



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

...strengthening peace and security through disarmament

10th Anniversary of UNRCPD operations from Kathmandu - Special Edition



NEWSLETTER

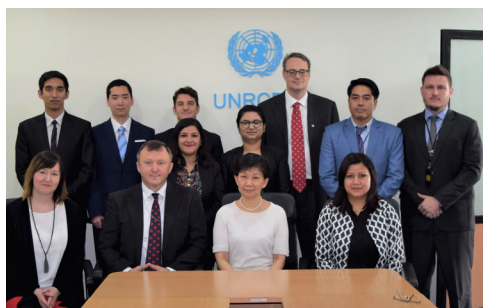
FOREWORD

The United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific (UNRCPD), established in 1987 and headquartered in Kathmandu since August 2008, has implemented and actively participated in 100 projects and events for all 43 Member States in the Asia-Pacific region over the past decade.

After commencing its operations in Kathmandu, UNRCPD further strengthened its ties with the region's Member States while collaborating closely with its host, the Government of Nepal. This effort has contributed significantly to the Centre's capacity to undertake its activities and programmes.

In November 2016, the Centre organized a roundtable discussion, hosted in Kathmandu by the Government of Nepal, to promote the regional implementation of Security Council resolution 1540 (2004). The event marked the relaunch of the "Kathmandu Process", a forum for Asia-Pacific States to discuss current and salient regional and global disarmament and security issues. Since then, the Centre has organized numerous regional activities and undertaken projects as a contribution to the "Kathmandu Process."

On 24 May 2018, the United Nations Secretary-General launched his Disarmament



Visit of UN High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, Ms. Izumi Nakamitsu, to UNRCPD, Nepal, 2018

Agenda: "Securing Our Common Future". Through its three distinct but mutually reinforcing priorities—disarmament to save humanity, disarmament that saves lives and disarmament for future generations—the Agenda stresses the importance of disarmament in promoting stability and security, ensuring national security, upholding the principles of humanity, promoting sustainable development and safeguarding civilians in conflict. It takes into account the critical importance of stability and sustainable development to future generations, placing special emphasis on peace and disarmament education and broader engagement of youth in international activities to maintain peace and security. It further calls for "greater efforts to achieve equal, full and effective participation of women in all decision-making processes related to disarmament."

The Centre serves States of the region and works in close partnership with regional, sub-regional and civil society organizations as well as other United Nations entities. In this context, the Centre promotes the implementation of global disarmament, non-proliferation and arms-control instruments, mainly by: (a) providing capacity-building as well as technical and legal assistance to States in the region; (b) enhancing dialogue and confidence building among these States in the areas of disarmament, non proliferation and regional security; and (c) undertaking awareness-raising, outreach and advocacy initiatives.



UNRCPD Director, Taijiro Kimura, and Deputy Director, Roman Hunger, Nepal, 2008



UNODA
UNITED NATIONS OFFICE FOR
DISARMAMENT AFFAIRS

Read more at <https://bit.ly/2uTsbJC>

UNRCPD ACTIVITIES



CONFIDENCE-BUILDING AND DIALOGUE AMONG STATES

UNRCPD collaborates with the Governments of Japan and the Republic of Korea to organize two annual conferences on disarmament, non-proliferation and security issues, providing important fora to address pressing international challenges in these areas at both global and regional levels.



United Nations - Republic of Korea Joint Conference on Disarmament and Non-proliferation Issues, Seoul, 2015



DISARMAMENT AND NON-PROLIFERATION OF WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION

The Regional Centre assisted Member States in their efforts to effectively implement Security Council resolution 1540 (2004), which aims to prevent access by non-State actors to nuclear, chemical or biological weapons and their means of delivery, including related materials. To promote the safety and security of such materials, UNRCPD provided support with roundtable discussions, preparation of national action plans, enhancement of national legislation, adoption of national control lists, strengthening and enforcement of domestic control mechanisms, and provision of training and educational activities. The Centre further assisted individual States in developing their 1540 National Implementation Plans or in preparing their first 1540 national implementation reports. The Regional Centre also supported efforts for the implementation and universalization of the Biological Weapons Convention and the Chemical Weapons Convention at the regional and sub-regional levels.



Workshop to Support the Implementation of the Biological Weapons Convention, Nepal, 2014

2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

With a view to the inextricable link between disarmament and development, UNRCPD has oriented its projects and activities



to assist and facilitate the achievement by Member States of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In particular, its projects serve to advance Goal 16 on Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions, including the call in Target 16.4 for Governments to, by 2030,

"significantly reduce illicit financial and arms flows, strengthen the recovery and return of stolen assets and combat all forms of organized crime".

"The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is a blueprint for making our world more equitable, sustainable and livable."

UN Secretary-General António Guterres





CONTROL OF CONVENTIONAL ARMS AND PREVENTION OF THEIR ILLICIT TRADE

The estimated total number of small arms in global circulation is as high as 1,013 million, 85 per cent of which are in civilian possession (Small Arms Survey, June 2018). The high levels of arms and ammunition in circulation as well as gun violence and gun insecurity all cause harm to civilians, especially women and girls. On average, the use of firearms causes a violent death somewhere in the world every 15 minutes.

