



General Assembly

Distr.: General

22 July 2024

English

Original: English/French/Spanish

Seventy-ninth session

Item 98 (ff) of the provisional agenda*

General and complete disarmament

Women, disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control

Report of the Secretary-General

Contents

	<i>Page</i>
I. Introduction	2
II. Replies received from Governments	2
Armenia	2
Austria	4
Bosnia and Herzegovina	5
Canada	6
Côte d'Ivoire	7
Cuba	9
Germany	10
India	10
Mexico	12
Trinidad and Tobago	14
III. Replies received from the United Nations system	15
International Atomic Energy Agency	15
United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research	16
United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs	18
United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime	20
IV. Replies received from other international organizations	21
European Union	21
Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean	22

* [A/79/150](#).



I. Introduction

1. The General Assembly, in its resolution [77/55](#) entitled “Women, disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control”, urged Member States, relevant subregional and regional organizations, the United Nations and the specialized agencies to promote equal opportunities for the representation of women in all decision-making processes with regard to matters related to disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control. The General Assembly urged Member States to strengthen the full, equal, meaningful and effective participation of women in organizations in the field of disarmament at all levels and, to this end, called upon Member States to support mentoring, networking, knowledge-sharing and capacity-building efforts, as appropriate.

2. The General Assembly encouraged Member States to better understand the impact of armed violence, in particular the impact of the illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons on women and girls through, inter alia, the development of national action plans on women and peace and security and the collection of data disaggregated by sex and a range of other relevant factors, and to utilize analysis mechanisms to inform evidence-based, gender-sensitive policymaking and programming. The General Assembly called upon Member States to take account of the differing impacts of the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons on women, men, girls and boys, and encouraged Member States to mainstream a gender perspective into implementation efforts to address these impacts.

3. Furthermore, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to seek the views of Member States on ways and means of promoting the role of women in disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control and to report to the Assembly at its seventy-ninth session on the implementation of resolution [77/55](#). The present report is submitted in accordance with that request.

4. In that connection, a note verbale was sent to all Member States, relevant United Nations entities and other international organizations seeking their views on the subject. The replies received or executive summaries of replies are contained in sections II, III and IV of the present report. The unabridged versions of all replies received, in addition to any views received after 31 May 2024, have been posted on the website of the Office for Disarmament Affairs in the original languages received.¹

II. Replies received from Governments

Armenia

[Original: English]
[16 May 2024]

The Government of the Republic of Armenia, represented by the Ministry of Defence, has embraced a policy aimed at augmenting the presence of women within the armed forces and fostering an environment that is conducive to their comprehensive and meaningful engagement. This commitment stems from both the imperatives outlined in the national legislation of the Republic of Armenia and the international commitments undertaken in this domain, notably the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, Security Council resolution [1325 \(2000\)](#) and other resolutions pertaining to the women and peace and security agenda, as well as the Armenia-North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) Individual Partnership Action Plan. The imperative to enhance the participation of

¹ Available at <https://meetings.unoda.org/ga-cl/general-assembly-first-committee-seventy-ninth-session-2024>.

women in the armed forces is reflected in various official documents, including the Modernization Plan of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Armenia for the period 2018–2024, which was endorsed by a decree of the President of the Republic of Armenia on 17 February 2018, as well as the Human Rights Protection Programme 2020–2022 contained in the national strategy for the period 2021–2026 and the second national programme aligned with Security Council resolution [1325 \(2000\)](#).

Since 2014, the Ministry of Defence has initiated specific measures to enhance women's participation in the armed forces. By 2016, those efforts had been intensified to ensure compliance with the provisions of Security Council resolution [1325 \(2000\)](#) regarding the protection of human rights within the defence system of the Republic of Armenia, the provision of equal opportunities, the elimination of discriminatory practices and professional advancement. In 2016, the Ministry of Defence issued a decree endorsing guidelines and a plan of action for ensuring equal opportunities and the protection of women's rights in the defence system.

The primary and pivotal action entailed reviewing and removing legislative barriers hindering the engagement and advancement of women within the defence system, notably in military service. Consequently, as of the academic year 2013/14, military educational institutions commenced admitting female cadets in specialized fields, marking a significant milestone in the fostering of gender inclusivity within the armed forces.

Starting in 2024, the compulsory fixed-term service for women was implemented on a voluntary basis, for a duration of six months.

To guarantee the substantive participation of women in decision-making procedures, the Ministry of Defence appoints women to diverse commissions and working groups.

The establishment of institutional mechanisms dedicated to addressing women's issues within the armed forces marked a significant step. Since 2017, the coordination of efforts aimed at implementing this policy, inclusive of international commitments, has been entrusted to the Ministry of Defence Human Rights and Integrity Building Centre.

In 2019, the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved the first national implementation programme aligned with the provisions of Security Council resolution [1325 \(2000\)](#) on women and peace and security and the second national programme was approved through Government Decision N803-L, dated 2 June 2022. The approval of these programmes facilitated a more systematic implementation of initiatives aimed at involving women within the armed forces, in coordination with other relevant departments.

Under the framework of the women and peace and security agenda, awareness-raising training sessions are being organized for armed forces personnel, in collaboration with international partners.

The Ministry of Defence oversees the operations of the Centre for Human Rights and Welfare, which serves to safeguard and raise awareness about the rights of service members, including female service members.

The Defence Hotline service, an internal mechanism dedicated to safeguarding the rights of service members, operates within the Centre. In the event of any infringement upon the rights of individuals serving in the armed forces, those individuals may also communicate their concerns via email to the Centre at center@mail.am. Representatives of the Centre conduct visits to military units, engaging directly with service members on site to apprise them of their rights.

Constitutionally, the reforms bolstered civilian and democratic oversight of the defence sector and the armed forces by increasing the role of the National Assembly and the Government in defence affairs.

The Armenian armed forces are and will continue to be under democratic civilian control. The Ministry of Defence, in accordance with the State's affirmative duty to safeguard rights, persistently strives to ensure the comprehensive fulfilment of service members' entitlements, as stipulated in the law on military service and the status of service members. These entitlements include housing, allowances, pensions, educational opportunities and comprehensive health-care programmes. Various support services are extended to the families of armed forces personnel, including educational assistance and access to health care at no cost.

