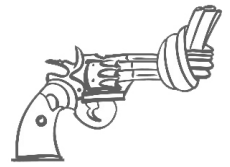




United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific

...strengthening peace and security through disarmament



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NEWSLETTER

High Representative for Disarmament Affairs Visits UNRCPD Office

On 2-3 April 2018, UN Under-Secretary General and High-Representative for Disarmament Affairs Ms. Izumi Nakamitsu visited the UNRCPD office in Kathmandu, Nepal, to discuss disarmament issues in the Asia Pacific region, the role of the Centre with its past and future projects, and to meet the office staff. During her two-day visit, Ms. Nakamitsu also met with the Prime Minister of Nepal, Right Honourable Mr. K.P. Sharma Oli, and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Nepal, Honourable Mr. Pradeep Kumar Gyawali, expressing her gratitude to the Government of Nepal for hosting the Regional Centre and encouraging further cooperation between them. In particular, the discussion focused on reviving the "Kathmandu Process" — a dialogue among States in Asia and the Pacific on disarmament, arms control, non-proliferation and other peace and security-related issues. The High Representative sought views of the senior Nepalese officials on the country's priorities in the field of security that might be reflected in the UN Secretary-General's disarmament agenda. In response, the need to enhance dialogue among States on WMD-related issues, including the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1540 (2004), and strengthening the link between disarmament and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was pointed out. Officials from the Government of Nepal, Ms. Nakamitsu and UNRCPD all emphasized the importance of Peace and Disarmament Education as a fundamental instrument to reach out to youth and promote peace for future generations. Moreover, the High-Representative met with the UN Country Team in Nepal, where she engaged with the heads of various UN agencies working in the country to exchange ideas and perspectives.



UNODA
UNITED NATIONS OFFICE FOR
DISARMAMENT AFFAIRS

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

UNRCPD ACTIVITIES

Regional Preparatory Meeting for the Third Review Conference on the UN PoA on SALW



The United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA), alongside UNRCPD, organized a Regional Preparatory Meeting for the Third Review Conference (RevCon3) on the Programme of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons (PoA) in Bangkok, Thailand, from 7 to 8 March 2018.

The meeting was organized by UNODA's Conventional Arms Branch (CAB) and UNRCPD to prepare Asian States for the upcoming Third Review Conference on the PoA. The meeting was attended by more than 45 participants from Asian States, along with representatives of ASEANPOL, the Small Arms Survey, UNRCPD, CAB, France and the EU.

The meeting promoted dialogue among participating States on topical small arms and light weapons issues impacting their region. State representatives exchanged views and discussed

positions on how to address these issues during RevCon3. Also prioritized for the review conference were matters related to emerging technologies and their impact on SALW control. Moreover, experts from the Small Arms Survey presented ideas developed at the four symposia for thematic experts held last year on topics such as the 2030 SDGs, gender and SALW control, and synergies between the PoA and other disarmament instruments, in order to share views with the participants on the inclusion of those ideas at RevCon3. Representatives from the Member States also urged for a greater inclusion of gendered approaches relating to SALW control.

The meeting then focused on regional priorities for Member States in Asia and the Pacific, such as border controls, fighting and preventing diversion of SALW, and private security. All these themes were presented by CAB, while state representatives encouraged increasing cooperation at international, regional and sub-regional level for a more effective SALW control, under the lead of the UN, WCO, INTERPOL, ASEANPOL and the ASEAN Secretariat.

UNODA through its Regional Centre in Asia and the Pacific organized this event in preparation for the PoA RevCon3, that took place on 18-29 June 2018 at UN Headquarters in New York City.



Nuclear Disarmament and Non-proliferation Training Programme for ASEAN States



From 26 February to 3 March 2018, Mr. Yuriy Kryvonos, Director of UNRCPD, represented the Centre at a training for diplomats and representatives of ministries of defence of ASEAN States organized by UNITAR Hiroshima. Mr. Kryvonos presented on regional arrangements for Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones and on the role and applicability of global and regional Confidence-Building Measures in the political and military spheres. Participants from ASEAN states, UNITAR Hiroshima, UNIDIR, SIPRI and UNRCPD engaged in discussions on the current global state of nuclear disarmament negotiations, on the Treaty on the Non-proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) in relation to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW), and on other nuclear weapons and non-proliferation-related issues.

