



General Assembly

Distr.: General
12 July 2023
English
Original: Arabic/English/French/
Spanish

Seventy-eighth session

Item 101 (gg) of the provisional agenda*

General and complete disarmament: youth, disarmament and non-proliferation

Youth, disarmament and non-proliferation

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report is submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution [76/45](#), in which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to prepare a report on the issue of the promotion of youth engagement and empowerment activities in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation. It contains the views of Member States, the United Nations, other relevant international and regional organizations and civil society organizations.

* [A/78/150](#).



Contents

	<i>Page</i>
I. Introduction	4
II. Replies received from Governments	4
Canada	4
Colombia	5
Côte d'Ivoire	7
El Salvador	9
Honduras	9
India	9
Kiribati	10
Mexico	10
Qatar	12
Republic of Korea	14
III. Replies received from the United Nations and other international and regional organizations	15
Office for Disarmament Affairs	15
Department of Global Communications	17
European Union	18
United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research	18
International Atomic Energy Agency	19
United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime	20
Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe	21
Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization	21
IV. Replies received from civil society and non-governmental organizations	22
Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament	22
Center for Energy and Security Studies	22
Hibakusha Stories	23
IM Swedish Development Partner	23
International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons	23
International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War	24
James Martin Center for Nonproliferation Studies	24
Pace University	25
Peace Boat	25
Senema Love Foundation	25
The Simons Foundation Canada	26

Soka Gakkai International	26
Instituto Tecnológico y de Estudios Superiores de Monterrey	26
United Nations Association of Mongolia	27
Youth Fusion	27
V. Conclusion	27

I. Introduction

1. In paragraph 6 of its resolution [76/45](#), entitled “Youth, disarmament and non-proliferation”, the General Assembly invited all Member States, the United Nations, other relevant international and regional organizations and civil society organizations to share their views on the issue of the promotion of youth engagement and empowerment activities in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation, and requested the Secretary-General to submit a report thereon to the General Assembly at its seventy-eighth session.

2. Pursuant to that request, notes verbales dated 26 January 2023 were sent to Member States inviting them to provide information on the subject. Member States and relevant organizations were invited to provide executive summaries of their contributions for inclusion in the report of the Secretary-General, while their submissions in extenso would be posted on the website of the Office for Disarmament Affairs. The replies received are contained in sections II, III and IV below. The replies contained in section IV of the present report have been further shortened, with the contributors informed. The report should be read in conjunction with the report of the Secretary-General entitled “Disarmament and non-proliferation education” ([A/77/133](#)). Any views received after 31 May 2023 will be posted on the website of the Office for Disarmament Affairs in the original language received. No addenda will be issued.

II. Replies received from Governments

Canada

[Original: English]
[31 May 2023]

This submission provides a summary of the views of Canada on General Assembly resolution [76/45](#) entitled “Youth, disarmament and non-proliferation”. This submission responds to a note verbale from the Office of Disarmament Affairs (ODA-2023-00034/YOUTH), pursuant to paragraph 6 of the above-mentioned resolution requesting the Secretary-General to seek the views of Member States.

The importance of youth in disarmament and non-proliferation

Canada is deeply committed to the empowerment of youth in every sphere of life, in Canada and internationally. In peace and security, it is essential to listen to the perspectives of youth, by providing a seat for them at the table and facilitating their engagement in discussions.

Canada has supported a number of initiatives domestically as well as through the United Nations, specifically, with the Office for Disarmament Affairs’ youth engagement programmes. This includes supporting youth participation at the Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and providing experts to share their experiences with youth networks such as that of the British American Security Information Council. Canada also championed the first-ever youth day at the Conference on Disarmament under its presidency in 2021, which saw youth from across the globe share their perspectives on issues of importance within the Conference’s mandate. Partnering with established organizations such as the United Nations bolsters all of our work on youth engagement.

