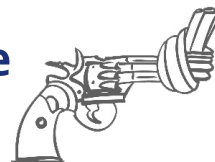




# United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific

...strengthening peace and security through disarmament



Number 8

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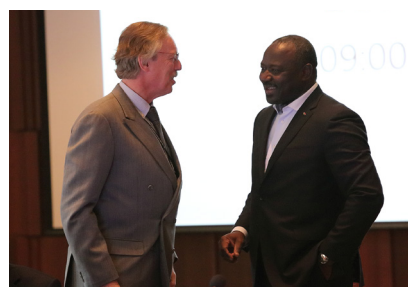
## NEWSLETTER

### Building a More Secure World – 14<sup>th</sup> UN-ROK Joint Conference

The 14<sup>th</sup> annual United Nations-Republic of Korea Joint Conference on Disarmament and Non-proliferation Issues, held in Seoul on 7-8 December 2015, gathered more than 40 representatives from governments, international organizations, policy institutes, non-governmental organizations, and academia. Hosted annually by the ROK since 2002, the Conference has become an important forum in the Asia-Pacific region for constructive exchange and dialogue among government officials as well as independent experts, scholars, researchers, and civil society representatives.

Under the theme of "Unfinished Business of Building a More Secure World", the three-day conference focused on contemporary issues critical to disarmament and non-proliferation. UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon addressed the audience with a video message. During the session on regional issues, experts discussed the implications of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action with the Islamic Republic of Iran and practical steps to revive denuclearization talks with the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. Reflecting current trends in emerging technologies, the challenges of space security were also addressed. Experts exchanged views on the trends in outer space activities and the efforts to establish new norms in this domain. In view of the fourth and final Nuclear Security Summit (NSS) to be held in spring 2016, the second day of the conference was dedicated to discussions on nuclear security in relation to the challenges and tasks ahead of the 2016 NSS and the creation of an enduring nuclear security architecture after the summit.

Under Secretary-General and High Representative for Disarmament Affairs Kim Won-soo underlined that the challenges of today and tomorrow regarding the scourge of terrorism will only grow. To address the complex issue of nuclear terrorism, participants suggested the United Nations should take a leading role, stressing the role of the Security Council that becomes more crucial.



Read more at [bit.ly/1Qvvs3y](http://bit.ly/1Qvvs3y)

### Building Capacity for the Implementation of the Arms Trade Treaty in Southeast Asia

The UNRCPD, in cooperation with the Government of Thailand, held a regional workshop on building capacity for the implementation of the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) in Bangkok in April 2016. The workshop brought together government experts in arms transfer controls from Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and Timor-Leste as well as representatives from various international institutes, non-governmental organizations, and the United Nations. During the two-day workshop, presentations addressed a range of topics related to the implementation of the ATT, including an overview of the provisions of the treaty, model legislation, national reporting requirements, export and import controls, options for future assistance, and the development of national implementation strategies. In addition, specific national examples provided detailed practical information and complemented conceptual discussions of the ATT. *(Continued on page 3)*

## UNRCPD ACTIVITIES

### Small Arms Control Workshop in Thailand

In March 2016, the UNRCPD, in cooperation with the Government of Thailand, held a workshop in Bangkok to discuss



the implementation requirements of the UN Program of Action (UN PoA) and the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT). Government officials from various agencies and

departments and international experts discussed how existing international agreements and newly developed UN mechanisms and initiatives could be utilized to address these challenges and refine national coordination mechanisms for Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) control. Reporting requirements were also addressed, highlighting the significance of reporting under the different instruments and the synergy between reporting mechanisms. The participants also highlighted concerns related to the illicit circulation of SALW in Southeast Asia. They called for closer cooperation between ASEAN States on this issue and for UNRCPD's assistance to this end. The workshop was made possible with financial support from the Government of Germany.

