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...strengthening peace and security through disarmament

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Workshop for Nepal on the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) - Promoting and Supporting Nepal's Accession

In collaboration with the Women for Peace and Democracy in Nepal (WPDN) and the Government of Nepal, the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific (UNRCPD) conducted a national workshop: "to Promote the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) and Support Nepal's Accession to the Treaty".

This was the first in-person workshop since the outbreak of COVID-19 and took place in Nagarkot, Nepal, on 24 and 25 November 2021. The event was attended by 32 participants, representing the Ministry of Home Affairs, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Defense, Nepal's security and defense forces and civil society.

The event provided a platform for participants to gather for an open discussion on the provisions of the ATT, the relevance the Treaty has to national needs and the benefits Nepal would gain by acceding to the Treaty. Guest speakers included international experts from the UN Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR), namely Paul Holtom, and the Parliamentary Forum on Small Arms Light Weapons (SALW), whose Secretary General, Karin Olofsson, connected virtually.

The workshop provided participants with a comprehensive explanation on how the ATT came into existence, its obligations and provisions, and how it contributes to "disarmament that saves lives" as outlined in the UN Secretary-General's Disarmament Agenda. Coinciding with the launch of the 16 Days of Activism against Gender Based Violence (GBV) campaign (25 November – 10 December), discussions also addressed the issue of gender-responsive small arms and ammunition control. The ATT is, in fact, the first global arms control instrument to acknowledge and create obligations around the connection between international arms transfers and GBV.

The one and a half-day-long workshop was conducted in the framework of a global project of the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) in support of gender mainstreamed policies, programs and actions in the fight against small arms trafficking and misuse, funded by the European Union.



Summary of Webinar Series to Support the Implementation of UNSCR 1540 (2004) in South Asia and Mongolia

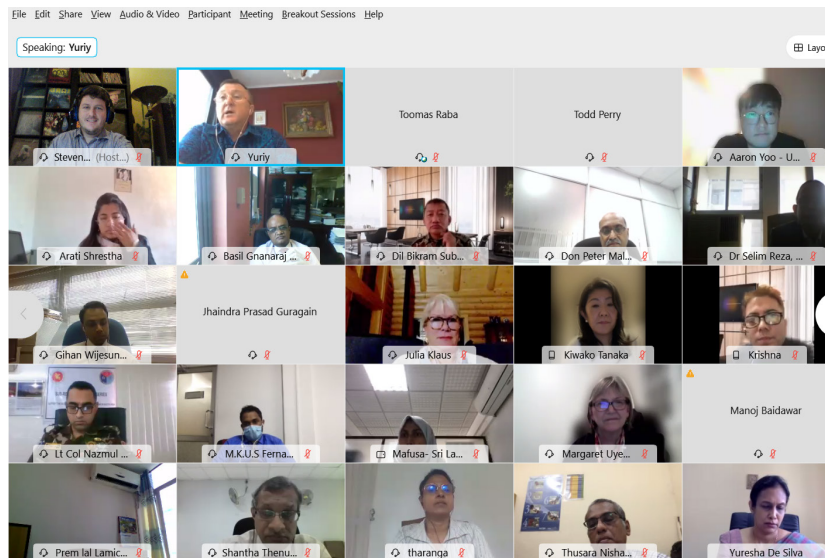
The United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia-Pacific hosted a series of virtual events to equip government officials in the Asia-Pacific region with a more detailed understanding of UN Security Council Resolution 1540 (2004). The webinar series was held from 1 to 15 of December 2020 and welcomed more than 50 representatives responsible for instituting resolution 1540 in Bangladesh, the Maldives, Mongolia, Nepal, and Sri Lanka, along with various international experts.

The purpose of these events was to support the creation of reliable national and regional frameworks for preventing the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, their materials, and means of delivery to non-state actors, as per the obligations of resolution 1540.

The programme combined a self-paced online course developed by UNODA with live webinars that featured expert presentations and group discussions.

