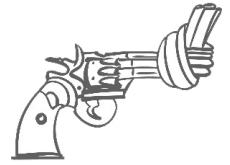


# United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific

...strengthening peace and security through disarmament



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## NEWSLETTER

### Implementing UN Security Council Resolution 1540 in Southeast Asia

From 27 to 28 September 2017, the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific (UNRCPD) and the Government of Thailand jointly organized a sub-regional workshop on the global challenges and regional efforts concerning the implementation of UN Security Council resolution (UNSCR) 1540 (2004) in Southeast Asia. UNSCR 1540 requires all UN Member States to take measures to prevent non-State actors, including terrorists, from acquiring nuclear, chemical and biological weapons, their means of delivery and related materials.

The participation of almost 50 officials from States in Southeast Asia secured a broad representation of national ministries and agencies responsible for 1540 implementation in this sub-region. The officials engaged in discussions on the progress and challenges with their 1540 implementation, both between themselves and with international experts, who included representatives from the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) and its Regional Center, the 1540 Committee's Group of Experts, the UN Office for Drugs and Crime and the UN Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute.

The international experts emphasized the synergies from implementing UNSCR 1540 and the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) and the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC). They discussed with Government officials safety and security issues with chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) materials, and related export control, border control, and transfers of technologies.

Representatives from all the participating States from Southeast Asia made presentations and shared national legislation on the control of biological and chemical materials and technologies, as well as their experiences and effective practices in protecting intangible technologies. The UN experts shared information and recommendations for developing effective National Action Plans (NAP) on the implementation of the resolution. The Regional Centre presented a case study of the successful implementation of the joint ODA-OSCE project to support regional implementation of resolution 1540 in Central Asia and Mongolia (see next page). The workshop was funded by the Governments of Australia and Austria.



Read more at <http://bit.ly/2yl4JEN>



Australian Government



### Country-Specific Dialogues on UNSCR 1540 in Central Asia and Mongolia

Since April 2017, UNRCPD has organized six events as part of the UNODA-OSCE joint project to support regional implementation of United Nations Security Council resolution (UNSCR) 1540 in Central Asia and Mongolia.



The Regional Centre and the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) held five country-specific events, for Mongolia, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan, respectively, to assist them develop, review and/or execute their national action plans (NAPs) for the implementation of resolution 1540. These meetings provided the participating national officials responsible for the resolution's implementation with the opportunity to consult with international experts on their progress with this task.

A number of experts were present at the events to provide support, including from UNRCPD, OSCE, the 1540 Committee's Group of Experts, International Atomic Energy Agency, UN Office on Drugs and Crime and the Stimson Centre. The events also considered issues such as: (i) awareness-raising on the relevance for UNRCPD 1540 of implementing

the CWC and BWC; (ii) development of national legislation and programmes for export control of CBRN materials and related intangible technologies; (iii) provision of training for national experts on CBRN safety and security.

The three initial events were national roundtable meetings, held in Mongolia (8-10 May), Tajikistan (26-27 June) and Turkmenistan (29-30 June), in their respective capitals. They focused on providing assistance with developing and further elaborating the NAPs. The two subsequent events were follow-up expert review meetings, held at the OSCE headquarters in Vienna for Mongolia (18-20 Sept), and Tajikistan (20-22 Sept). These meetings were specifically devoted to the national officials engaged in development of their respective NAPs. All the meetings included consultation on the need for international assistance for the three countries regarding their implementation of their NAPs and resolution 1540.

### Peer Review on UNSCR 1540 between Belarus, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan

Also as part of the UNODA-OSCE project to support regional 1540 implementation, UNRCPD and OSCE jointly organized a trilateral peer-review meeting for Belarus, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan. Hosted by the Government of Tajikistan, it was held in Dushanbe, Tajikistan, 2-4 August 2017, and served as a follow-up to a previous peer review in August 2016 in Belarus. Government representatives of the three countries' ministries and agencies responsible for UNSCR 1540 implementation met to share experiences and discuss the progress in their work.

The discussions focused on the national approaches to 1540 implementation, such as policy making, development of legislative frameworks, enforcement procedures and effective practices. As a priority for all three States, various export-control issues were considered, including control lists, licensing systems and identification of dual-use goods. Biological and chemical security, and ways to improve related national legislation and regulation, was also in focus, and the delegates shared experiences and legal documents in this regard. The exchanges made it apparent that the three States had already launched a number of new measures to improve legislation on export control and bio-security. As part of the event, field visits were conducted in Tajikistan to national centres for the identification of CBRN materials, bio-security training and customs training, respectively, and to a border crossing point. A final document agreed to at the meeting inter alia recommended that a third peer-review meeting be organized between the three States in 2018.

Since its initiation in June 2016, the joint UNODA-OSCE project has so far resulted in the submission of a NAP by Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, respectively, as well as in significant progress in the development of the NAPs of Mongolia and Turkmenistan.





