



February 2014

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

...strengthening peace and security through disarmament



NEWSLETTER

Jeju Conference Focuses on UNSCR 1540

For the 12th year in a row, UNRCPD and the Republic of Korea (RoK) organised a conference on disarmament issues, 13-14 December 2013, on Jeju Island, RoK. Themed 'Non-proliferation Regime in the 21st Century: Challenges and the Way Forward', the United Nations-Republic of Korea Joint Conference on Disarmament and Non-proliferation Issues gathered 50 senior international experts to focus on the range of issues, with a special emphasis on UN Security Council Resolution 1540 (2004).

Achieving **universal reporting** by states was mentioned as one objective of the 1540 Committee for its ten-year anniversary in 2014, as 22 states have yet to submit their first report on national implementation. Synergies and possible cooperation between the 1540 Committee and **relevant export control regimes and UN Security Council sanctions regimes** were discussed, as were other global non-proliferation obligations and initiatives, including **IAEA safeguards**, efforts against **proliferation financing**, and the 2014 **Nuclear Security Summit** and the **Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction**. UN High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, Angela Kane, opened the event, with Ambassador Shin Dong-ik, RoK Deputy Minister of Multilateral and Global Affairs making welcoming marks. Documents are available at: unrcpd.org/event/rok-un-joint-conference.



(L-R): Sibylle Bauer, High Rep. Angela Kane, Richard Cupitt

UNSCR 1540 at a glance

The tenth anniversary of the unanimous adoption of UNSCR 1540 will be marked on 28 April 2014. The resolution is unique in that it compels states to adopt measures to prevent non-state actors from acquiring weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery (often referred to as 'CBN' threats: chemical, biological and nuclear). The resolution was created to target, *inter alia*, global weaknesses in export, transit and transshipment processes that can help proliferate CBN technology and materials. Transnational terrorist networks have indicated that they have attempted to acquire WMD, and often attack 'soft' targets in developing states, underlining the assertion that an effective global non-proliferation regime is essential for *all* states, large and small, developed and developing.

UNRCPD ACTIVITIES

UNRCPD Presents to UNGA First Committee



UNRCPD Director
Sharon Riggle

UNRCPD and the other Regional Centres in Lima and Lomé reported on their activities and introduced future plans during the Regional Disarmament and Security cluster. A record-breaking 101 statements were heard during the general debate, and 241 statements during the thematic debate, at the 68th Session of the First Committee of the UN General Assembly. From 7 October and 6 November 2013, the Committee met to discuss a range of issues related to disarmament and non-proliferation.

Many Asia-Pacific states made statements in the debates. Of note, was the significant regional support shown for resolutions related to: Arms Trade Treaty, regional and sub-regional conventional arms control, accelerating nuclear disarmament, the legality of the threat or use of nuclear weapons, the entry into force of the CTBT, and multilateral disarmament measures. [For overview see: www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2013/gadis3494.doc.htm].



UNRCPD ACTIVITIES



Education for Peace gathers speed in Nepal

As part of their peace and disarmament education (PDE) project in Nepal, in December 2013, UNRCPD facilitated a workshop to further develop a model PDE curriculum for Nepali schools. Curriculum officials mapped an 'ideal journey' of PDE learning goals for children from grades 1 through 10. This will be used to identify gaps in the existing curricula and materials, and define areas of further UNRCPD support. For more see: unrcpd.org/peace-and-disarmament-education.

UN High Representative visits UNRCPD

The UN High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, Ms. Angela Kane (right in photo), visited the Nepal offices in early 2014. The High Representative and UNRCPD Director (left in photo) met

with, Minister for Foreign Affairs Madhav Prasad Ghimire, and the Chair of the Council of Ministers Khil Raj Regmi (centre). A key theme was a call for Nepal to sign the Arms Trade Treaty as soon as possible.



UNSCR 1540 in the Asia-Pacific Context

The Asia-Pacific region is characterised by large maritime boundaries, major shipping channels, and significant growth in industries that use dual-use technologies. Capacity also varies amongst states to effectively implement the resolution. In this context, it is probably a matter of when, not if, proliferators will seek to again use the region to undertake illicit activities. In co-ordination with the UN Security Council's 1540 Committee, UNRCPD is preparing to assist requesting states and to enhance implementation in the region through: facilitating multilateral dialogue fora, assisting states to undertake reporting requirements, facilitating capacity building, and further engaging civil society, academia and industry. The Centre will be stepping up its activities in this area in the coming months and looks forward to hearing from states in the region.

Small Arms in Pacific Spotlight



UNRCPD Director Sharon Riggle with the PIFS team

UNRCPD was busy recently presenting to two key meetings on conventional arms. 2-3 December: New Zealand hosted a Pacific workshop to discuss model legislation to adopt the ATT and tailoring it for small island nations. 9-11 December: Pacific Island Forum Secretariat hosted a capacity building workshop in Suva, Fiji, on the UN Programme of Action (PoA). A key result was the Solomon Islands, Palau, Nauru and Kiribati planning to submit their first-ever national reports.

REGIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

Eight new Asia-Pacific countries sign the ATT: Cambodia became the 114th signatory globally, and 15th in the Asia-Pacific, to sign the Arms Trade Treaty on 18 October 2013. Seven other countries from the Asia-Pacific region - Bangladesh, Kiribati, Malaysia, Mongolia, Nauru, Philippines and Samoa - signed the treaty at the High-Level event at UN Headquarters on 25 September 2013. As of 1 February 2014, the total number of signatories to the ATT has reached 116 with 9 states having ratified the treaty.

