



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

...strengthening peace and security through disarmament

Number 16

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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 • Uzbekistan •
Vanuatu • Viet Nam

NEWSLETTER

Two Regional Trainings on Ammunition Management

The United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA), in cooperation with its Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific (UNRCPD) and the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD), organized two sub-regional training courses to engage States of South and South-East Asia along with Mongolia on the subject of conventional ammunition management, in particular the International Ammunition Technical Guidelines (IATG) and the UN SaferGuard Programme. The trainings were held from 11 to 16 November in Kathmandu, Nepal. It enhanced the capacity of a total of 17 government officials and experts in the safe and secure management of ammunition stockpiles. The sub-regional events were held under the framework of the "Kathmandu Process".

Inadequately managed ammunition stockpiles pose the dual dangers of unintended explosions and diversion to illicit markets. In response to these challenges, the United Nations developed the IATG in 2011 to provide practical, step-by-step guidance for all stakeholders wishing to improve the safety and security of ammunition storage sites. Accordingly, the UN SaferGuard Programme was launched as the platform for managing knowledge on conventional ammunition issues.

The sub-regional trainings aimed to increase awareness of the UN SaferGuard Programme and the IATG with a view of enhancing the capacity of national authorities in the safe and secure management of ammunition. Furthermore, the training served as a platform to introduce the "UN SaferGuard Validation Process", to encourage participation of technical ammunition experts from Asia in future validation exercises.

In support of the validation process, participants engaged in a survey of national ammunition management systems, the findings of which will support the development of a standardized methodology for managing ammunition. The purpose, framework, and modules of the IATG were discussed by GICHD experts, focusing mainly on hazard classifications, accounting systems, and planning of storage sites. Participants were taught how to use SaferGuard tools and IATG tables in order to manage and assess risk. Moreover, participants discussed their main ammunition-related challenges at the national level, including how to improve their national standards through further in-depth IATG trainings. The trainings were made possible with financial support from the Government of Sweden.



UNRCPD ACTIVITIES

Regional Workshop on the Fissile Material Cut-Off Treaty for the Pacific Island States



On 13 and 14 December 2018, UNRCPD in cooperation with the Geneva Branch of the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA), organized a regional workshop in Nadi, Fiji, on the Fissile Material Cut-Off Treaty (FMCT) Consultative Process for the Pacific Island States. The workshop brought together 24 participants from Fiji, Kiribati, Federated States of Micronesia, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Palau, Samoa, Vanuatu and the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat. The key objective of the regional workshop was to facilitate discussions on a future treaty and its relationship with already existing global and regional instruments. Presentations provided by two international experts allowed sharing

of knowledge and information with the participants on issues relevant to such a possible treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices. The workshop provided an opportunity for participants to exchange views and discuss challenges and ways ahead in relation to a future treaty. UNRCPD and the Geneva Branch contributed to the objective of the workshop by giving a presentation on background information and overview of the process towards such a treaty and engaging in discussions with the participants. The participants were provided with an introduction to and background information on the treaty, including insights on the work done in the framework of the Conference on Disarmament, the UN General Assembly, the 2014-2015 Group of Governmental Experts and the 2017-2018 High-Level Expert Preparatory Group. Participants generally acknowledged the importance of elaborating on such a future FMCT treaty. The event was funded by the European Union and co-organized with the Government of Fiji.



Contributing to South Asia Legislative Workshop on Maritime Counter-Terrorism

The UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the International Maritime Organization (IMO) hosted a sub-regional workshop on maritime counter-terrorism, 27-29 November 2018, in London, UK. Participants included Government officials from Bangladesh, Maldives and Sri Lanka. UNRCPD provided an overview of UN Security Council Resolution 1540 (2004), its assistance to States to implement this resolution, and synergies between the resolution and other non-proliferation instruments, including the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC), Biological Weapons Convention (BWC), and Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR). Special attention was paid to the maritime security aspects and on the importance of 1540 national Points of Contact. UNRCPD also took participants through a practical exercise on the drafting of a 1540 national implementation action plan based on the weaknesses perceived in their 1540 Matrices.

Workshop on Countering Financing and WMD Proliferation to Terrorists

On 29 and 30 January 2019, the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament (UNRCPD) took part in and contributed to the national workshop in Bhutan in the framework of the UNODC programme on countering financing of terrorism and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction to non-state actors. Representatives from 22 national ministries attended. Various aspects of the UN Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) and related national obligations were explained. Following the presentation, participants engaged in discussing synergies between the said resolution and WMD-related conventions, developing voluntary national implementation action plans, establishing national control lists and the assistance UNRCPD could provide in the future.



Workshop for South and South-East Asia on Counter Terrorism

On 5-8 February 2019, UNRCPD participated in a cross-regional workshop for South and South-East Asia organized by UNODC and IMO, in Bali, Indonesia, on international counter-terrorism and cooperation against the financing of non-states actors' acquisition of Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD). Through the presentations of the 1540 Group of Experts and UNRCPD, participants were familiarized with United Nation's Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) and synergies between the resolution and WMD-related conventions. Mock exercises enabled participants to explore, practice and apply the legal framework for countering financing terrorism and maritime legal framework to prevent illicit trafficking of CBRN (Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear) materials and dual-use goods by sea, and financial support of such illegal activities. The workshop emphasised the importance of a broader national inter-agency coordination to implement the resolution, develop a voluntary national implementation action plan, and prioritize and streamline national implementation, including identifying and communicating needs for assistance.