Cross-cutting engagement on youth, disarmament and non-proliferation

Youth from around the globe are often at the forefront of movements to make their homes and communities safer, whether in response to war and conflict, or to prevent it. No matter where and when, conflicts inevitably harm youth and children, and fail to create a safe space for them to learn and grow.

Youth are also at the forefront of movements for disarmament. Canada is strongly supportive of youth mobilizing society on issues that took us far too long to address in the past. In the context of the Secretary-General's New Agenda for Peace, we would all benefit from integrating youth at the outset of that process.

That is not to say that current generations are absolved of responsibility for making our world a safer and more secure place. The youth, disarmament and non-proliferation agenda is clear that youth make up a component of the larger body of peace practitioners. While there can be challenges, such as providing comprehensive education and meaningful engagement, we must continue to work together to understand that youth engagement is not just a box to tick, but something that can actually help to address ongoing deadlocks and stalemates and help us to advance towards a safer, more peaceful and more equitable world for all.

Further ideas to develop

Canada applauds the efforts of the Republic of Korea through resolution [76/45](#), as well as the work done by Japan on youth education on nuclear disarmament. These national and international programmes help to create a new generation that is ready to take on global challenges. Exploring ways of further promoting the role of youth in disarmament and non-proliferation is a valuable exercise and one that we hope to see grow in the future.

Canada sees enormous value in continued education on youth engagement in disarmament, greater linkages between the youth, peace and security agenda and the women and peace and security agenda and continued efforts by civil society to teach, showcase, facilitate and highlight to the world the ways in which youth can positively impact our work.

Conclusion

To create a better future for all – one that sees fewer conflicts, less weapons proliferation and more peace – we must recognize that youth are the future. We must continue to engage, empower and strengthen youth to be involved in all aspects of disarmament and non-proliferation.

Canada supports the efforts brought forth by resolution [76/45](#), the Office for Disarmament Affairs, the Youth for Disarmament campaign and other national and international disarmament and non-proliferation initiatives that take place across the globe. We look forward to reading the report of the Secretary-General report and to furthering the conversation on youth engagement in disarmament and non-proliferation.

Colombia

[Original: Spanish]
[31 May 2023]

Article 45 of the Political Constitution of Colombia provides that the State and society guarantee the participation of young people in the public and private bodies responsible for the protection, education and progress of youth, thus providing a basis

for efforts to promote young people's active participation in the construction of a more equitable and sustainable society and to recognize their role as agents of positive change, capable of ensuring that the world is fit for future generations.

In the National Development Plan 2022–2026, entitled *Colombia, potencia mundial de la vida* (Colombia, global life force), the need to adopt a differential approach to reduce socioeconomic gaps is identified, together with the need to strengthen the potential of young people with a view to achieving total peace, and the need to include them in the development of public policies for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in order to leave no one behind.

Colombia has a programme called “Jóvenes en Paz” (Young People in Peace), whose aim is to bridge social divides for almost 100,000 young people from the most vulnerable communities by reducing the risk of their becoming victims of violence through guaranteed access to quality education, the performance of sustainable economic activities through associations, and the development of those young people's potential in such fields as culture, sports and technology.

In addition, Colombia has document 4040 of the National Council for Economic and Social Policy, of August 2021, entitled *Pacto Colombia con las juventudes: estrategia para fortalecer el desarrollo integral de la juventud* (Colombia youth pact: strategy to enhance young people's holistic development), which is aimed at guaranteeing the participation of young people in the transformation of the country.

The pact will be implemented until 2026, with funding of 33.5 billion Colombian pesos allocated to programmes that benefit nearly 13 million young people, including spaces for education and dialogue on young people's safety and their role in discussions on the subject.

The Office of the Presidential Counsellor for Youth – Young Colombia was established to coordinate a strategy for ensuring that young people would participate in the processes of implementing and building total peace, among other things.

Along the same lines, under the Defence, Security and Citizen Coexistence Policy 2022–2026, entitled “Garantías para la vida y la paz” (Guarantees for Life and Peace), youth diversity in national security matters is encouraged; in implementation of the Policy, various discussions with youth organizations were held between September 2022 and January 2023.