## Building Capacity in Small-Arms Control in Central and Southeast Asia

UNRCPD organized two sub-regional workshops to build capacity to implement the Programme of Action (PoA) on preventing illicit trade in small arms and light weapons (SALW) in Southeast and Central Asia, respectively. The workshop for States in Southeast Asia took place in Vientiane, 6-7 June 2017, while the one for States in Central Asia and Mongolia was held in Ulaanbaatar, 16-17 August 2017, in cooperation with the Governments of the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Mongolia, respectively. Participating officials from the invited States working on conventional arms control discussed and shared their national experiences, practices, achievements and challenges with each other and with experts from UNODA, UNRCPD, OSCE and ASEANAPOL.



The Government officials and international experts briefed and exchanged insights on key events, tools and aspects related to SALW control, inter alia: (i) preparations for the third PoA Review Conference in 2018; (ii) use of the International Small Arms Control Standards (ISACS) tool and development of national action plans; (iii) monitoring progress in achieving Sustainable Development Goal target 16.4 on reducing illicit arms flows; (iv) synergies between the PoA and other international arms-control instruments.



In addition, training exercises at both workshops gave the Government officials practical skills in preparing PoA reports, collecting data and designing national action plans on SALW control. This included case studies on stockpile management and destruction of SALW, as well as familiarization with the use of the ISACS Assessment Tool, thereby strengthening national capacity to control SALW. Both workshops were financed from the United Nations Trust Facility Supporting Cooperation on Arms Regulation (UNSCAR).

## Assisting Preparation of National UNSCR 1540 Report in Timor-Leste

From 11-13 October 2017, UNODA and its Regional Centre organized a national round-table meeting in Timor-Leste to strengthen the country's capacity to further implement resolution 1540 (2004). Held in cooperation with the Government, the event's main aim was to assist Timor-Leste to prepare its first national report on the steps it has taken, or intends to take, to implement UNSCR 1540, as called for by the UN Security Council. Almost 40 officials from relevant Government departments and agencies actively participated, including the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, who solidly confirmed his country's commitment to UNSCR 1540. The officials received valuable information on the content of the



resolution and the obligations under it. In close consultation with Experts of the 1540 Committee, they also reviewed the country's status on 1540 implementation, particularly its legislative framework and control measures on CBRN weapons and related materials. Most importantly, the officials and 1540 Experts devoted a day to identifying concrete elements relevant for the country's first national report, and significant progress was achieved with its preparation. The Government of Japan provided funding for the event.

## INTERNATIONAL DISARMAMENT HIGHLIGHTS

- Ms. Izumi Nakamitsu assumes position as UN High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, 1 May 2017. See: <http://bit.ly/2pxFNUD>
- UN Conference adopts Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, 7 July 2017. See: <http://bit.ly/ztFUNSx> and <http://bit.ly/2sVKtUA>
- High-level ceremony for signing Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, 20 September 2017. See: <http://bit.ly/2zxhXYBy>
- Samoa joins the Biological Weapons Convention, as the 179th State Party, 26 September 2017. See: <http://bit.ly/2zhuwGaZ>

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- 16th UN-Republic of Korea Joint Conference on Disarmament and Non-proliferation Issues, in the **Republic of Korea**
- 27th United Nations Conference on Disarmament Issues, in **Japan**
- Sub-regional Seminar to prevent illicit trafficking and diversion of SALW and conventional arms for Southeast Asia, in **Cambodia**.



## QUOTE OF THE QUARTER

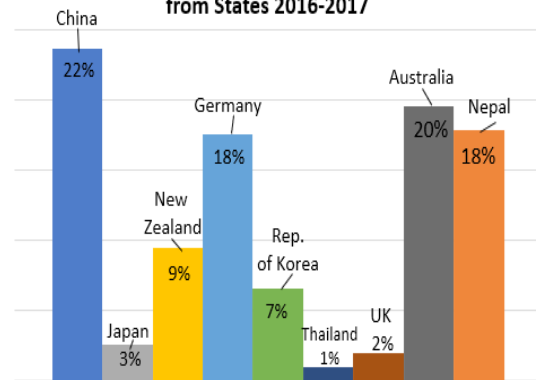
Every day, guns wreak havoc across the world as women, men and children suffer from the scourge of gun-related violence. It is a problem not limited to situations of armed conflict – it affects all societies. The destructive illicit trade in small arms and the ammunition which make them lethal is one of the primary obstacles preventing communities from achieving the sustainable peace and development they deserve.

**Ms. Izumi Nakamitsu**  
**High Representative for Disarmament Affairs**  
**United Nations, June 2017**

## DID YOU KNOW...?

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

**Extra-Budgetary Contributions to UNRCPD from States 2016-2017**



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

## PUBLICATIONS OF INTEREST

- UN Disarmament Yearbook: Vol. 41 (Part II): 2016, September 2017
- SIPRI Yearbook 2017 Armaments, Disarmaments and International Security: SIPRI, September 2017
- Trends in world nuclear forces, SIPRI, July 2017
- Myanmar: a nonproliferation success story, ASPI, April 2017
- NPT and the Prohibition Negotiation: Scope for Bridge-building, UNIDIR, 2017
- Biological Weapons Convention: An Introduction, UNODA, June 2017

## 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, Austria, China, Germany, Japan, Nepal, New Zealand, Republic of Korea, Switzerland, Thailand, OSCE, Rissho 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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