Austria

[Original: English]
[29 May 2024]

Austria reaffirms its commitment to gender equality and the meaningful participation of women in all their diversity in disarmament efforts. Austria wants to emphasize women's invaluable and essential role in promoting peace and security and advancing disarmament objectives.

Austria strongly calls for the full, equal and meaningful participation of women in all their diversity in all peace and security processes and at all levels. This includes their participation in the design, development and implementation of disarmament, arms control and non-proliferation efforts, as well as the mainstreaming of a gender perspective into all arms control and disarmament forums.

Austria regularly provides reports on the implementation of its relevant commitments, in particular within the frameworks of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, the Chemical Weapons Convention, the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention, the Convention on Cluster Munitions, the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction and the Arms Trade Treaty.

Austria is at the forefront of global efforts in the field of humanitarian disarmament, including through its leading role in the process on the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons. The disproportionate effect of radiation on women and girls was an important element in both Vienna Conferences on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons, held in 2014 and 2022, as well as in the resulting Chairs' summaries.

In the framework of focusing on the catastrophic humanitarian consequences and risks of nuclear weapons, Austria commissioned an overview of new studies in this field, which was published in July 2023. The goal was to increase the understanding of these complex consequences and risks, in order to support diplomatic work on nuclear disarmament. In the resulting paper prepared by Nick Ritchie and Mikhail Kupriyanov of the University of York, namely in the section on women, girls and radiation, scientists show that females are more harmed by radiation, especially when exposed as young girls.

Austria was equally a driving force behind the creation of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons and chaired the first meeting of the States parties. The Treaty contains a clear recognition of the disproportionate effects of nuclear

weapons on women and girls and provisions to adequately provide age- and gender-sensitive assistance, without discrimination.

The Political Declaration on Strengthening the Protection of Civilians from the Humanitarian Consequences Arising from the Use of Explosive Weapons in Populated Areas was initiated by Austria and adopted on 18 November 2022. The Political Declaration states the following: “We also welcome work to empower, amplify and integrate the voices of all those affected, including women and girls, and we encourage further research into the gendered impacts of the use of explosive weapons”. Austria is actively continuing its commitment to the universalization and implementation of the Political Declaration, including its gender-sensitive approach, for example through the military workshop on the implementation of the Political Declaration, which was held in Vienna on 24 and 25 January 2024.

Austria is committed to the international regulation of autonomous weapons systems and proactively engaged, including on the gendered impact of such systems. Recently, Austria organized the international conference entitled “Humanity at the crossroads: autonomous weapons systems and the challenge of regulation”, in order to discuss legal, ethical, humanitarian and security perspectives on autonomous weapons systems and their regulation. Gender perspectives were highlighted during the conference.

Concerning arms deliveries, Austria is committed to applying without restrictions the provisions of the Arms Trade Treaty relating to international humanitarian law. The Arms Trade Treaty explicitly requires States parties to duly take into account the risks of gender-based violence in arms export assessments, which in turn contributes to the prevention of conflict-related sexual violence. Austria has fully incorporated these provisions into its national export control regulations. The Federal Ministry of Defence, in cooperation with the Office for Disarmament Affairs and the Ammunition Management Advisory Team, is in the process of implementing an annual training course for women ammunition technical experts over the period 2023–2025, with a focus on the International Ammunition Technical Guidelines and related international standards, in the aim of strengthening the knowledge and skills of women working in technical ammunition management roles within the Women Managing Ammunition Network (WoMA-Network). The first course was held in Vienna from 23 October to 3 November 2023.

Bosnia and Herzegovina

[Original: English]
[30 May 2024]

While Security Council resolution [1325 \(2000\)](#) on women and peace and security does not deal with arms control, it is one of the most important international documents that introduces the gender aspect in the traditionally “male” area of armed conflicts, conflict prevention and resolution, peace processes and processes aimed at achieving peace in conflict and post-conflict societies.

It is important to note that, in 2010, Bosnia and Herzegovina was the first country in the region to adopt an action plan for the implementation of Security Council resolution [1325 \(2000\)](#) and one of the 19 countries in the world that adopted such a plan during that period.

In order to fulfil the obligations assumed under the action plan, the Ministry of Defence of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the armed forces continuously carry out activities to integrate a gender perspective, which contributes to the construction of more stable and secure armed forces that are ready to respond to all the challenges of modern society.

The Ministry of Defence of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina have an institutional framework that supports continuous and sustainable progress in promoting and integrating gender perspectives through a strong commitment to implementing their obligations in the area of the women and peace and security agenda and under other international documents in the field of gender equality, which were ratified by Bosnia and Herzegovina, such as United Nations resolutions on women, disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control.

The approach to the control of firearms must include the gender aspect, through the participation of women, the taking into account of the different views and needs of women and men and the implementation of policies, as well as through the organization of training sessions with the aim of raising awareness and breaking down traditional patterns and stereotypes about weapons and the role of men and women in disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control.

The Ministry of Defence of Bosnia and Herzegovina adopted the Gender Equality Policy of the Ministry of Defence and the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina, whose goal is to integrate gender equality within national defence institutions into all development policies and strategies, as well as to define the principles, goals and responsibilities that require gender equality in the process of realizing democratic principles and basic human rights.

In August 2023, the Rulebook on Gender Equality in the Ministry of Defence and the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina was adopted, and it is a very important document by which gender perspectives are included, both formally and substantively, in the entire defence system.

Canada

[Original: English]
[31 May 2024]

Women in disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control

It is not enough to simply acknowledge that women have a role to play in disarmament. It must also be recognized that the advancement of peace and security is impossible and incomplete without women in all their diversity.

The gendered effects of arms

Women and girls are disproportionately represented as victims of armed violence, especially where arms are used to perpetuate sexual and gender-based violence. As women are persecuted due to their gender, whether in conflict or outside of it, the lack of gender considerations in policies surrounding disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control seriously impedes their ability to live and work safely.