Criteria for intervention are also established in the Policy with a view to preventing young people's involvement in criminal acts and networks, as well as to reduce recidivism and support resocialization and socioeconomic integration, without prejudice to the responsibilities arising as a result of crimes committed.

In addition, article 10 of Act No. 2272 of 2022, in which the State Peace Policy is set out, establishes the Social Service for Peace, an alternative to military service that gives the country's young men and women the option of choosing from among 11 forms of service, including social service involving:

- Work with victims of the armed conflict and the promotion of their rights, defence of human rights and international humanitarian law
- Endorsement of and compliance with peace agreements
- Promotion of the public policy of peace, reconciliation, coexistence and non-stigmatization

This Service promotes not only young people's capacity to make decisions regarding their roles in society, but also their direct participation, through these forms of service, in the promotion of the principles of disarmament and non-proliferation, as part of the culture of peace.

On 5 December 2021, for the first time, elections were held for the Youth Councils, an independent participation mechanism for youth civic involvement that is recognized in Act No. 1622 of 2013. Voters elected 10,837 councillors, who are responsible for establishing strategies to ensure that young people participate in the design of policies on, inter alia, youth and the needs of the country.

The above demonstrates the country's interest in ensuring that young people participate in relation to positions of responsibility within the State, including in the area of national security. Colombia is conscious that young people are leading agents of change and, as a State party to various international instruments on disarmament and non-proliferation, it recognizes the need to further promote the empowerment and participation of young people in discussions on the subject.

Finally, Colombia hopes that, with the establishment of the United Nations Youth Office by General Assembly resolution 76/306, the youth agenda will be more actively promoted in all Member States, thereby increasing inclusiveness and diversity in the development of policies that address young people's concerns, and that measures to protect their rights and well-being will be collaboratively developed.

Côte d'Ivoire

[Original: French]
[17 May 2023]

In Côte d'Ivoire, pursuant to Decree No. 72-746 of 24 November 1972, young people are defined as people between the ages of 16 and 35. The country has had a ministerial department responsible for youth since 1959.

The national youth policy is aimed at facilitating the social and professional integration, empowerment and self-employment of young people, who account for 77.7 per cent of the population under 35.

2023 has been declared the "Year of Youth". In addition to the traditional policies focused on education and employment for young people, steps specifically to promote their contribution to disarmament and non-proliferation programmes have been taken.

1. Disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme

Following the 2011 post-electoral armed crisis, the Authority on Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration was established by Decree No. 2012-787 of 8 August 2012. By the end of its mandate, in 2015, the Authority had achieved the following results:

- 65,400 ex-combatants demobilized, reinserted and reintegrated out of an initial total of 74,000, of whom 64,000 actually presented themselves for consideration
- Promotion of the contribution of young people to awareness-raising campaigns of the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme on the dangers associated with the proliferation of small arms and light weapons, with a view to the voluntary surrender of such weapons
- Payment of allowances of 800,000 CFA francs to demobilized ex-combatants to facilitate their reintegration into the economy and help them to become agents of development

2. Work of the Coordination, Follow-up and Reinsertion Cell

The Coordination, Follow-up and Reinsertion Cell is tasked with organizing and coordinating resocialization activities. It has supported and provided guidance to ex-combatants and young people in conflict with the law. It has been responsible for:

- Managing the database and providing referrals to the specialized entities responsible for the reinsertion of ex-combatants
- Implementing a national project to address the problem of children in conflict with the law

3. National youth policy and implementation strategies (2016–2020)

After the armed crisis in Côte d'Ivoire in 2010 and 2011, the goal of the national youth policy was to prevent and combat the mobilization of young people and adolescents and their involvement and participation in armed conflicts and other hostilities by:

- Building the capacities of young people and adolescents to foster democracy, a culture of peace, solidarity and citizenship
- Promoting education for citizenship and a culture of peace in schools

4. National youth policy (2021–2025)

The implementation of the national policy is financed mainly by resources from the State, development partners, the private sector and civil society organizations. The policy includes a focus on “Youth, peace, security and crime”, with a view to empowering young people and promoting their participation in all areas of society, including in the field of security.

