



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



*...strengthening peace and security through disarmament*

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## NEWSLETTER

### Supporting Philippines' Implementation of PoA & ATT

The United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific (UNRCPD) successfully concluded a two-month project with the goal of further strengthening the national capacity of the Philippines to control transfers of small arms and light weapons (SALW), and to prevent their illicit trade and diversion.

Developed at the request of the Government of the Philippines — and in direct cooperation with the Office of the Special Envoy on Transnational Crime under the Office of the President — the project was implemented between January and March 2017. It provided the Government with technical and legal assistance to facilitate further implementation of the UN Programme of Action on SALW (PoA), as well as to support its ability to ratify the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT).



The project consisted of three stages. In January 2017, a technical and a legal expert, as well as representatives from UNRCPD, conducted an initial assessment visit to Manila. The main purpose of the visit was to enable the two experts to meet Government officials involved in conventional arms control to discuss, assess and identify legal and technical assistance needs.

On the basis of the findings made during the initial visit, the two international experts subsequently carried out desk reviews and each prepared a comprehensive report and recommendations on strengthening relevant laws, regulations, rules and administrative instructions, as well as technical procedures and practices, including standard operating procedures. These recommendations aim to ensure that national arms controls related to international transfers, as well as physical security and stockpile management, marking and destruction of SALW, and other conventional arms, conform to international standards.

A final summary visit to the Philippines, in March 2017, concluded the project. The legal and technical experts presented review outcomes in the form of their respective reports and recommendations, and engaged in discussions with Government officials. Based on the experts' findings, the Government and UNRCPD will coordinate to determine possible further assistance to the Philippines that may be relevant.

The project was implemented with financial support from the United Nations Trust Facility Supporting Cooperation on Arms Regulation (UNSCAR).

Read more at [bit.ly/2mSBb9G](http://bit.ly/2mSBb9G)



**UNSCAR**  
United Nations Trust Facility  
Supporting Cooperation on Arms Regulation



## Review of Kyrgyzstan's NAP on Implementation of UNSCR 1540 (2004)

A joint performance review of Kyrgyzstan's 2013 National Action Plan (NAP) to implement United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1540 (2004), to prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (WMD) by non-State actors, was held from 8 to 10 March 2017 in Vienna, Austria. Participants discussed new measures for inclusion in Kyrgyzstan's 2017-2019 NAP. The Kyrgyz delegation was headed by the Deputy Minister of Economy. Representatives from the 1540 Committee Group of Experts, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, International Atomic Energy Agency, UN Office on Drugs and Crime, OSCE Office in Bishkek, the US Export and Related Border Security Program and UNRCPD also participated in the meeting.



During the first part of the meeting, the Kyrgyzstan delegation reported on the status of their 2013 NAP implementation, which had progressed significantly, having reached almost 70 percent – among the highest in the region, alongside Uzbekistan. Participants paid special attention to non-implemented tasks, reasons for non-implementation, lessons learned and measures to improve. The second part of the meeting was devoted to consideration of the draft 2017-2019 NAP, including specific activities and measures to be amended and/or included in the new plan. Representatives from the 1540 Group of Experts and international organizations made suggestions on proposed activities, which were reflected in the final version of Kyrgyzstan's 2017-2019 NAP.

Discussion also covered needs of international donors and expert support to implement some key tasks, including:

- Awareness raising on the implementation and applicability of the Chemical Weapons Convention and Biological Weapons Convention provisions for the purposes of UNSCR 1540 (2004);
- Developing export control programmes for industry
- Providing training for national experts on issues of radiological, chemical and biological security; and
- Establishing a web-based databank of international agreements in the field of WMD non-proliferation.

## UNSCR 1540 (2004) National Roundtable in Uzbekistan

UNRCPD jointly organized a national roundtable meeting with UNODA, OSCE and the Government of Uzbekistan to review Uzbekistan's National Action Plan (NAP) on the implementation of UNSCR 1540 (2004). The meeting took place from 20 to 21 December 2016 in Tashkent, Uzbekistan.



During the two-day event, participants reviewed progress towards the NAP and discussed plans for future activities for implementing the NAP. Implementation of the current NAP is measured at over 70 percent, which is the highest in the region. It was recommended that further UNODA-OSCE assistance during this period should be focused on export control legislation as well as biosecurity legislation.

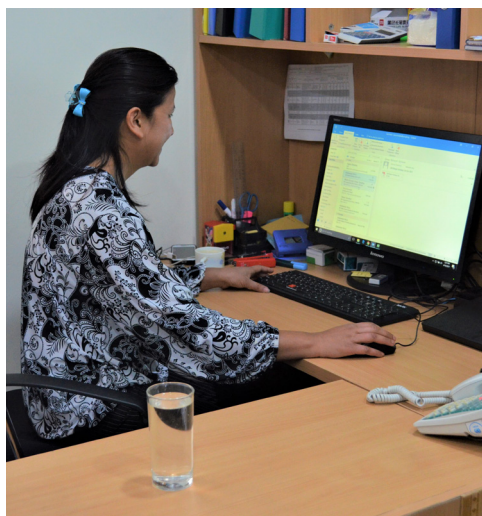
As a result of the discussions, an update of the NAP was proposed for the next implementation period of 2017-2018. This update will be facilitated by a review session with UNRCPD, OSCE and the 1540 Committee Group of Experts, scheduled for May 2017 in Vienna, Austria.