Women at the table

Women have historically been excluded from and continue to be discriminated against in disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control forums. Even when invited to the table, women are often disincentivized from speaking and influencing the conversation, through either intentional harassment or disempowerment. It is vital for women to be not only invited to take part in the conversation, but also equipped, empowered and encouraged to shape discussions and policy.

Canada's policy of gender mainstreaming

Canada's gender policy focuses on: (a) advocating for increased data on victims of armed violence, disaggregated by age, sex, economic class, religion, ethnicity and gender; (b) increasing the representation of women in disarmament forums; and (c) integrating a Gender-Based Analysis Plus framework to increase understanding of the impacts of weapons on women and identify further areas of work.

This has led to Canada's General Assembly First Committee sponsorship policy, which limits its co-sponsorship of resolutions to those which incorporate meaningful gender references. In addition, Canada's leadership on statements, working papers and initiatives is specifically focused on analysing the gendered effects of arms proliferation and armed conflict. Domestically, Canada integrates gender-transformative policies into arms exports, gun legislation, ammunition management, victim assistance programmes and gender-based violence hotlines.

As part of the recently released third National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security, Canada has renewed its commitment to increase the full, meaningful and effective participation of women in international security forums, including disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control meetings and conferences. Domestically, this has led to the creation of internships specifically geared towards hiring women of colour and women with disabilities. Canada also provides funding to the United Nations and the International Atomic Energy Agency to bolster training for and the employment of women.

Canada is committed to aligning the priority of gender equality with the goals of reducing arms and eliminating weapons of mass destruction. This commitment is enhanced by consulting with civil society, Indigenous Peoples, youth and members of the LGBTQI+ community, and by advocating for a feminist and intersectional approach to disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control that leaves no one behind.

Côte d'Ivoire

[Original: French]
[31 May 2024]

I. Legal and promotional initiatives

1. Legal framework

National texts

- The Constitution of 8 November 2016, according to which:
 - Article 4: All Ivorians are born and remain free and equal under the law.
 - Article 35: The Government and local authorities shall ensure the promotion, advancement and protection of women. They shall take the measures necessary to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls.
 - Article 36: The Government shall work to promote the political rights of women by increasing their opportunities to serve as representatives in elected assemblies.
 - The rules for the application of article 36 shall be established by law.
 - Article 37: The Government shall work to promote gender parity in the labour market.

- Act No. 98-750 of 23 December 1998 on rural land ownership (as amended by Act No. 2004-412 of 14 August 2004)
- Act No. 2019-870 of 14 October 2019, promoting women's participation in elected assemblies
- Decree No. 2009-154 of 30 April 2009 on the establishment, organization, competence and operation of the National Commission to Combat the Proliferation and Illegal Movement of Small Arms and Light Weapons
- Decree No. 2019-592 of 3 July 2019 on the establishment, organization and operation of the National Observatory on Equity and Gender.

International texts

- Regional texts
 - Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Convention on Small Arms and Light Weapons, Their Ammunition and Other Related Materials
 - African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights
 - The Supplementary Act relating to Equality of Rights between Women and Men for Sustainable Development in the ECOWAS region
 - The African Union Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa
 - The Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women.
- International instruments
 - The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
 - Security Council resolution [1325 \(2000\)](#) on women and peace and security
 - The Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.

2. Promotional framework

- Women are being promoted to senior positions in the Ivorian Defence and Security Forces
- Women are being promoted to the rank of general in the Defence and Security Forces
- The National Gendarmerie has been recruiting women since 2014
- Since 2013, girls have been admitted to the Technical Military Preparatory School.

II. Structural initiatives

1. Strategic initiatives

- Four out of seven managements positions in the National Commission to Combat the Proliferation and Illegal Movement of Small Arms and Light Weapons are held by women
- A network of women journalists has been established to raise awareness of and lobby against the proliferation and illegal movement of small arms and light weapons

- The contributions of women opinion leaders and associations for combating the proliferation of small arms and light weapons are being leveraged
- Gender is being mainstreamed in the implementation of community disarmament strategies and operations
- The fight against gender-based sexual violence is being integrated into community disarmament programmes at border crossings.

2. Operational initiatives

- A woman journalist led the first lobbying initiatives on the control of small arms and light weapons in Côte d'Ivoire, which contributed to the establishment of the National Commission
- Women have been deeply involved in the development of operating procedures related to standards for the safe and secure management of weapons and ammunition by the Defence and Security Forces
- A large proportion of the focal points for community disarmament support are women
- Women-led non-governmental organizations have been selected to carry out awareness-raising campaigns in south-west Côte d'Ivoire.

Cuba

[Original: Spanish]
[29 April 2024]

Gender equality and women's empowerment are becoming increasingly relevant. In that regard, it is the responsibility of the General Assembly of the United Nations and the Economic and Social Council to provide effective follow-up to the international commitments agreed upon by the States Members of the United Nations in order to secure those objectives.

Cuba supports the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, in which Governments committed to ensuring peace for the advancement of women and recognized the role of women in fostering peace and general and complete disarmament under strict, effective and efficient international control.

Cuba is committed to promoting full equality of opportunity for women at all levels, including in relation to the adoption of decisions on disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control issues.

As a result of the public policies of the Cuban Revolution, which were designed to support the population as a whole, and women in particular, Cuba has made significant progress in terms of women's participation in, inter alia, employment, education, health care and political and economic life. The participation of Cuban women in the country's political life is exemplified by the high proportion of women in all national and governmental bodies, including the armed forces. Of 470 members of parliament elected in the 26 March 2023 elections, 262, or 55.74 per cent, were women. That figure exceeds the targets established in the Beijing Platform for Action and positions Cuba second in the world in terms of the proportion of women in its legislative body.¹

¹ Inter-Parliamentary Union, "Women in parliament in 2023: The year in review" (Geneva, 2024).

Despite the progress made in that sphere, Cuba recognizes the importance of strengthening women's participation in decision-making at all levels, in both national and international institutions, with respect to the formulation of policies on issues related to the promotion of international peace and security. Cuba also remains committed to continuing to work for the advancement and empowerment of women in all areas of society.