The Regional Centre organized workshops to: (a) enhance Member States' capacity to control small arms and light weapons and other conventional arms, and (b) to enable States to implement the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) and the United Nations Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects. In addition, the Centre continues to provide legal assistance to strengthen control of small arms and technical advice based on the International Ammunition Technical Guidelines (IATG) and the International Small Arms Control Standards (ISACS). The Regional Centre also engages with parliamentarians, civil society and women's organizations in these efforts; in this regard it just concluded a workshop for Southeast Asia, in Bangkok in July 2018, on the gendered impact of gun violence. UNRCPD attaches great importance to promoting the active involvement of women in decision-making processes aimed at preventing the spread of firearms, and it also encourages Member States to join the ATT.



PEACE, DISARMAMENT AND NON-PROLIFERATION EDUCATION

Nelson Mandela said, "Education is the most powerful weapon you can use to change the world". Education is a crucial, yet underrated, tool which empowers people and equips them with the necessary knowledge and information to develop and bring about positive changes.

The Regional Centre places great emphasis on promoting activities that support peace and disarmament education by engaging with government officials and policymakers as well as by reaching out to youth and women's groups.

In 2014 and 2015, the Centre successfully supported the Ministry of Education of Nepal in integrating peace and disarmament education (PDE) into the national curriculum both by developing textbooks and other teaching tools and by building teachers' capacities to apply PDE in classrooms. The effort—carried out in cooperation with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)—has reached over 700,000 middle- and high-school students across Nepal, helping to strengthen a culture of peace within the next generation. The Centre is currently actively working on expanding its PDE activities throughout

Asia and the Pacific to empower young people through new education opportunities to be a force for change and disarmament.

UNRCPD Project
"Children's Art for Peace
Competition", Nepal, 2012

THE NEW DISARMAMENT AGENDA

On 24 May 2018, Secretary-General António Guterres launched the United Nations' new Disarmament Agenda. Stressing the importance of a comprehensive approach to disarmament, he called on all Member States to work together towards the total elimination of weapons of mass destruction, a drastic reduction in illicit flow of conventional weapons, and the creation of a society where the unlawful use of weapons is morally condemned.



"We must redouble our efforts to ensure that disarmament actions, which can make enormous contributions to establishing peaceful societies, are fully anchored in the implementation efforts of the SDGs."

**UN High Representative for
Disarmament Affairs
Izumi Nakamitsu**



UNRCPD extends its appreciation to its host country, Nepal, and to the following Member States, organizations and funds for their generous financial and technical contributions within the last 10 years.

DID YOU KNOW...?

...In 10 years of operation from Kathmandu, UNRCPD has engaged 82 staff members from 23 countries from around the world.

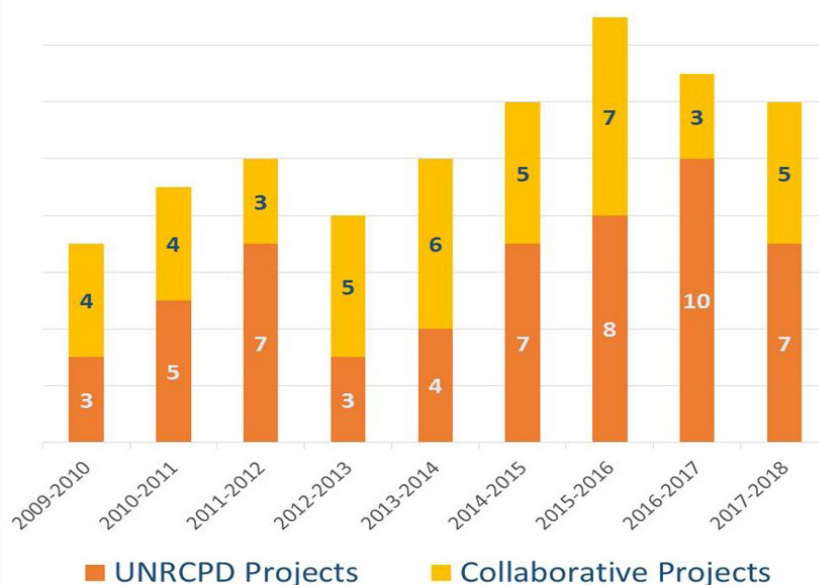
Member States:

Australia
Austria
Canada
China
Finland
Germany
Indonesia
Japan
Kazakhstan
Nepal
Netherlands
New Zealand
Pakistan
Republic of Korea
Switzerland
Thailand
Turkey
United Kingdom

Organizations and Funds:

European Union
OSCE
Rissho Kosei Kai
Tokyo Club
UNSCAR

From 2009 to 2018
UNRCPD facilitated and participated
in 100 projects.



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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 »
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