## Resumption of UNRCPD Operations from Kathmandu

UNRCPD resumed operations from Kathmandu, Nepal, on 7 February 2017. The Regional Centre temporarily relocated to Thailand after strong earthquakes damaged its office building in April and May 2015. Since returning to Nepal, UNRCPD has moved into a new office premises, from where staff plan and implement programmes across the region.

UNRCPD will continue to assist the 43 Member States under its mandate in their efforts to promote peace, security and disarmament. Priority areas include capacity building and technical assistance, facilitating dialogue and engaging in disarmament outreach. Upcoming projects focus on implementing the Program of Action (PoA) on Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW), promoting the role of women in arms control and enhancing implementation of UNSCR 1540 (2004).



## INTERNATIONAL DISARMAMENT HIGHLIGHTS

**UNSC Resolution 1540 (2004) Regional Seminar**, on 14 March 2017 in Islamabad. See: <http://bit.ly/2oycgQu>

**UN Conference to Negotiate a Legally Binding Instrument to Prohibit Nuclear Weapons, Leading Towards their Total Elimination**, in February and March 2017 in New York. See: <http://bit.ly/2nWg2Sg>

**Workshop in Support of the Biological Weapons Convention Extended Assistance Programme**, on 29 March 2017 in Geneva. See: <http://bit.ly/2ozPiEJ>

**Ms. Malala Yousafzai of Pakistan was designated the youngest ever UN Messenger of Peace, with a special focus on girls' education**, on 10 April 2017. See: <http://bit.ly/2o4jBzi>

**ASEAN and the UN held a Secretariat-to-Secretariat meeting to enhance collaboration**, on 19 April 2017 in Jakarta. See: <http://bit.ly/2omonpz>

**UN Disarmament Commission adopts by consensus "Practical confidence-building measures in the field of conventional weapons"**, on 24 April 2017 in New York. See: <http://bit.ly/2pZh5iz>

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- ✿ Building the Capacity of Southeast Asian States to Implement the Program of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons in **Lao People's Democratic Republic**
- ✿ Project on Gun Violence and SALW Trafficking from a Gender Perspective for Asia and the Pacific in **India, Nepal, Papua New Guinea and Thailand**
- ✿ National Roundtable to Review the UNSCR 1540 NAP in **Mongolia**



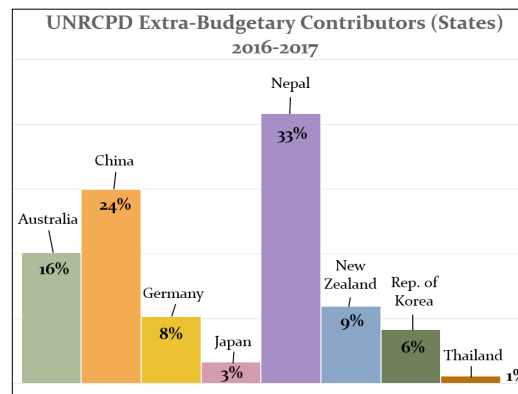
## QUOTE OF THE QUARTER

*Ensuring the meaningful participation of women and girls in all areas of society, including conflict resolution, is investing in sustaining peace. Gender equality yields greater economic growth and higher standards of living; women's participation in peacebuilding helps prevent relapse into conflict.*

**António Guterres**  
Secretary-General of the United Nations  
24 January 2017

## DID YOU KNOW...?

*...in 2016-17 the four largest extra-budgetary contributors to UNRCPD are Asia-Pacific States?*



\*In addition, Japan and Switzerland provided the Centre with gratis personnel

## PUBLICATIONS OF INTEREST

- Women, peace and security: the way forward, ASPI, March 2017
- Is three-dimensional (3D) printing a nuclear proliferation tool?, SIPRI, February 2017
- Civil society engagement in disarmament processes: The case for a nuclear weapons ban, UNODA, December 2016
- Lock them up: zero-deployed non-strategic weapons in Europe, UNIDIR, 2017
- The United Nations Disarmament Yearbook: Vol. 41: 2016, April 2017
- 15th Anniversary for UN-RoK Joint Disarmament Conference, 1540 Compass (by UNRCPD), December 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, Cambodia, China, Germany, Japan, Kazakhstan, Nepal, New Zealand, Philippines  
Republic of Korea, Samoa, Switzerland, Thailand, United Kingdom, OSCE, Risho 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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