Germany

[Original: English]

[31 May 2024]

Feminist and humanitarian movements have played a formative role in the development of arms control standards and conventions. Germany's Feminist Foreign Policy is aligned with this tradition and strives for gender-sensitive arms control and disarmament. Its core concerns include ensuring human security, protecting the civilian population, especially the most vulnerable groups, from indiscriminate violence and protecting all people from inhumane weapons systems and weapons of mass destruction.

Against this background, Germany is convinced of the relevance of a feminist foreign policy perspective in arms control. Women, children, older persons and civilians can be particularly affected by small arms, land mines, cluster munitions and weapons of mass destruction, during, after and sometimes outside of military combat.

Working towards equality for women and girls worldwide and attending to the particular concerns of marginalized groups therefore remain core priorities of the German Government. Germany strives to mainstream a gender perspective in international efforts to strengthen disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control instruments, ensure the gender-sensitivity of all projects that receive German financial support and increase women's participation in relevant decision-making forums.

In particular, Germany advocates for further progress in efforts to ensure the inclusion of women and those particularly affected by armed conflict in national, European and international arms control policy processes. Moreover, Germany holds the view that intensified research into the gender-specific impact of weapons systems, especially nuclear weapons, is needed, as well as gender-disaggregated data, in order to understand the specific consequences that the use of a weapon system may have on particular groups. Gender-related aspects also need to be taken into account with regard to the responsible military use of artificial intelligence. Germany will continue its active efforts in the important field of humanitarian arms control, and it will further support gender-sensitive approaches in the area of small arms control.

Germany attaches the highest priority to General Assembly resolution [77/55](#), as well as to Security Council resolution [1325 \(2000\)](#) and the women and peace and security agenda of the United Nations, and strongly advocates for their implementation.

India

[Original: English]

[24 May 2024]

India attaches high importance to promoting gender equality and the meaningful participation of women in achieving international peace and security. India welcomes the fact that General Assembly resolution [77/55](#) recognizes that the role of women in

disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control should be further developed, in particular the need to facilitate the participation and representation of women in policymaking, planning and implementation processes related to disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control.

Armed conflicts have a devastating impact on the lives and dignity of women. The evolving nature of the conduct of hostilities involving armed non-State actors has placed women and girls in war-torn, fragile and humanitarian contexts at great risk of being subjected to violence and discrimination. India is cognizant that addressing such complex challenges requires close cooperation, collaboration and coordination between Member States and other relevant stakeholders across multiple forums and in a sustained manner.

India participates actively in various United Nations forums that invest in and accelerate progress towards gender equality, and has been among the major contributors to the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) since its inception. Women have held leadership positions in the Indian Ministries of External Affairs and Defence and steered India's disarmament and arms control efforts. India works closely with United Nations peacekeeping operations and other relevant United Nations agencies to advance women's role and participation in matters relating to international security. India's contribution of the female formed police unit that was deployed to the United Nations Mission in Liberia was the first-ever women contingent in the history of United Nations peacekeeping operations and was lauded as a role model when the Mission wound up in March 2018.

Indian women have excelled at the United Nations and at various international organizations, occupying prominent positions as negotiators, including Hansa Mehta's stellar efforts as India's delegate to the Human Rights Commission in 1947–1948 and Vijay Lakshmi Pandit's term as the first woman President of the General Assembly in 1953. Over the decades, several women ambassadors have ably represented India at various forums on disarmament and international security, including the Conference on Disarmament, the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons and the Board of Governors of the International Atomic Energy Agency. India is pleased to note that its expert in the Group of Governmental Experts on the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms, Muanpuii Saiawi, chaired the sessions of the Group during the period 2022–2023 and led the Group to adopt a consensus report.

India strongly believes in capacity-building to complement various cross-cutting efforts in promoting the participation and agency of women in peace and security issues. India actively encourages the participation of women diplomats in its Annual Disarmament and International Security Affairs Fellowship, launched in 2019, has hosted specialized courses for women military officers with UN-Women at the Centre for United Nations Peacekeeping in New Delhi and has taken the lead in hosting specialized training courses relating to sexual violence in armed conflict situations for peacekeepers. India is pleased to note efforts by Member States to mainstream gender perspectives and promote the equal participation of women in various disarmament and non-proliferation forums and instruments. India supports a number of General Assembly resolutions and the reports of groups of governmental experts pertaining to disarmament and international security that exhort the international community to achieve this aim.

Indian women army officers have contributed effectively in the field of global ammunition management. Lieutenant Colonel Preeti Kanwar led a workshop for women armament and ammunition technical officers in Geneva in November 2022, on compliance with the International Ammunition Technical Guidelines, and

participated in a workshop organized by the Office for Disarmament Affairs in February 2023, on women's meaningful participation in ammunition management. She highlighted India's lead in giving equal career and training opportunities to women officers for training and growth as armament and ammunition technical officers. Her talk was acknowledged by the other participants to have inspired many women to seek leadership roles in the armed forces.

In continuation of its commitment towards women's participation in United Nations-led programmes, India has again nominated two women army officers for the United Nations SaferGuard programme training session for women armament and ammunition technical officers on the International Ammunition Technical Guidelines, scheduled to be held in July 2024.

India stands ready to contribute to further international efforts relating to both the normative and practical aspects of promoting women's participation and role in disarmament and international security.

Mexico

[Original: Spanish]
[29 May 2024]

A gender perspective in the fields of disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control is essential to ensure women's full and equal participation in conflict prevention and resolution, as well as in negotiations, peacebuilding and peacekeeping, humanitarian responses and post-conflict reconstruction.

In Mexico, women hold senior positions in various ministries, including the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, where the Office for Disarmament, Non-Proliferation and Arms Control Coordination is also headed by a woman.

In line with its feminist foreign policy, in 2021 the Government of Mexico submitted its national action plan for the follow-up to Security Council resolution [1325 \(2000\)](#) on women and peace and security. Mexico submits annual reports on compliance with the action plan, through which it seeks to promote women's meaningful participation in conflict prevention and disarmament, reintegration and arms control efforts.