The first webinar consisted of an educational session to provide a general overview of the 1540 regime, including its subsequent resolutions; related economic, security, and regulatory benefits; the 2016 Comprehensive Review; and prospects for the next comprehensive review, scheduled for 2021. The second session discussed how individual Asia-Pacific states can better implement the resolution. UN and international experts outlined recommendations for improving national implementation, such as establishing national points of contact and drafting a national implementation action plan. In addition to highlighting various successes and challenges, participating States discussed potential opportunities for international assistance, particularly regarding import/export controls and national capacity building. The last session focused on how international partnerships can assist in strengthening the implementation of resolution 1540. Participants focused on how to implement effective strategic trade controls, highlighting important measures that include establishing national control lists and strengthening import/export licensing regimes.

The webinar series not only provided participants with a comprehensive knowledge of resolution 1540 but also generated discussions on individual country challenges and methods to increase international engagement.



The In-Country Training Programme on Gender Mainstreaming Small Arms Control in Cambodia, Lao PDR and Papua New Guinea



Under the framework of a global project funded by the European Union in support of gender mainstreamed policies, programmes and actions in the fight against small arms trafficking and misuse, in line with the Women, Peace and Security agenda, the Regional Centre organized a series of in-country trainings on gender mainstreaming small arms control in Asia-Pacific, in hybrid or virtual format. From 14 to 16 July 2021, the Centre, in partnership with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Lao PDR, conducted a hybrid training on gender mainstreaming small arms control in Vientiane, targeting thirty-two government officials from various key ministries. From 9 to 20 July 2021, the Centre, in partnership with the Ministry of Home Affairs of Cambodia, conducted a webinar series on gender and small arms control, reaching out

to thirty-two government officials from different departments within the Ministry of Home Affairs, the National Police and Senior Officials Meeting on Transactional Crime of the ASEAN. From 23 September to 1 October 2021, UNRCPD, in coordination with the Office of Prime Minister and National Executive Council (NEC) of Papua New Guinea, gathered twenty government officials from several ministries and two representatives of the civil society in four webinars on gender and small arms control. Through thematic presentations by UNRCPD experts and partners in the region, such as UN Women, UNFPA, UNODC, UNDP-SEESAC, the International Action Network on Small Arms (IANSA), the Centre for Armed Violence Reduction (CAVR), and the Mines Advisory Group, the three national events provided participants with in-depth and practical knowledge about how gender plays a role in small arms and light weapons control, at the policy, legislative and operational level, and ways to apply relevant global instruments and agendas. Based on the recommendations of the series of the trainings, the Centre will conduct follow-up activities in Cambodia, Lao PDR and Papua New Guinea in the first half of 2022.

Online Training on National Reporting on the UN Programme of Action on Small Arms (UN PoA) for Government Officials

On 28 May 2021, the Regional Centre conducted an online training on national reporting on the UN Programme of Action on small arms (UN PoA) for government officials from eight Member States in Asia and the Pacific, in preparation for the Seventh Biennial Meeting of States (BMS7), held from 26 to 30 June 2021 in New York. The training, which provided a detailed run through of the reporting template by UN experts, drew nearly 50 government officials from Bangladesh, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Nepal, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Solomon Islands and Timor-Leste. The online event was organized in the framework of a global project funded by the European Union in support of gender mainstreamed policies, programmes and actions in the fight against small arms trafficking and misuse, in line with the Women, Peace and Security agenda, which supports the commitments that States have made under the UN PoA.

Partnership, Outreach and Advocacy

From July to December 2021, the Regional Centre collaborated with civil society and academia within various regional and national events focused on peace and disarmament education and its linkages with global agendas, such as the 2030 Agenda for sustainable Development and the Women, Peace and Security. On 23 September 2021, the Centre delivered a lecture on Gender & Disarmament in the third edition of the lunchtime lecture series on "Peace and Gender" organized by the Prajnya Trust and Sansristi, two India-based civil society organizations, targeting University students. On 8 March, the Centre, in partnership with IANSA, gathered virtually parliamentarians and civil society representatives from the region to discuss on past and current initiatives on the prevention of gun violence and illicit small-arms trafficking from a gender perspective in Asia-Pacific, and opportunities for continued collaboration.