Implementing the Biological Weapons Convention in Nepal

In January 2019, UNRCPD actively participated in a workshop on the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) in Kathmandu, Nepal, organized by the BWC Implementation Support Unit of the Office for Disarmament Affairs and the Verification Research, Training and Information Centre (VERTIC). Its aim was to raise awareness on the content, rights and obligations regarding this treaty that Nepal became party to in 2016. Government officials from various Nepali ministries and agencies responsible for implementing the BWC actively took part in the event. UNRCPD represented its role and BWC activities and how it can assist States in its region with implementing this key global treaty that bans all acquisition or keeping of biological weapons. UNRCPD also presented the UN Secretary-General's agenda on disarmament and how it includes the issue of biological weapons.



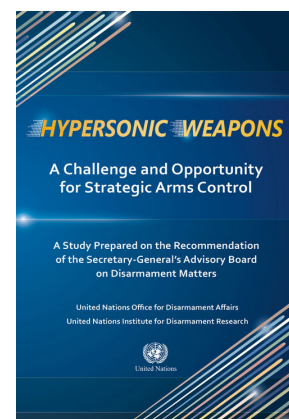
Contribution to Non-Proliferation of Missiles in South Asia

UNRCPD actively contributed to a seminar on the Hague Code of Conduct against Ballistic Missile Proliferation (HCoC) and the threat of missiles in South Asia, organized by the Foundation for Strategic Research, on 15 January 2019, in Colombo, Sri Lanka. Over 40 representatives and experts from foreign ministries, armed forces and research institutes from across South Asia and beyond took part in the discussions and briefings on missile developments in South Asia and the status and relevance of the HCoC in this region. The participants included European Union's Special Envoy for Disarmament and Non-proliferation and the Chair of the HCoC. The Centre delivered a presentation on the issue of missiles from a UN perspective, as well as on UNRCPD's role and ability to assist States in the region on arms-control, disarmament and security matters. Supported by the UN General Assembly, the HCoC is a multilateral instrument aimed at internationally regulating ballistic missiles capable of carrying weapons of mass destruction, and particularly to curb the spread of such missiles.



PUBLICATIONS OF INTEREST

- ✿ The Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons on the Dark Web: A Study, UNODA Occasional Paper, October 2018
- ✿ Mandate and Working Methods in the Conference on Disarmament, UNIDIR, 2019
- ✿ Briefing paper for the United Nations Disarmament Commission - "Shared risks: An examination of universal space security challenges", UNIDIR, 2019
- ✿ Hypersonic Weapons: A Challenge and Opportunity for Strategic Arms Control, UNODA, February, 2019
- ✿ The Role of Weapon and Ammunition Management in Preventing Conflict and Supporting Security Transitions, UNIDIR, 2019





QUOTE OF THE QUARTER

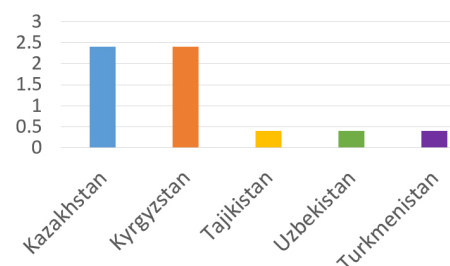
Disarmament is a driving force for maintaining international peace and security. It is a tool for ensuring national security. It helps to uphold the principles of humanity, promote sustainable development and protect civilians.

Mr. António Guterres,
Secretary-General of the United Nations,
Nagasaki Peace Memorial Ceremony, August 2018



DID YOU KNOW...?

Guns per 100 People



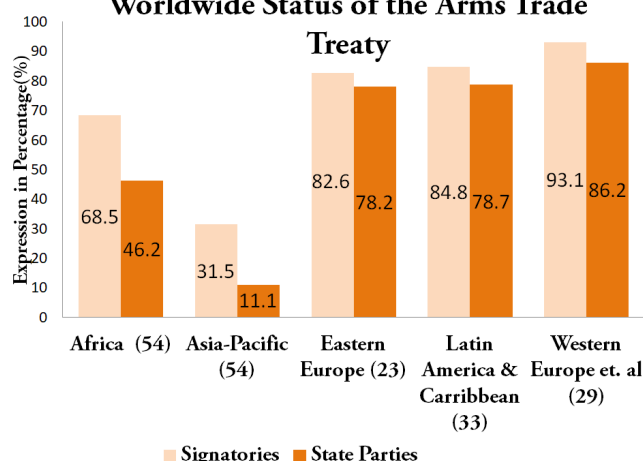
...Central Asia has the lowest rate of world's private gun ownership

Source: https://www.gunpolicy.org/firearms/compare/93/rate_of_civilian_firearm_possession/98,181,255,196

UPCOMING EVENTS

- ◇ Contribution to UNITAR Hiroshima Nuclear Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Training for Asian States (Hiroshima, February-March 2019)
- ◇ South-East Asia Regional Outreach Seminar on Illicit Trade of Conventional Ammunition (Bangkok, March 2019)
- ◇ Awareness Raising of Non-Proliferation and Arms Control through Youth and Media in collaboration with the International Youth Media Summit (Nepal, July-August 2019)
- ◇ Baseline Assessment on Peace and Disarmament Education in select Member States in Asia and the Pacific (2019)
- ◇ Technical and Legal Assistance Project to Support the Implementation of the UN Programme of Action on SALW and the Arms Trade Treaty (2019)

Worldwide Status of the Arms Trade Treaty



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.

UNRCPD extends its appreciation to the following countries, organizations and funds for their generous contributions within the last two years:

Australia, Austria, Canada, China, Finland, Germany, Japan, Kazakhstan, Nepal, New Zealand, Republic of Korea, Sweden, Thailand, European Union, OSCE, Risho Kosei-kai, and UNSCAR

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