Currently, about 35 per cent of the Mexican personnel deployed in United Nations peacekeeping operations are women. Between mid-2022 and mid-2024, 13 women members of the Mexican Armed Forces were deployed as peacekeepers. With support from the Elsie Initiative for Women in Peace Operations fund, in 2023 Mexico submitted a report on the obstacles faced by Mexican women in the security sector. It proposed recommendations aimed at strengthening institutional policies and processes in order to ensure that more women reach leadership positions and to increase women's participation in peacekeeping operations.

Mexico is seeking to better understand the impact of armed violence, especially from trafficking in small arms and light weapons, on women and girls. To that end, it is developing national action plans on women, peace and security, strengthening the collection of sex- and age-disaggregated data, and developing national risk assessment criteria with a view to preventing armed violence against women.

I. International and regional action

• **Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons**

- Mexico took on the role of focal point for gender issues as from the second Meeting of States Parties to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in 2023.

• **Convention on Cluster Munitions**

- The Permanent Representative of Mexico to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva will chair the Twelfth Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions in September 2024.

• **Summer school on nuclear disarmament**

- Mexico promotes the participation of women diplomats through this school, which it has been organizing for Latin American and Caribbean diplomats since 2013.

• **Regional Americas workshop on the Arms Trade Treaty**

- In February 2024, Mexico and Control Arms organized a workshop to train officials in the implementation of the Arms Trade Treaty from a gender perspective.

• **Conference of States Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty**

- In 2023, Mexico co-sponsored a working paper on armed violence committed on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity.

• **Review of regional guidelines**

- Mexico is participating in the revision of the guidelines for the prevention of gender-based violence involving firearms, which is being coordinated by the Organization of American States.

• **Support for women researchers and experts**

- Mexico supported the appointment of a woman researcher from the National Autonomous University of Mexico as Director of the International Monitoring System Division of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization and the participation of women experts in the Group of Governmental Experts to further consider nuclear disarmament verification issues.

II. National action

• **Ibero-American network of women mediators**

- In 2023, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the National Institute for Women launched the network to strengthen the women and peace and security agenda in the region.

• **Networks of women peacebuilders strategy**

- Under the strategy, which has been promoted by the National Institute for Women and the Executive Secretariat of the National Public Security System, women peacebuilders have established 1,600 networks, with the participation of more than 30,000 women, since 2020. The networks are aligned with the national development plan and the national action plan for the follow-up to Security Council resolution [1325 \(2000\)](#) on women and peace and security.

- **“Yes to disarmament, yes to peace” programme**

- More than 8,627 weapons and toy weapons have been handed in under the programme, which has been rolled out in Mexico City since 2019, with women’s significant participation.

Trinidad and Tobago

[Original: English]

[31 May 2024]

The Government of Trinidad and Tobago reaffirms its full commitment to the achievement of the goal of gender equality and the empowerment of women, including in the field of disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control. In that context, Trinidad and Tobago has piloted a General Assembly resolution on women, disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control since 2010, to affirm the urgent need to strengthen efforts to ensure that women are equally represented in all spheres, including at all levels of decision-making processes in peace and security. As the international community approaches the halfway point in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Trinidad and Tobago continues to prioritize the mainstreaming of gender equality and the empowerment of women in disarmament diplomacy.

Linking General Assembly resolution [77/55](#) to related agendas, including actions 36 and 37 of Securing Our Common Future: An Agenda for Disarmament, facilitates the effective implementation of the objectives outlined in said resolution. Trinidad and Tobago welcomes the links made in General Assembly resolution [77/55](#) to the women and peace and security agenda, which recognizes the role of women, including as leaders and mediators in conflict prevention, conflict responses and peace processes, and those made to the Sustainable Development Goals that are relevant to the promotion of women, disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control.

As a country that faces enormous challenges in relation to the proliferation of illegal firearms and their ammunition and the consequent increase in armed violence within its borders, Trinidad and Tobago sees as crucial the need to promote at the United Nations and elsewhere initiatives that focus attention on gender equality in the maintenance and promotion of peace and security.

Trinidad and Tobago has taken a number of steps to implement General Assembly resolution [77/55](#), which include:

- In May 2024, the Government of Trinidad and Tobago co-hosted the Women, Peace and Security Caribbean National Action Plan Convening with the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) and Our Secure Future.
- Women have ascended to senior ranks in the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service and the Trinidad and Tobago Defence Force; for instance, the position of Commissioner of Police, which is the highest office in the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service, is currently occupied by a woman.
- Since its launch in 2020, the Gender-based Violence Unit of the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service has been expanded to encompass all nine policing divisions across the country, with ongoing training and capacity-building at its forefront. Training includes workshops and awareness-raising sessions on gender-based violence and the law, and on the investigation of domestic violence and sexual offences.

- Trinidad and Tobago has embarked on capacity-building initiatives, which include strategic partnerships with agencies such as the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean. The Regional Centre has collaborated with the Ministry of National Security to host seminars in Port of Spain on preventing armed violence against women through arms control.

At the multilateral level, Trinidad and Tobago has ratified and currently implements a number of international instruments and United Nations programmes on arms control and disarmament that actively promote women's participation, including the Arms Trade Treaty, which was the first legally binding instrument to recognize the connection between the international arms trade and gender-based violence, and the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects.

Trinidad and Tobago welcomes the important contributions of United Nations agencies, the International Committee of the Red Cross and civil society in conducting research and promoting awareness on the importance of gender equality in disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control.

Trinidad and Tobago reaffirms its commitment to the advancement and empowerment of women and commits to continue working with Member States and partners at the regional and global levels to ensure the full engagement of women at all levels, including decision-making, and in all aspects of disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control, and to promote the involvement of women as equal partners in matters related to peace and security. Trinidad and Tobago will continue to robustly support international and regional initiatives to advance these goals and strongly encourages Member States to report on their progress made in the field of women, disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control.

III. Replies received from the United Nations system

International Atomic Energy Agency

[Original: English]
[29 May 2024]

Marie Skłodowska-Curie Fellowship Programme and Lise Meitner Programme

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) is implementing two programmes for the nuclear sector that are aimed at attracting, retaining and developing the careers of more women. Through its Marie Skłodowska-Curie Fellowship Programme and Lise Meitner Programme, IAEA actively promotes gender equality and diversity and contributes to the establishment of an inclusive workforce within the nuclear industry.