5. Special programme to combat fragility in northern border areas, implemented by the Ministry for the Advancement of Young People, Professional Integration and Civic Service

This programme is a response to the terrorist threat in the northern part of the country. The aim is to prevent young people in those regions from joining jihadist groups by offering them professional opportunities and supporting business start-ups. The programme has enabled many young people to enter the job market.

6. Ongoing actions carried out by the National Commission to Combat the Proliferation and Illegal Movement of Small Arms and Light Weapons

The National Commission, in collaboration with civil society organizations, conducts ongoing awareness-raising and community disarmament campaigns and organizes capacity-building sessions to encourage young people's involvement in programmes aimed at combating the proliferation and illegal movement of weapons.

7. Contribution of civil society organizations with the support of development partners

Non-governmental organizations have been entrusted with the implementation of a number of community projects to help ex-combatants and those who have voluntarily surrendered their arms.

The Côte d'Ivoire section of the West Africa Action Network on Small Arms, which brings together 23 organizations, works to involve young people in the fight to promote a secure environment.

El Salvador

[Original: Spanish]
[27 April 2023]

In compliance with General Assembly resolution 76/45, entitled “Youth, disarmament and non-proliferation”, I hereby inform you that the Armed Forces of El Salvador have carried out the following actions:

(a) Training of two senior and five junior officers in the various courses offered by the States members of the Latin American and Caribbean Group.

(b) Training of one senior and five junior officers in the various courses offered by the States members of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, with the objective of developing and strengthening national and regional capacity to respond to the use or threat of use of chemical weapons and other incidents involving toxic industrial chemicals.

(c) Participation of Major Gladys Ana Cecilia Roque de Vega and Lieutenant Doris Johana Martínez de Arriaza in a United Nations workshop for women experts in ammunition management.

(d) At the Peace Operations Training Centre, the various contingents are taught about demobilization and reintegration; this includes an explanation of the steps taken to integrate combatants into society once an armed conflict has ended.

Honduras

[Original: Spanish]
[29 March 2023]

With regard to General Assembly resolution 76/45, entitled “Youth, disarmament and non-proliferation”, the Legal and Military Audit Department provides advice on matters that fall within the competence of the Armed Forces, as the guarantors of the laws in force, international conventions and United Nations resolutions. The Department also provides Armed Forces personnel with training on youth, disarmament and non-proliferation in order to faithfully comply with the resolution, bearing in mind the primary responsibility of maintaining world peace and international security.

Honduras reaffirmed its commitment to the shared aspiration of a world without nuclear weapons and the permanent quest for peace through its accession to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, thus undertaking to prevent proliferation through the peaceful use of nuclear energy, and to further the objective of complete and safe nuclear disarmament.

India

[Original: English]
[31 May 2023]

Young people are agents for social change, economic development and technological innovation. India attaches great importance to engaging and working with the youth to raise awareness of and to find innovative solutions to issues of disarmament, arms control and international security.

India sponsored General Assembly resolution 76/45, entitled “Youth, disarmament and non-proliferation”. The resolution calls upon Member States to consider developing and implementing policies and programmes for young people to

increase and facilitate their constructive engagement in the field of disarmament and non-proliferation.

In this regard, the Annual Disarmament and International Security Affairs Fellowship, launched by India in 2019, has been well received by various Member States, particularly the younger generation of diplomats. The fellowship programme aims to raise awareness and exchange views among young officials from across the world on issues related to contemporary disarmament, non-proliferation, arms control and international security affairs. It features talks, presentations and simulation exercises by leading experts on a range of subjects, such as the global security environment, weapons of mass destruction, certain conventional weapons, space security, security of cyberspace, export controls and emerging technologies, and includes visits to facilities of the Department of Atomic Energy of India and the Indian Space Research Organization to provide the fellows a first-hand exposure to India's civil nuclear and civil space programmes.