New Zealand and Mongolia awarded for sustainable disarmament policies: New Zealand received a Silver Award at the awards ceremony for the 2013 Future Policy Award held at UN Headquarters on 23 October 2013. The award was in recognition of the precedence set by their Nuclear Free Zone, Disarmament, and Arms Control Act (1987), one of the strongest existing legal prohibitions against nuclear weapons. Mongolia received an Honourable Mention for the Law of Mongolia on its nuclear-weapon-free status (2000). See www.worldfuturecouncil.org/fpa_2013.html.

Bhutan free of landmines: Bhutan became the latest state to declare it is free from all known landmines under Article 5 of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention. Over two years ahead of its February 2016 deadline, Bhutan announced the news at the 13th Meeting of the State Parties to the Convention held 2-5 December 2013 in Geneva, Switzerland. The Convention, also known as Ottawa Convention, bans the use, stockpile, production and transfer of anti-personnel mines. Read more online at: bit.ly/1fig1sm.



Asian States Meet on Arms Trade Treaty

Face challenges but support treaty aims



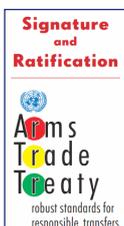
Since opening for signature in June 2013, states in the Asia-Pacific region have been steadily moving towards adoption and implementation of the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT), the first international treaty aimed at regulating the global trade in conventional arms.

On 26-27 November 2013, UNRCPD and the Government of the Republic of the Philippines held the **Second Asia Regional Meeting to Facilitate Dialogue on the Arms Trade Treaty**. The meeting brought together **35 senior-level delegates from 19 Asia-Pacific member states** to discuss issues related to the implementation of the ATT within the region. The participants came from a range of government agencies [e.g. Foreign Affairs Ministry (34%) and security sector (45%)]. Subject matter experts from member states, the UN and thinktanks provided information on ATT implementation including: **progress made to date in moving towards the ATT's entry into force, synergies between the ATT and other small arms control instruments, regional co-operation and possible assistance mechanisms available to states**. It was noted that the ATT may enter into force as early as late 2014, sooner than anticipated, as many states are expected to ratify in the next few months. (At time of publication, 116 states have signed the treaty and 9 have ratified. Fifty ratifications are needed before the ATT can enter into force).



The breakout group sessions afforded participants the opportunity to informally discuss various aspects of current and future ATT-related issues. These sessions were dynamic and informative, and allowed participants to **exchange information on their national processes**. Participants overwhelmingly advocated for further dialogue on ATT implementation within the region, and several called upon the UNRCPD to organise and facilitate discussions.

The meeting was supported by generous contributions from the Governments of New Zealand and Switzerland.



For a Summary Report and more information, go to: unrcpd.org/event/second-asia-regional-meeting-facilitate-dialogue-arms-trade-treaty





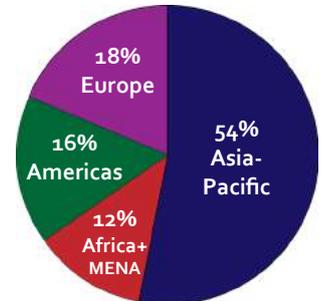
Quote of the Quarter

Global co-operation in countering nuclear, chemical and biological threats is a sine qua non in preventing WMD proliferation and terrorism as well as ensuring the peaceful use of science and technology.

Ambassador Oh Joon
Chair of the 1540 Committee

DID YOU KNOW...?

...That most of the busiest ports in the world, in terms of volume, are located in Asia-Pacific.



The Asia-Pacific region hosts a majority of the world's busiest ports, creating unique proliferation challenges for the region. Therefore, the region-wide implementation of UNSCR 1540 is crucial, not just for the countries of the region, but for international safety and security. (Source: www.worldshipping.org/about-the-industry/global-trade/top-50-world-container-ports, January 2014)

PUBLICATIONS OF INTEREST

- 2014 Nuclear Materials Security Index, Nuclear Threat Initiative (NTI), January 2014. ntiindex.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/2014-NTI-Index-Report.pdf
- South Korea's Export Control System, Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), November 2013. books.sipri.org/files/misc/SIPRIBP1311.pdf
- Small Arms of the Indian State: A Century of Procurement and Production, Issue Brief 4, India Armed Violence Assessment project, Small Arms Survey, January 2014. www.india-ava.org/fileadmin/docs/pubs/IAVA-IB4-small-arms-of-indian-state.pdf
- China's Exports of Small Arms and Light Weapons, Mark Bromley, Mathieu Duchâtel and Paul Holtom, SIPRI Policy Paper no. 38, October 2013. books.sipri.org/files/PP/SIPRIPP38.pdf
- NGO Presentations to the Open-Ended Working Group on Taking Forward Multilateral Nuclear Disarmament Negotiations, Beatrice Fihn, Ward Wilson, Thomas Nash, Andreas Persbo, Rebecca Johnson and Tariq Rauf, United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA), December 2013. www.un.org/disarmament/publications/civilsociety/en/civil-society-2013.pdf

ABOUT UNRCPD

The UN Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific 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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The 43 countries covered by the UNRCPD 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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