UNRCPD and UNODA, in cooperation with the World Federation of United Nations Associations (WFUNA) and Hanyang University School of International Studies (HYSIS), conducted a student-focused hybrid webinar event on disarmament and non-proliferation education. The event was held on 13 November 2021 in Seoul, the Republic of Korea, drawing 100 students and educators from around the world. The speakers presented on topics relevant and important to disarmament and non-proliferation efforts, such as the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), responsible innovation in the field of science and technology, and the link between security and development. Key speakers included Ms. Ji Yeon Rho, Associate Political Affairs Officer at UNODA and Mr. Steven Humphries, Project Coordinator at UNRCPD. Following the presentations, the participants engaged in a lively Q&A, including questions regarding the Treaty on the Non-Proliferations of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), transparency in military expenditure reporting, and what a United Nations official's daily work life looks like.

The 20th United Nations-Republic of Korea Joint Conference on Disarmament and Non-proliferation Issues

In November, UNODA and the Government of Republic of Korea held the 20th United Nations-Republic of Korea Joint Conference on Disarmament and Non-proliferation Issues. More than 30 officials and experts from governments, inter-governmental organizations, policy institutes and academia gathered for the event, which took place in Seoul, Republic of Korea (ROK).

The Conference gave rise to open and lively discussions. Titled “Twenty Years of Achievements and Future Aspirations”, this year’s Conference focused on how the disarmament and non-proliferation landscape has changed over the past two decades, and took stock of the successes, setbacks and lessons learned as well as the priority issues in the years ahead. Participants heard assessments on the current state of the nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime and expectations ahead of the Tenth Review Conference of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, which will be held from 4 to 28 January 2022 in New York. On the topic of regional security issues, speakers expressed concern with the severity of the situation on the Korean Peninsula, as well as the need for a negotiated solution and for creative ideas for results based on multilateralism.

Ms. Izumi Nakamitsu, UN Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for Disarmament Affairs opened the event together with her counterpart from the ROK Government, Amb. Ham Sang-wook, Deputy Minister for Multilateral and Global Affairs. Hosted by the ROK since 2002, the Conference series has become an important forum characterized by a candid and constructive exchange of views among Government officials and experts, scholars and civil society representatives on the challenges and solutions to key disarmament, non-proliferation, arms control and security issues at the global and regional levels. This joint endeavor, taking place for the 20th year is known as the “Jeju Process”, and is one of the longest continuing disarmament conference series. It is funded by the Government of ROK.



UPCOMING EVENTS

- ✿ UN SaferGuard Validation Exercise for Asia-Pacific in December 2021.
- ✿ Follow-up activities under the Gender and Small Arms and Light Weapons project in Lao PDR, Cambodia and Papua New Guinea from January to July 2022.
- ✿ Webinar Series on Establishing and Maintaining Gun-Free-Zones in Asia-Pacific in March 2022.
- ✿ Webinar Series for ASEAN States to promote the Hague Code of Conduct Against the Proliferation of Ballistic Missiles (HCOG) in April 2022.

RESOURCES

- ✿ Strengthening the Connection Between Small Arms and Light Weapons Control and the Women, Peace, and Security Agenda (IANSA)
- ✿ Conventional Ammunition Management: Developments and Challenges from COVID-19 (UNODA Occasional Papers)
- ✿ Nuclear Risk Reduction: Engaging the non-NPT Nuclear-Armed States (UNIDIR)
- ✿ Programming Action: Observations From Small Arms Control for Cyber Peace (Reaching Critical Will)
- ✿ Gender & Disarmament Resource Pack (International Gender Champions Disarmament Impact Group)

QUOTE OF THE QUARTER

“The pursuit of nuclear disarmament is not an easy task. It suffers frequent setbacks and can be a frustrating and, at times, disappointing endeavour. Nonetheless, it is a goal worth striving for and one that requires the passion and dedication on display today.”

Ms. Izumi Nakamitsu
High Representative for Disarmament Affairs
General Assembly 76th Session, October 2021

DID YOU KNOW...?

....That in November we said farewell to the UNRCPD's Director, Dr. Yuriy Kryvonos, after seven years of service. He will be sorely missed but we wish him a very happy retirement!



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 year:



China



European Union



Nepal



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Thailand



United States



Sweden



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