The fellowship programme also fulfils the mandate of General Assembly resolution entitled "United Nations study on disarmament and non-proliferation education" and is in line with the focus on disarmament education in the agenda for disarmament of the Secretary-General, *Securing Our Common Future: An Agenda for Disarmament*.

The third edition of the fellowship programme was held from 9 to 27 January 2023 at the Sushma Swaraj Institute of Foreign Service, New Delhi.

Kiribati

[Original: English]
[31 May 2023]

Over the course of the past two years, Kiribati has co-sponsored events with Kazakhstan and civil society organizations including the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation initiative Reverse the Trend: Save Our Planet, Save Our People; the Marshallese Educational Initiative; Peace Boat US; and many others. Lastly, Kiribati co-convened a series of consultations on the implementation of articles 6 and 7 of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons with Pacific youth activists, at which we urged them to raise their voices on the devastating impact of over 300 nuclear tests in the Pacific region. Overall, our events have examined the intersectional impact of nuclear weapons and climate change, as these are particularly important and pose a significant threat to our region.

Mexico

[Original: Spanish]
[31 May 2023]

Mexico is submitting this document in compliance with General Assembly resolution [76/45](#), entitled "Youth, disarmament and non-proliferation".

The world's young people play an important role in raising awareness, driving change and innovating. In the field of disarmament, their perspectives and new approaches have a positive impact and contribute to non-proliferation and disarmament strategies. It is important to inform, involve and empower them to become agents of peace by helping them to mobilize, take action and promote the ideals of disarmament and non-proliferation in their communities.

In this context, Mexico has done the following:

- In coordination with the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean and the James Martin Center for Nonproliferation Studies, Mexico continues to organize the summer school on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation for young Latin American and Caribbean diplomats with a view to strengthening their technical skills.
- In the First Committee of the General Assembly, Mexico submits the biennial resolution entitled “United Nations study on disarmament and non-proliferation education”.
- In 2021, Mexico co-sponsored General Assembly resolution [76/45](#), entitled “Youth, disarmament and non-proliferation”.
- In 2021, in coordination with the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs, Mexico organized a side event to mark the twentieth anniversary of the resolution entitled “United Nations study on disarmament and non-proliferation education”.
- In 2022, under the auspices of the International Atomic Energy Agency, the Association of Women for Nuclear Security and the Permanent Mission of Mexico to the International Organizations in Vienna, a webinar on professional development opportunities for women interested in careers in nuclear sciences and fields was organized. The objective was to raise young women’s awareness of career opportunities related to the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.
- In 2022, Mexico moderated the discussion at the virtual launch of the “Disarmament Education Strategy of the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs”.
- Mexico maintains its programme for youth delegates, who participate in discussions of disarmament and non-proliferation issues in the First Committee of the General Assembly.
- In the Organization of American States, Mexico continues to submit a resolution on the importance of promoting a culture of non-violence and peace among States.
- At the national level, a higher education institution for diplomats, the Matías Romero Institute, offers training in disarmament, non-proliferation and peace for federal government officials who will work in Mexican missions abroad.
- The Ministry of Foreign Affairs participates in forums on nuclear disarmament and the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons. It also offers internship and professional social service programmes to enable graduates of higher education institutions in Mexico to gain experience of the United Nations, particularly in disarmament and non-proliferation matters. It also shares training opportunities offered by international organizations with federal government officials.
- The Armed Forces of Mexico provide disarmament training to new staff of the Ministry of Defence and the Ministry of the Navy. They carry out campaigns targeting the general public and young people in order to prevent the possession, carrying and use of weapons, including through an annual firearms exchange campaign.
- In the military education system of the Ministry of Defence, the inclusion of subjects related to disarmament and non-proliferation is encouraged, with a view to raising awareness of the issue within national security bodies. The Centre for Army and Air Force Studies provides training on the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons. The public administration degree course

includes a learning unit on international treaties signed by Mexico, including those related to armaments.

