan hosted the Regional Workshop on the Preparation of the Eighth Review Conference of the Biological Weapons Convention in Eastern Europe and Central Asia** on 15-16 June 2016 in Astana. See: <http://bit.ly/2djhNxn>

**Regional Participation at the Second Conference of States Parties of the ATT (CSP2):** Held in Geneva, Switzerland on 22-26 August 2016, CSP2 was attended by 109 states, a number of international and regional intergovernmental organizations and representatives of civil society. Furthermore, 17 states covered by UNRCPD's mandate in the Asia-Pacific region participated in, or observed, the work of the Conference. The Asia-Pacific states in attendance were Australia, Bangladesh, China (observer), Fiji (observer), Japan, Kazakhstan (observer), Malaysia, Mongolia, New Zealand, Pakistan (observer), Palau, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Samoa, Singapore, Thailand and Tuvalu. See: <http://bit.ly/2cviwX>

**India hosted the Regional Workshop on the Preparation of the Eighth Review Conference of the Biological Weapons Convention in South and South-East Asia** on 29-30 August 2016 in New Delhi. See: <http://bit.ly/2d8nyB>

**Myanmar ratified the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT)** on 21 September 2016 and became the 166th State Party to the Treaty. See: <http://bit.ly/2cBvuMd>

## Hiroshima Training Programme on Nuclear Disarmament

From 30 May to 3 June, the Training Programme on Nuclear Disarmament for Young Diplomats from Asian States took place in Hiroshima, Japan. The training event, jointly organized by the Hiroshima Office of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) and UNRCPD, was the second cycle of the programme implemented in the framework of the UNITAR Peace and Education Project. This year, the programme served to provide diplomats from Bangladesh, Mongolia, Myanmar, Sri Lanka and Vietnam with a better understanding of global and regional nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation issues, as well as raise awareness on these topics.

With the assistance of experts from SIPRI, UNIDIR and UNRCPD, participants received a unique opportunity to explore circumstances surrounding negotiations on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation issues on the global and regional levels. They participated in a practical exercise aimed at improving their negotiation skills through a simulation on preparing a decision to pursue nuclear disarmament efforts, where they represented members of a multilateral negotiation body from two groups of states.

In addition, the training participants met with the Mayor of Hiroshima, Mr. Matsui Kazumi. They also met with civil society representatives of the city of Hiroshima, and visited the museum and memorial of the atomic bombing in 1945.



## UNRCPD'S CONTRIBUTION TO OTHER ORGANIZATIONS' EVENTS

### 🌟 Women Higher Education for Peace Vienna Forum

In July 2016, a representative from UNRCPD participated in a panel discussion on the necessity and significance of disarmament and non-proliferation at the Women Higher Education for Peace Vienna Forum organized by the Disarmament and Non-Proliferation (DNP) Education Partnership coordinated by UNODA.

### 🌟 Working Group of the Executive Committee of the Southeast Asia Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Commission

The Director of UNRCPD participated in the Working Group of the Executive Committee of the Southeast Asia Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone (NWFZ) Commission, which was held in July 2016 in Vientiane, Lao PDR. A presentation, entitled "Reservations made by Nuclear Weapon States to NWFZ Treaties", was delivered by the Director to demonstrate the current status, common features and general overviews of NWFZs in Asia and the Pacific.

## LOOKING AHEAD

### Upcoming activities of UNRCPD:

- 🌟 "71st Session of the General Assembly First Committee Side Event: *Towards a universalised Arms Trade Treaty: A focus on the Asia-Pacific Region*" at **United Nations Headquarters**, in cooperation with RAND Europe
- 🌟 "UNODA-OSCE Joint Project on Supporting Regional Implementation of UNSCR 1540 (2004)" in **Tajikistan**
- 🌟 "15th UN-Republic of Korea Joint Conference on Disarmament and Non-proliferation Issues" in the **Republic of Korea**
- 🌟 "Technical and Legal Assistance Project for the Implementation of the UN PoA and the ATT" in the **Philippines**
- 🌟 "Workshop on Building Capacity in Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons" in **Cambodia**
- 🌟 "26th UN Conference on Disarmament Issues in Nagasaki" in **Japan**
- 🌟 "South and Central Asian Regional Seminar on Arms Control, Disarmament and Non-proliferation" in **Nepal**