INTERNATIONAL DISARMAMENT HIGHLIGHTS

Secretary-General launches New Disarmament Agenda "Securing Our Common Future", 24 May 2018. See: <https://bit.ly/2KPoKGS>

Third Review Conference on the Programme of Action in New York, 18-29 Jun 2018. See: <https://bit.ly/2FTO795>

Five countries ratified the TPNW in the March-May 2018 period: Palestine (22 March), Venezuela (27 March), Palau (3 May), Austria (8 May), Vietnam (17 May), See: <https://bit.ly/2jM8WMr>

UNSCR 1540 Asia Regional Industry Conference (Wiesbaden Process), 16-18 April 2018, See: <https://bit.ly/2lryW6X>

Regional Workshop on Fissile Material for Asian States



UNRCPD organized a two-day regional workshop to engage Member States of Asia in the high-level Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty (FMCT) expert preparatory group consultative process. The workshop was held in Bangkok, Thailand, from 27 to 28 March 2018, and financed by the government of Canada. Fissile material is a key component for the production of nuclear weapons. An international treaty banning the production of such materials would strengthen nuclear non-proliferation and facilitate further nuclear disarmament. Pursuant to UN General Assembly Resolution 71/259, the UN Secretary General established in 2017 a High-Level FMCT Expert Preparatory Group “to consider and make recommendations on substantial elements of a future non-discriminatory,

multilateral and internationally and effectively verifiable treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices”. The workshop aimed at facilitating dialogue among Asian States on the implications of a future treaty, develop a sense of ownership of the issue and its relationship with already existing global and regional instruments in the field of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. Fourteen officials from twelve Asian States and representatives from the UNODA Geneva Branch and UNRCPD, as well as international experts presented and discussed on various issues related to FMCT, including:

- Historical and present political and security related circumstances related to the negotiations on FMCT at the Conference on Disarmament
- The role of FMCT in promoting nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament
- Background information on fissile materials and the difference between their production and enrichment for military and civilian use, with focus on preventing non-state actors from acquiring access to nuclear materials
- Challenges for the FMCT negotiations, in particular with regard to establishing a verification regime

Moreover, the participants exchanged their views on differences and complementarities between FMCT, the Treaty on the Non-proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

UNRCPD Engagement in the Region

1. On 7-8 May, UNODA and UNRCPD took active part in a seminar for Southeast Asian countries to support 2030 Agenda, the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) and UN Programme of Action (PoA) implementation through increased parliamentary engagement and action in international processes in Jakarta, Indonesia, presenting UNRCPD’s project on women, peace and security, as well as guidance and tools developed by UNODA to assist states in reducing gun violence.

2. On 17-18 May, UNRCPD Director participated at an event to promote and strengthen ATT implementation, held in Kathmandu, Nepal. The roundtable discussion focused on the importance of the ATT as an instrument to control illicit arms trade and to reduce gender-based gun-related violence in all its forms, especially armed violence that impedes women’s political empowerment.

3. UNODA and UNRCPD representatives participated in the regional workshop “Enhancing the Women, Peace and Security Agenda in Northeast Asia”, held in Beijing, China, from 24-25 May. The event promoted discussion on: the WPS agenda in relation to regional disarmament initiatives; women’s participation in UN peacekeeping operations and the role of women in the prevention of conflict and post-conflict rehabilitation; the UN New Disarmament Agenda and its focus on women’s role in promoting peace.

4. Mr. Bharat Raj Paudyal, Joint Secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Nepal, visited UNRCPD’s office on 12 June. UNRCPD staff presented to Mr. Paudyal the Centre’s future projects involving Nepal and engaged with him in further discussions on mutual cooperation on disarmament and arms control activities in Nepal and in the Asia-Pacific region.

5. On 12 June, UNRCPD representatives met with Ambassador Takamizawa, President-Designate of the Fourth Conference of States-Parties to the ATT, and Mr. Dumisani Dladla, Head of the ATT Secretariat, and exchanged views on current status and prospects of accession to the ATT by the Asia-Pacific States, as well as steps to be undertaken to promote the Treaty. Ambassador of Japan to Nepal, Mr. Saigo, and Minister-Counsellor, Mr. Machida, also attended the meeting held in the Embassy of Japan.





QUOTE OF THE QUARTER

Disarmament prevents and ends violence. Disarmament supports sustainable development. And disarmament is true to our values and principles.

Mr. António Guterres
Secretary-General of the United Nations,
University of Geneva, May 2018



DID YOU KNOW...?

...there are four Nuclear-Weapon-Free-Zones in Asia and the Pacific?



Mongolia's self-declared Nuclear-Weapon-Free Status

Treaty on a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Central Asia

Treaty on the Southeast Asia Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone

South Pacific Nuclear Free Zone Treaty

UPCOMING EVENTS

- ☀ Southeast Asian Sub-regional Workshop on Gun Violence and Illicit Small Arms Trafficking from a Gender Perspective, in Thailand
- ☀ Workshop on the Implementation of Transport-related Maritime Counter-Terrorism Legal Instruments, in Bangladesh
- ☀ Regional workshop on the high-level FMCT expert preparatory group consultative process, in Kazakhstan.
- ☀ 10th Anniversary of UNRCPD operation in Kathmandu, in Nepal.

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, Canada, China, Germany, Japan, Nepal, Republic of Korea, Thailand, European Union, 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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