- The Ministry of Defence implemented a project to enable teachers and students involved in the doctoral programme in national security development and the masters programmes in security and strategic management to study and analyse risks, scenarios and mechanisms for preventing the proliferation of nuclear weapons and their means of delivery.
- The Ministry of the Navy, through its Naval University, includes disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation in its curricula.

The National Commission for Nuclear Security and Safeguards, through the Nuclear Society of Mexico, maintains links with and invites the Youth Association for Nuclear Energy in Mexico to annual conferences on nuclear security, disarmament and non-proliferation. The Association also promotes discussions on the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, and the implications and consequences of the use of nuclear weapons.

Mexico will continue to call upon all Governments to adopt measures to promote disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation education among young people, in the belief that all States can and must contribute to this cause in order to safeguard our common future.

Qatar

[Original: Arabic]
[14 April 2023]

The State of Qatar established the National Committee for the Prohibition of Weapons within the Ministry of Defence pursuant to Cabinet Decision No. 26 (2004). Its competencies include follow-up of implementation of international conventions relating to disarmament and non-proliferation affairs. The National Committee for the Prohibition of Weapons functions as the liaison between the State of Qatar and international arms control organizations.

The Cabinet issued Decision No. 45 (2007) amending the competencies of the National Committee for the Prohibition of Weapons, charging it with designing and implementing programmes to raise awareness of the content of international conventions on the prohibition of weapons.

The State of Qatar has acceded to many international conventions and treaties related to disarmament and non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

In order to promote disarmament and non-proliferation education, the National Committee for the Prohibition of Weapons disseminates information and awareness about those conventions among the civilian population. It does so for the youth demographic by holding annual awareness workshops for students at high schools, universities, private colleges, and military colleges, and also for employees of international institutions and civil society, with a view to raising national capacities in this field in line with Qatar National Vision 2030.

The National Committee for the Prohibition of Weapons publishes information on the Convention in coordination with the competent authorities and raises awareness about arms prohibition through its website: www.ncpw.org.qa.

In 2013, the National Committee for the Prohibition of Weapons established a prize for scientific research by high school boys and girls in the field of conventions related to weapons of mass destruction and internationally prohibited weapons. It launched a contest to design an awareness poster on the dangers of weapons of mass

destruction and internationally prohibited weapons. It has set aside substantial sums of money annually for the winners of the competitions.

As part of its awareness programme, the Committee's experts have given lectures to raise awareness and educate people on the dangers of biological, chemical and nuclear weapons in several independent secondary schools for girls and boys. The goal is to educate school students about the dangers of biological, chemical and nuclear weapons. That is part of efforts by the Committee for the Prohibition of Weapons to fulfil its mission of raising awareness within the youth sector about the dangers of weapons of mass destruction and about arms control agreements.

Concise information on the dangers of weapons of mass destruction (nuclear, chemical, biological) has been incorporated into secondary school curricula in coordination with the Ministry of Education and Higher Education in the State of Qatar.

Due to the important role played by a society's youth in maintaining peace and security, the National Committee supports youth participation in disarmament and non-proliferation through a number of innovative educational activities to help ensure a safer and more sustainable future for coming generations.

At one of the awareness workshops, a high school student gave a presentation on "The role of youth in achieving Qatar Vision 2030 by raising awareness of the importance of prohibiting nuclear, chemical and biological weapons".

There was a large turnout of female and male students taking part in the competitions sponsored by the National Committee for the Prohibition of Weapons and presenting their research and poster designs to raise awareness of disarmament and non-proliferation.

In 2012, the State of Qatar established the Doha Regional Centre for Training on Conventions on Weapons of Mass Destruction. It provides training and educational services on disarmament and non-proliferation topics at the local, regional, Asian and international levels.

To promote awareness and education in the field of disarmament and non-proliferation, the National Committee for the Prohibition of Weapons signed memorandums of understanding with Georgetown University in Qatar in 2014 and Qatar University in 2015. Each consisted of an agreement between the two parties to cooperate on academic and research activities for students and professors that link the theoretical academic aspect with the practical aspect of arms prohibition agreements and their role in supporting international peace and security.