Acknowledging the vital role of education in developing a vigorous pipeline of young professionals, in 2022–2023, the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Fellowship Programme continued to support young women studying in nuclear-related fields relevant to the IAEA mission to advance the safe, secure and peaceful uses of nuclear science and technology, such as nuclear engineering, advanced reactor designs, nuclear physics and chemistry, nuclear medicine, isotopic techniques, radiation biology, nuclear safety, nuclear security and non-proliferation, and nuclear law, to mention just a few.

The IAEA Marie Skłodowska-Curie Fellowship Programme annually provides scholarships and internships to a growing number of female students from the IAEA member States to enter nuclear-related fields in the nuclear industry sector, thus contributing to gender balance and to technological and economic advancement. Internship opportunities facilitated by IAEA allow for the tangible application of knowledge and the ability to effectively address and respond to technological and scientific needs in the nuclear field, following participation in the Fellowship Programme.

Since its launch in 2020, the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Fellowship Programme has received 2,271 applications. A total of 560 students have been selected, representing 121 member States and studying in 72 countries worldwide. In 2023, 200 students were selected – the largest number in an application cycle to date.

Under the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Fellowship Programme, by the end of April 2024, 203 students had completed their master's programme and 110 had been placed to pursue an internship facilitated by IAEA.

As at April 2024, the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Fellowship Programme had received pledges amounting to €11.9 million, as well as in-kind contributions sponsoring 73 students. Donors include the European Union, 23 member States, 2 member State institutions, two private sector partners from industry and one academic institution.

In addition, in 2023, IAEA launched the Lise Meitner Programme to promote career development and the retention of women in the nuclear field. The Programme provides early and mid-career women professionals with opportunities to participate in a multi-week visiting professional programme to advance their technical and soft skills. The visiting programme lasts between two and four weeks and brings together 10 to 15 visiting professionals per cohort.

In 2023 and early 2024, IAEA implemented three visiting professional programmes, two in the United States of America and one in the Republic of Korea. Thirty-six early- to mid-career women professionals participated in the Lise Meitner Programme visits focusing on nuclear power operations, nuclear reactor modelling and simulations and related activities.

The Marie Skłodowska-Curie Fellowship Programme and the Lise Meitner Programme support the Sustainable Development Goals for empowering women in nuclear, through targeted activities, including education and training, and they are aligned with the United Nations system-wide policy on gender equality and the empowerment of women.

United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research

[Original: English]

[29 May 2024]

Research carried out by the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) demonstrated that women are chronically underrepresented in international security processes, with only one in every three diplomats accredited to arms control, non-proliferation and disarmament forums being women. Women's underrepresentation can reinforce stereotypes that devalue women's expertise and lead to a vicious cycle where perspectives and knowledge of large segments of the population continue to be excluded.

UNIDIR systematically tracks gender balance in arms control and disarmament and makes the data available on its Gender and Disarmament Hub.¹ The surveying of seven large multilateral meetings in 2022 revealed that women make up an average of 34 per cent of the diplomats accredited to arms control and disarmament forums. This represents a modest increase from 32 per cent in 2018. It underscores the need for action to support the participation of women in the field of arms control and disarmament.

UNIDIR conducted an investigation into the state of women's participation in technical arms control roles. As reflected in the publication entitled *Women Managing Weapons: Perspectives for Increasing Women's Meaningful Participation in Weapons and Ammunition Management*,² in the investigation, it was found that the gender gap is even wider in technical roles, as women represent less than 12 per cent of participants in weapons and ammunition management training. Women continue to face barriers, such as gender stereotyping, discrimination, lack of adequate infrastructure, unequal access to training and conscious and unconscious bias.

In order to have a better understanding about what works to improve the participation of women, UNIDIR designed a survey and distributed it to organizations involved in arms control and disarmament. Drawing on practical experience shared by survey respondents, UNIDIR published a report entitled "Best practices for gender equality in conventional arms control: survey results".³ The survey showed a good level of interest and awareness on gender equality matters among organizations active in this field. Distinct practices are being implemented to improve gender balance and to transform the working environment to make it more inclusive: equality directives in public administration; flexible work arrangements; specific, measurable, achievable, relevant and time-bound goals and indicators; panel parity pledges; and gender-sensitive communication.

In relation to multilateral arms control and disarmament processes, the intervention that has had the most success in increasing the participation of women has been the Women in International Security and Cyberspace Fellowship,⁴ which was established by a group of States to support equal participation in the open-ended working group on security of and in the use of information and communications technologies 2021–2025. In just a couple of years, the level of women's engagement in that forum increased significantly, with virtually half of official statements being delivered by women. This is unprecedented in multilateral meetings on international security, where, on average, women's voices account for no more than 30 per cent of the statements delivered.

Inspired by this successful initiative, UNIDIR launched the pilot edition of the Women in AI Fellowship⁵ in 2024. Through an open call for applications, UNIDIR selected 31 women diplomats to participate in a one-week training programme in Geneva. The programme is aimed at equipping participants with the essential knowledge, skills and resources needed to actively engage in multilateral discussions on artificial intelligence within the field of international peace and security.

¹ See <https://unidir.org/tools/gender-disarmament-hub/>.

² See <https://unidir.org/publication/women-managing-weapons/>.

³ See <https://unidir.org/publication/best-practices-for-promoting-gender-equality-in-conventional-arms-control-survey-results/>.

⁴ See <https://eucyberdirect.eu/good-cyber-story/women-and-international-security-in-cyberspace-fellowship>.

⁵ See <https://unidir.org/unidir-launches-women-in-ai-fellowship/>.

United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs

[Original: English]
[31 May 2024]

General observations

Since the General Assembly adopted resolution [77/55](#) in 2022, Member States have continued to strengthen the consideration of gender issues and the role of women across the spectrum of multilateral disarmament processes.

In most United Nations disarmament forums in 2022–2023, women accounted for between 30 and 40 per cent of delegates registered to attend meetings, an increase compared with previous years, although women were generally less well represented as speakers and heads of delegation. In the First Committee in 2023, 29 per cent of interventions were made by women.

