

Seoul stage for student discussions on disarmament

The United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) and its Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific (UNRCPD), 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. Hundred students and educators from universities worldwide joined the event, which was held at Hanyang University in Seoul, the Republic of Korea, on the 13 November.



Thirty university students joined the event in person to discuss disarmament and non-proliferation education.

Key speakers included Ms. Ji Yeon Rho, Associate Political Affairs Officer at UNODA and Mr. Steven Humphries, Project Coordinator at UNRCPD. They presented on topics that are relevant and important to disarmament and non-proliferation efforts, such as the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and responsible innovation in the field of science and technology.

The link [between security and development](#) is well illustrated by the global goals, which essentially recognize that only peaceful societies will achieve their desired level of sustainable development. While most obviously evident in Goal 16, which focuses on peace, justice and strong institutions, adequate arms regulations are also relevant for successfully fulfilling other goals, including gender equality, safe and sustainable cities, economic growth, and quality education.

ODA’s activities in the area of responsible innovation aim at engaging the next generation of industry leaders, engineers and scientists and providing them with the tools and frameworks necessary to innovate responsibly, and to consider how their work at the cutting edge of technological developments may affect international peace and security. Responsible innovation is a key element of the Secretary-General’s [Agenda for Disarmament](#), “[Securing Our Common Future](#)”, and central to the work of ODA and UNRCPD.

At a Glance: Disarmament and Arms Regulation in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

<p>3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING</p>	<p>Armed violence is among the leading causes of premature death, and it victimizes even more people by spreading injuries, disability, psychological distress and disease. Disarmament and arms control reduce the impact of conflict on human health.</p>	<p>16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS</p>	<p>DISARMAMENT, NON-PROLIFERATION AND ARMS CONTROL PLAY A VITAL ROLE IN PREVENTING CONFLICT, AND IN FORGING AND SUSTAINING PEACE.</p>	<p>Measures for disarmament can reduce military expenditures and redirect public resources/spending towards social and economic initiatives that can contribute to greater equality.</p>	<p>10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES</p>
<p>4 QUALITY EDUCATION</p>	<p>Limiting the proliferation and uncontrolled circulation of weapons in communities contributes to safe and non-violent learning environments for all.</p> <p>Disarmament education contributes to education on peace and non-violence, conflict resolution, sustainable development, gender equality, economic justice, human rights and tolerance of cultural diversity. (See also page 69.)</p>	<p>16.1 Disarmament and arms regulation contribute to reducing deaths from armed violence by prohibiting and restricting the use of certain types of weapons and by establishing effective controls of arms and ammunition.</p>	<p>16.8 The active engagement of all States, especially developing countries, in multilateral disarmament discussions leads to more effective and sustainable policy outcomes.</p>	<p>Effective ammunition management mitigates the risk of storage depots accidentally exploding in populated areas. These explosions, when they occur, are humanitarian disasters that lead to death, injury, economic loss, displacement and destruction of infrastructure and private property.</p> <p>Arms control measures increase urban safety and security by curbing the uncontrolled proliferation and misuse of small arms, particularly for gang-related violence. (See also page 45.)</p>	<p>11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES</p>
<p>5 GENDER EQUALITY</p>	<p>Men and women are affected differently by the proliferation and use of weapons. Young men are overwhelmingly responsible for the misuse of small arms. While men make up most direct casualties, women are more frequently victims of gender-based violence that small arms facilitate. Regulating arms and ammunition can reduce violence against women and girls in both public and private spheres.</p> <p>Empowering women and ensuring their equal and meaningful participation in disarmament and arms control decision-making processes can lead to more inclusive, effective and sustainable policy outcomes. (See also page 39.)</p>	<p>16.4 Effective disarmament and arms regulation reduce illicit arms flows, which can otherwise instigate, fuel and prolong armed conflict, terrorism and crime.</p>	<p>16.a Strengthening the institutional capacities of States to better control arms and ammunition and to engage in military confidence-building measures help prevent conflict, violence, terrorism and crime.</p>	<p>14 LIFE BELOW WATER</p> <p>Contamination from remnants of war and the testing and use of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons have disastrous environmental consequences. Disarmament and arms regulation reduce the impact of weapons on the environment.</p>	<p>15 LIFE ON LAND</p>
<p>8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH</p>	<p>Excessive military spending harms economic growth and can produce undesirable social and political consequences. Reducing military budgets can reduce the negative effects of this spending on economic and social development.</p> <p>Stemming the proliferation and easy availability of arms can counter the recruitment and use of child soldiers. Opportunities to build decent livelihoods can attract young men away from armed groups or gangs.</p> <p>Adequate arms regulation helps prevent illicit transfers of weapons in support of human trafficking, modern slavery or forced labour. (See also page 46.)</p>	<p>16.6 Participation in military transparency and confidence-building measures, such as reporting on military spending and on arms imports and exports, promote accountability of national institutions and can foster cross-border dialogue and trust-building.</p>	<p>(See also pages 34, 40, 44 and 64.)</p>	<p>14 LIFE BELOW WATER</p> <p>Mobilizing sufficient resources in support of disarmament and arms regulation is critical to achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.</p> <p>Increased availability of high-quality, timely, disaggregated and reliable arms-related data can inform discussions about the relationship between disarmament, development, peace and security, leading to better decisions and policies.</p>	<p>17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS</p>

A slide presented during the lecture highlighting how disarmament is connected to the SDGs

Following the presentations, the participants engaged in a lively Q&A, asking questions on wide-ranging topics, including the Treaty on the Non-Proliferations of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), transparency in military expenditure reporting, as well as what daily working life looks like for United Nations officials.



Ms. Ji Yeon Rho presented how disarmament and the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals are interconnected.