The State of Qatar has included the university student demographic in official State delegations to international disarmament and non-proliferation conferences, including the following:

- (a) The 2016 General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency;
- (b) The 2016 Eighth Review Conference of the Biological Weapons Convention;
- (c) The 2017 Conference of the States Parties to the Biological Weapons Convention in Geneva;
- (d) The 2018 Conference of the States Parties and Fourth Review Conference of the Chemical Weapons Convention in The Hague.

The National Committee for the Prohibition of Weapons, in collaboration with the Qatar Foundation's Qatar Debate Center, has held public debates for university and high school students in Qatar on conventions related to weapons of mass destruction (2017–2020).

Republic of Korea

[Original: English]

[9 May 2023]

The Republic of Korea believes that the empowerment of youth in the field of disarmament and non-proliferation helps to ensure sustainability and diversity in the discussion. Also, the active participation of future generations would spur positive momentum for stagnating disarmament discussions.

Based on this belief and, as a champion of action 38, entitled “Establish a platform for youth engagement”, in the Secretary-General’s agenda for disarmament (Securing Our Common Future), the Republic of Korea proposed the resolution entitled “Youth, disarmament and non-proliferation” to the General Assembly in 2019 and 2021.

The following illustrates the efforts of the Republic of Korea to empower, engage and educate youth on disarmament and non-proliferation.

The Republic of Korea held the Youth Model Non-Proliferation Treaty Conference in July 2020. Forty-six young participants were invited to six sessions regarding the nuclear non-proliferation regime. The participants learned the importance of maintaining and strengthening key international nuclear treaties and norms.

In June 2022, the Republic of Korea hosted the Youth Camp on Disarmament and Non-proliferation, and 30 young students participated. Two special sessions were led by experts on the emerging issues of lethal autonomous weapon systems and space security. The Youth Camp provided an excellent opportunity to promote understanding and youth engagement in the emerging agenda.

Since 1999, the Republic of Korea has been publishing a handbook on disarmament and non-proliferation for Korean practitioners, academia and the general public. The fifth edition was published in 2021 to reflect current developments. Copies were distributed to universities and posted on the website of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Also, the Republic of Korea has been inviting young diplomats from various countries, through the United Nations Disarmament Fellowship Programme, since 2016. It includes an on-site visit to Panmunjom and the War Memorial of Korea to deepen their understanding of the security situation on the Korean Peninsula.

The Republic of Korea held several events with the Office for Disarmament Affairs. The seminar entitled “74 years of nuclear disarmament and the contribution of youth beyond 2020” was held in January 2020. Youth were invited to discuss how nuclear disarmament could be achieved with the inclusive participation of young people.

In conjunction with the nineteenth Republic of Korea-United Nations Joint Conference on Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Issues, held in December 2020, a special youth session was held at which 25 international youth representatives discussed how to facilitate youth engagement in the field.

In June 2021, the Republic of Korea co-hosted the Youth Forum on Disarmament and Non-Proliferation with the Office for Disarmament Affairs. Twenty-five young participants from 21 countries discussed ways to strengthen international efforts for disarmament and non-proliferation while seeking synergy among issues such as the Sustainable Development Goals, new and emerging technologies and gender. As a result, they adopted the Seoul Youth Declaration for Disarmament and Non-Proliferation.

In August 2022, the Republic of Korea co-hosted with the Office for Disarmament Affairs and the British American Security Information Council a side event focused on advancing youth in disarmament and non-proliferation during the tenth Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. Approximately 80 young participants from around the world actively discussed the four topics – nuclear disarmament; nuclear non-proliferation; peaceful uses of nuclear energy; and equity, diversity and inclusion – and drew their own recommendations. The final report of the side event was submitted as a working paper to the Conference.