In the open-ended working group on security of and in the use of information and communications technologies 2021–2025, 49 per cent of interventions were made by women in 2023, with the Women in International Security and Cyberspace Fellowship directly contributing to progress towards gender parity.

In the First Committee, joint statements on gender and disarmament were delivered in 2022 and 2023 by 78 and 86 States, respectively. References to gender issues were made in 38 per cent of resolutions in 2023, an increase from 30 per cent in 2022.

States strengthened their commitments to gender mainstreaming and women's full and effective participation in disarmament processes. States agreed to adopt action-oriented measures during the Fourth United Nations Conference to Review Progress Made in the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, in recognition of the gender roles, norms and expectations associated with the acquisition of illicit arms.¹ A new Global Framework for Through-life Conventional Ammunition Management ([A/78/111](#), annex) was adopted, in which States committed to strengthen gender mainstreaming and women's participation in ammunition management. The open-ended working group on security of and in the use of information and communications technologies 2021–2025 recognized the impact of the “gender digital divide” and affirmed the need for gender-responsive cyber capacity-building efforts in its second annual progress report ([A/78/265](#)). At the second Meeting of States Parties to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, States reaffirmed their grave concern about the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons, including their disproportionate impact on women and girls, and appointed Mexico as the next gender focal point to coordinate implementation of the Treaty's gender provisions.

The nexus between weapons and sexual and gender-based violence was a focus, as reflected in the Secretary-General's annual reports on conflict-related sexual violence ([S/2022/272](#) and [S/2023/413](#)) and consideration of this issue in the Security Council open debate on conflict-related sexual violence in April 2024.

Work of the Office for Disarmament Affairs

The Office for Disarmament Affairs continued to systematically integrate gender dimensions into its activities. It also supported Member States' capacity to develop gender-responsive disarmament and arms control policies and programmes,

¹ The outcome document was adopted by consensus on 28 June 2024. The Russian Federation disassociated itself from the gender-related outcomes.

and strengthen the nexus between disarmament and the women and peace and security agenda.

In 2022 the Office launched a multi-year European Union-funded project in support of the Programme of Action on Small Arms featuring gender as one of the three project pillars. The Office launched an online self-paced course entitled “Gender-mainstreaming small arms control” on its Disarmament Education Dashboard. Within the framework of the Women Managing Ammunition Network, the Office’s SaferGuard programme partnered with the Government of Austria and the Ammunition Management Advisory Team to deliver an international training session for women ammunition technical experts on the International Ammunition Technical Guidelines. The United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean launched specialized courses on firearms investigations from a gender perspective, and the United Nations Regional Centres for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific and in Africa implemented workshops and training on gender-sensitive small arms control.

The Office bolstered its efforts to promote women’s equal participation through data collection, scholarships and fellowships, including through the United Nations Programme of Fellowships on Disarmament. The Office further supported the equal participation of women in training activities that it organized, including in the areas of chemical and biological weapons and weapons of mass destruction, with women accounting for an average of 44 per cent of participants in 2022 and 2023.

The High Representative for Disarmament Affairs platformed gender and disarmament issues through official remarks and engagements and continued to provide leadership for implementation of the Office’s Gender Policy.²

² See <https://disarmament.unoda.org/unoda-gender-policy-2021-2025/>.

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

[Original: English]

[29 May 2024]

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) assesses the impact of small arms and light weapons on women and girls in the context of homicide. In 2023, the Office published a research brief on gender-related killings of women and girls (femicide/feminicide).¹ Furthermore, the UNODC *Global Study on Homicide 2023* contains in-depth research and analysis on the gender dimensions of homicide, including the role of firearms in gender-based violence.²

The UNODC Global Firearms Programme has gender mainstreaming as a cross-cutting priority in its five pillars: (a) legislative and policy development on firearms issues; (b) implementation of preventive, security and regulatory measures to impede the diversion and misuse of legal weapons for illicit purposes; (c) strengthening of criminal justice responses to illicit firearms trafficking and related crimes; (d) international cooperation and information exchange; and (e) identification and monitoring of illicit firearms flows to develop an evidence base for policy and operational decision-making.

These efforts include research on the gender dimension of firearms-related criminality and the development of a training module to promote gender perspectives in all activities. Moreover, a strategy for gender-responsive programming to address the gender dimension of firearms-related crime from the perspective of women, not only as victims, but also as offenders and agents for change is being developed.

Concrete measures taken under the Global Firearms Programme include:

- Facilitating the representation of women experts and civil society organizations when providing legislative drafting support on the incorporation into national law of the Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, in order to ensure that firearms-relevant laws are gender-sensitive. This includes promoting the prohibition of possession of firearms for persons who have been convicted of crimes related to sexual violence, intimate partner violence or bodily harm. Furthermore, UNODC incorporates gender analysis into legislative reviews and drafting support.
- Encouraging women to join national criminal justice institutions, with a focus on arms trafficking and armed violence.
- Promoting the participation of, and contribution by, female practitioners in crime prevention and criminal justice activities and the role of women in law enforcement and the judiciary to fight trafficking.
- Collecting gender-disaggregated data on issues such as the demographics related to the use of firearms in violent crime, as well as on individuals arrested, prosecuted or convicted for illicit firearms trafficking,³ with a view to understanding the gender dimension of such trafficking on the perpetrator side.

¹ UNODC and United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), “Gender-related killings of women and girls (femicide/feminicide): global estimates of female intimate partner/family-related homicides in 2022” (2023), available at www.unodc.org/documents/data-and-analysis/briefs/Femicide_brief_2023.pdf.

² UNODC, *Global Study on Homicide 2023* (Vienna, 2023), available at www.unodc.org/documents/data-and-analysis/gsh/2023/Global_study_on_homicide_2023_web.pdf.

³ In the framework of the UNODC Monitoring Illicit Arms Flows initiative, the revision of the Illicit Arms Flows Questionnaire with updated gender-sensitive questions is planned for 2024.

A global study entitled “Gender dimensions of firearms-related criminality” is forthcoming in 2024. In addition, a new global study on firearms (to be developed during 2024–2025) will include a chapter on the gender dimensions of firearms trafficking and related criminality.