### Strengthening SALW Control in Myanmar

In cooperation with the Government of Myanmar, the UNRCPD organized a workshop in the country's capital, in February 2016,

to strengthen national capacity to control SALW and ammunition. Over 40 government representatives and experts from a wide range of relevant ministries and agencies participated actively in this event. International



experts and senior officials from the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs elaborated and discussed key international agreements on SALW and ammunition control with the officials. Particularly the UN PoA on SALW received attention as well as a tool for its implementation, the UN International Small Arms Control Standards (ISACS). Special focus was dedicated to elaborate concrete ways for the Government to strengthen SALW control, particularly the establishment of a national coordinating mechanism and the development of a national action plan on SALW. The workshop was funded by the United Kingdom.

### Strengthening Capacity in SALW Control in the Philippines

The workshop on SALW control through the UN PoA, aiming at providing assistance for enhancing national capacity in SALW control in the Philippines, was co-organized by the UNRCPD and the Government of the Philippines in November 2015 in Manila with financial support from the Government of Germany. During the two-day workshop, legal assistance on strengthening national legislation and regulations was provided by international experts. National practitioners also actively engaged in learning more about existing effective practices, such as the International Small Arms Control Standards (ISACS), which provide practical guidance on putting into place effective national controls over the full lifecycle of SALW. Participants also discussed further needs for assistance and available support mechanisms.



## REGIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

**Malaysia chaired the Meeting of States Parties to the Biological Weapons Convention** on 14-18 December 2015 to discuss and approve arrangements for the Eighth Review Conference and its Preparatory Committee in 2016. See: <http://bit.ly/1Uqsgv6>

**Marshall Islands, New Zealand and Pakistan became parties to the 2005 Amendment to the Convention on Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (CPPNM)** in March 2016. With 103 States depositing their instruments of ratification, acceptance, or approval, the 2005 amendment to the CPPNM entered into force on 8 May 2016 after a decade of its promotion. See: <http://bit.ly/1MZ2ssy>

**New Zealand ratified the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism (ICSANT)** on 18 March 2016 and became the 103<sup>rd</sup> State Party to the Convention. See: <http://bit.ly/14psxmQ>

**Regional Participation at the 2016 Nuclear Security Summit (NSS):** Held in Washington D.C. on 31 March – 1 April 2016, the 2016 NSS was attended by 56 participants, including representatives from regional and international organizations (UN, IAEA, INTERPOL and the EU). Furthermore, 14 countries covered by the UNRCPD's mandate in the Asia-Pacific region participated in this fourth and final summit to strengthen nuclear security at national, regional, and international levels. The Asia-Pacific states in attendance were Australia, China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, New Zealand, Pakistan, the Philippines, Republic of Korea, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam. See: <http://bit.ly/1V4BnjT>

**Palau ratified the Convention on Cluster Munitions** on 19 April 2016 and became the 100<sup>th</sup> State Party to the Convention. The Convention will enter into force for Palau on 1 October 2016. See: <http://bit.ly/1QwvaWc>

**Pakistan and the Republic of Korea preside over the 2016 sessions of the Conference on Disarmament at the United Nations Office at Geneva** for four weeks each. (Pakistan: 21 March - 1 April and 16 May - 29 May, the Republic of Korea: 22 August – 16 September) See: <http://bit.ly/1wor4Xn>





*(Continued from page 1)* Representatives from Cambodia, the Philippines, and Thailand presented on the experiences and challenges of states working towards the implementation of the ATT, and representatives from Greece and Australia discussed the experiences of states already having signed or ratified the ATT.

In addition, a side event on UN Security Resolution 1540 (2004) and national implementation action plans took place, addressing the facets of this resolution and the respective obligations of Member States. In particular, the ongoing 2016 Comprehensive Review of the resolution's implementation and preparedness of the 1540 Committee to support Member States in the implementation of resolution 1540 were emphasized during the side event.

Following the presentations, in-depth discussion sessions were held, providing an opportunity for participants to ask questions and engage in dialogue about issues and challenges encountered in the ATT's implementation process. Moreover, government representatives identified specific areas of interest for future assistance, demonstrating a commitment to further working towards the implementation of the ATT. The workshop was made possible with financial support from the United Nations Trust Facility Supporting Cooperation on Arms Regulation (UNSCAR).