## Quote of the Quarter



*I ask you to use your collective moral authority to convince all people of the need to press their governments to fully implement their disarmament commitments. From The Nuclear Non- Proliferation Treaty, the Chemical and Biological Weapons Conventions, to the Arms Trade Treaty, these instruments will only reach their potential when completely and universally implemented.*

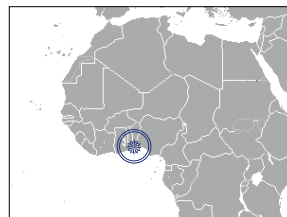
**Kim Won-soo**  
Under Secretary-General and High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, UNODA

## DID YOU KNOW..?

...that the UNODA's Regional Centres are celebrating their 30th anniversaries this year?



UNRCPD  
Kathmandu, Nepal



UNREC  
Lomé, Togo



UNLIREC  
Lima, Peru

## PUBLICATIONS OF INTEREST

- ✿ **Regional Organizations and the UN Programme of Action on Small Arms (PoA): Second Edition**, Small Arms Survey, June 2016
- ✿ **The Arms Trade Treaty: A Practical Guide to National Implementation**, Small Arms Survey, August 2016
- ✿ **UN Programme of Action and Arms Trade Treaty Modular Training Toolkits**, Pacific Small Arms Action Group, September 2016
- ✿ **The United Nations Disarmament Yearbook Volume 40: 2015 - Part 2**, UNODA, September 2016
- ✿ **SIPRI Yearbook 2016: Armaments, Disarmament and International Security**, SIPRI, September 2016
- ✿ **UNODA Occasional Papers No. 28 - Rethinking General and Complete Disarmament in the Twenty-first Century**, UNODA, October 2016

### ABOUT UNRCPD

The United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific (UNRCPD) assists countries in the Asia-Pacific region in achieving their peace, security and disarmament goals, through provision of substantive support, coordination of activities at the subregional, regional and international levels, and information sharing on global and regional activities. The Regional Centre is part of the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs.

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**Australia, China, Germany, Japan, Kazakhstan, Myanmar, Nepal, New Zealand, Republic of Korea, Samoa, Switzerland, Thailand, United Kingdom, Rishho Kosei-kai and UNSCAR**

### The 43 countries covered by UNRCPD's mandate

▶▶ Afghanistan ▶▶ Australia ▶▶ Bangladesh ▶▶ Bhutan ▶▶ Brunei Darussalam ▶▶ Cambodia ▶▶ China ▶▶ Democratic People's Republic of Korea ▶▶ Fiji ▶▶ India ▶▶ Indonesia ▶▶ Japan ▶▶ Kazakhstan ▶▶ Kiribati ▶▶ Kyrgyzstan ▶▶ Lao People's Democratic Republic ▶▶ Malaysia ▶▶ Maldives ▶▶ Marshall Islands ▶▶ Micronesia, Federated States of ▶▶ Mongolia ▶▶ Myanmar ▶▶ Nauru ▶▶ Nepal ▶▶ New Zealand ▶▶ Pakistan ▶▶ Palau ▶▶ Papua New Guinea ▶▶ Philippines ▶▶ Republic of Korea ▶▶ Samoa ▶▶ Singapore ▶▶ Solomon Islands ▶▶ Sri Lanka ▶▶ Tajikistan ▶▶ Thailand ▶▶ Timor-Leste ▶▶ Tonga ▶▶ Turkmenistan ▶▶ Tuvalu ▶▶ Uzbekistan ▶▶ Vanuatu ▶▶ Viet Nam



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