- Raising awareness among authorities and educators on the gender dimension of armed violence, in particular homicide, through the UNODC Education for Universities initiative.⁴

IV. Replies received from other international organizations

European Union

[Original: English]
[30 May 2024]

The women and peace and security agenda constitutes an essential framework for policy and implementation, achieving greater societal resilience, more peaceful societies and the fulfilment of women’s and girls’ rights when implemented. It is therefore critical that current and future prevention, response and recovery efforts are aligned with the rights, needs and experiences of women and girls.

The European Union has been a staunch proponent of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) and its follow-up resolutions, which compose the women and peace and security agenda. The promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women are important cross-cutting priorities for the European Union. The European Union is fully committed to mainstreaming gender equality into all non-proliferation, disarmament and arms control work, and reiterates this commitment in the First Committee of the General Assembly.

As part of its strategy against illicit firearms, small arms and light weapons and their ammunition, adopted in November 2018, the European Union is committed to mainstreaming a gender perspective in the design of new projects relating to the fight against gun violence and small arms control in general, and the sharing of good practices in this regard. Since the adoption of the strategy, all new assistance projects systematically integrate gender equality perspectives through the provision of technical advice and expertise, the development of knowledge products, and/or training.

The European Union supports the universalization and implementation of non-proliferation, disarmament and arms control conventions by means of dedicated projects (Council Decisions) that systematically consider the gender equality dimension. Under Council Decision (CFSP) 2019/97 in support of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction, seminars were organized to bring together youth from the Global South. Particular emphasis was placed on encouraging the participation of young women from the Global South. Under Council Decision (CFSP) 2019/538 in support of activities of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, the activities included a forum for women on the peaceful uses of chemistry and basic analytical skills development course for women. Under the umbrella of the Global Partnership’s Signature Initiative to Mitigate Biological Threats in Africa, the European Union Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Risk Mitigation Centres of Excellence Initiative is funding a biosecurity

⁴ See <https://sherloc.unodc.org/cld/en/education/tertiary/index.html>.

and outbreak management training workshop dedicated to African women to empower their involvement during health crises.

In addition to projects with a specific geographical focus, the European Union is also supporting a global approach to increase knowledge and build capacity on the gender and small arms and light weapons nexus. The Office for Disarmament Affairs implemented a project under Council Decision (CFSP) 2018/2011 in support of gender-mainstreamed policies, programmes and actions in the fight against small arms trafficking and misuse, in line with the women and peace and security agenda. The project funded activities such as online-based training on gender mainstreaming small arms control for United Nations staff and wider communities of practitioners. Under Council Decision (CFSP) 2022/1965, through a project implemented by the Office for Disarmament Affairs, the European Union supports activities aimed at a three-fold approach to advance the effective implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects and the International Instrument to Enable States to Identify and Trace, in a Timely and Reliable Manner, Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons. The Council Decision is focused on forward-looking global policy developments in the context of the Fourth United Nations Conference to Review Progress Made in the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects; effective national and regional implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument; and gender-responsive small arms control policies and programmes.

The European Union commends the efforts of United Nations agencies, in particular the Office for Disarmament Affairs and the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research, as well as the International Committee of the Red Cross and civil society, for their efforts to inform discussions within the disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control machinery on gender equality, women's empowerment and the impact of certain weapons on gender equality.

The European Union promotes the implementation of the Arms Trade Treaty, with particular attention paid to article 7, requiring States to take into account the risk of arms or other items being used to commit or facilitate serious acts of gender-based violence. Effective implementation of the Arms Trade Treaty can contribute to eliminating violence against women and girls, as set out in Sustainable Development Goal target 5.2.

In its conclusions of 27 May 2024 on a European Union position on the Fourth United Nations Conference to Review Progress Made in the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects (New York, 18 to 28 June 2024), the Council committed to support the gender-sensitive approach to small arms and light weapons control and recognized the differentiated impacts of armed violence on women, men, girls and boys, and promote the role of women in implementation of the Programme of Action and gender-based analysis in small arms and light weapons control actions as a condition for their effectiveness.

Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean

[Original: English]
[16 May 2024]

In 2021, the General Conference of the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean adopted by consensus, for the first time, a resolution entitled "Gender, non-proliferation and disarmament", (CG/Res.05/2021)

recognizing the valuable contribution of women in the region in the promotion of disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control, especially nuclear weapons, and to the promotion of peace and acknowledging that, while women and men engage in different ways around non-proliferation and disarmament, the equal, full and effective participation of all people is essential for the promotion of peace and security.

The provisions adopted on that occasion have permeated through the inclusion of a gender perspective in the activities, calls and programmes of the different bodies of the Agency, promoted by both the secretariat and the member States.

Since the adoption of the first resolution on gender in 2021, the cadre of young professionals who provide support to the work of the secretariat in the internship programmes have been mostly women. The composition of the official staff of the secretariat currently consists of the Secretary-General, three female officers, one male officer and one General Services clerk (driver and other services). Considering these numbers, 60 per cent of the professional staff of the secretariat of the Agency are women.

Regarding the education initiatives the Summer School on Nuclear Disarmament and Non-Proliferation is reflecting an increasing trend in the participation of women diplomats since the adoption of the resolution: 2021 (58 per cent); 2022 (62 per cent); and 2023 (73 per cent).

In its day-to-day work, the Agency also implemented relevant measures such as following, to the extent possible, inclusive, and non-sexist language guidelines in its communications, documents and presentations, as well as referring, as frequently as possible, to the importance that the Agency attaches to the promotion of gender equity and the substantive participation of women in different bodies in the interventions of the Secretary-General and of the staff of the secretariat. For example, since 2021, the secretariat does an informative post on its social media accounts on International Women's Day on 8 March each year.

In 2022, the General Conference adopted the resolution entitled "Gender, non-proliferation and disarmament" (CG/E/Res.13/2022) with technical updates.

In 2023, the General Conference decided to strengthen the resolution and adopted the resolution entitled "Gender, non-proliferation and disarmament" (CG/Res.12/2023).