Read more at: <http://bit.ly/1VoB1n1>



## UNRCPD's Cooperation with Regional Organization

### 🌿 National Round Table on the Implementation of UNSCR 1540 (2004) in Myanmar

In January 2016, UNRCPD's Interim Director participated in a first national roundtable discussion organized by the UNODA on the implementation of the UN Security Council Resolution 1540 (2004) in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar and presented on possible areas of further assistance by the UNRCPD. The event focused on Myanmar's effective practices in implementing resolution 1540 (2004) to prevent non-state actors from gaining access to weapons of mass destruction.

### 🌿 Regional Seminar to Support the Implementation of the ATT for OSCE States

The Interim Director of the UNRCPD participated in an EU-funded regional seminar to "Support the Implementation of the ATT for (mainly) OSCE States" which was held in March 2016 in Tbilisi, Georgia and presented on the UNRCPD's ATT-related activities in the Asia-Pacific region.

### 🌿 UNODC-WCO Container Control Programme: Strategic Trade and Export Control (STEC) Training

Representatives from the UNRCPD participated in a Strategic Trade and Export Control (STEC) Training for Thai law enforcement and border control officers in the framework of the UNODC-WCO Container Control Programme in April 2016 in Bangkok, Thailand. Presentations were given on the UNRCPD's UNSCR 1540 (2004)-related activities and on measures contained in the UN instruments on SALW control to prevent and eradicate the illicit SALW trade. The training was organized by the UNODC's Regional Office for Southeast Asia and the Pacific.

### 🌿 Regional Seminar for South and Southeast Asia on Maritime Arms Transfers and Challenges of Illicit Trafficking and Diversion

In May 2016 a representative from the UNRCPD participated in a regional seminar held in Dhaka, Bangladesh and presented the UNRCPD's activities on SALW and other conventional arms in South and Southeast Asia. The regional seminar was funded by the Government of Germany.

## Looking Ahead

### Upcoming activities of UNRCPD:

- 🌿 "15th UN-Republic of Korea Joint Conference on Disarmament and Non-proliferation Issues" in the **Republic of Korea**
- 🌿 "UNODA/OSCE Joint Project - Support of Regional Implementation of UNSCR 1540 (2004)", in **Central Asia and Mongolia**
- 🌿 "South and Central Asian Regional Seminar on Arms Control, Disarmament and Non-proliferation" in **Nepal**
- 🌿 "Workshop with ASEAN Member States - Beyond the 2016 Comprehensive Review of UNSCR 1540 (2004)"



## Quotes of the Quarter



*The need for simultaneous progress on multiple questions of disarmament has never been more apparent. We are faced by the rapid emergence of new trends and technologies that are complicating strategic relationships and stability. This includes the development of advanced new types of strategic weapons. It also includes a growing nexus between terrorism, weapons of mass destruction and cyber threats*

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

## PUBLICATIONS OF INTEREST

- Disarmament Study Series No. 35 - Study on a Treaty Banning the Production of Fissile Material for Nuclear Weapons or Other Nuclear Explosive Devices, UNODA, December 2015
- Statements of Non-Governmental Organizations at the 2015 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, UNODA, December 2015
- A Prohibition on Nuclear Weapons: a Guide to the Issues, ILPI/UNIDIR, February 2016
- The United Nations Disarmament Yearbook, Volume 40:2015 – Part 1 Disarmament Resolutions and Decisions of the Seventieth Session of the United Nations General Assembly, UNODA, March 2016
- SIPRI Fact Sheet – Trends in World Military Expenditure 2015, SIPRI, April 2016

## DID YOU KNOW..?

...that National Reports on the Implementation of the PoA/ITI can be submitted online?



Learn more at [www.poa-iss.org](http://www.poa-iss.org)

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

## 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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