Moreover, the Republic of Korea has been supporting the Youth for Disarmament and #Leaders4Tomorrow initiatives of the Office for Disarmament Affairs. These initiatives raise awareness of disarmament and non-proliferation through diverse projects and empower youth to participate in the discussion.

In 2020, the Republic of Korea also supported the Office in creating a dedicated website (youth4disarmament.org), which has served as a platform to inform youth on disarmament and non-proliferation issues. It contributed to producing a series of disarmament explainer videos in English, French, Spanish and Korean. These videos help the public understand the basic concepts of disarmament.

The Republic of Korea has also been supporting the Youth Engagement Programme of the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research, which consists of an online disarmament orientation course, a Model United Nations first conference, an essay contest and a graduate professional programme. The Youth Engagement Programme helps youth to build the capacity to research disarmament issues.

The Republic of Korea believes that educating, engaging and empowering youth in the field of disarmament and non-proliferation will help to spur diversity and ensure the sustainability of ongoing discussions. Furthermore, as the declaration on the commemoration of the seventy-fifth anniversary of the United Nations underscores, the need for meaningful engagement with youth in the areas of peace and development, engagement, empowerment and education is key to building a sustainable culture of peace, promoting disarmament and non-proliferation, and, ultimately, creating a safer world for everyone.

The Republic of Korea will continue to actively participate in ongoing discussions on youth, including the New Agenda for Peace, and to carry out various activities to engage, empower and educate youth in the field of disarmament and non-proliferation.

III. Replies received from the United Nations and other international and regional organizations

Office for Disarmament Affairs

[Original: English]
[9 May 2023]

The Office for Disarmament Affairs has made significant headway in engaging, educating and empowering young people in the disarmament field, focusing on recommendations in the biennial General Assembly resolution on “Youth, disarmament and non-proliferation” (resolutions [74/64](#) and [76/45](#)).

The High Representative for Disarmament Affairs has engaged with youth in events and informal dialogues, including on the margins of multilateral disarmament meetings.

The Office launched its Youth for Disarmament outreach initiative in 2019, which was followed by the establishment of a dedicated digital platform for youth in 2020, which offers e-newsletters, writing opportunities and educational resources. In 2022, the Office published a compilation of stories by young people submitted through the website.

From 2020 to 2022, the Office engaged 10 Youth Champions for Disarmament through courses and interactive webinars. In 2022, it engaged 25 young leaders from 20 countries in the 10-month #Leaders4Tomorrow workshop series, which explored linkages between disarmament and other areas. Participants in both programmes presented their ideas to stakeholders during study trips to New York and Geneva.

In 2021, the Office co-organized the Youth Forum on Disarmament and Non-Proliferation in Seoul with 25 young, geographically diverse leaders. Participants adopted recommendations on the role of young people in advancing disarmament.

In 2023, the Office launched the Leaders to the Future series, offering monthly disarmament-related workshops to programme alumni. Participants developed recommendations in breakout groups.

The Office has organized activities using art, writing and physical activity to engage young people of all interests and backgrounds.

Ahead of the tenth Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, the Office organized a webinar with the British American Security Information Council on recommendations by 150 young professionals to strengthen implementation of the Treaty. The Review Conference included three side events on advancing the youth, non-proliferation and disarmament agenda, and a youth exchange with a survivor of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima.

As part of its responsible innovation efforts, the Office has continued outreach to students and young practitioners in science, technology, engineering and mathematics. In 2023, the Office launched its largest initiative, on “promoting responsible innovation in artificial intelligence for peace and security”.

Social media campaigns have promoted activities by youth to engage their communities on disarmament-related topics.

The Office’s regional centres have held seminars with governmental and other stakeholders on the need for young people’s meaningful and inclusive participation within peace and security processes. A meeting with representatives of Jamaica yielded national guidelines for developing protocols against firearms in schools, presented in Kingston in 2023.

The Office has established the Youth for Biosecurity Initiative to inform young scientists – in particular those from the global South – about their role in biosafety and biosecurity, and to bolster global capacities against biological-agent misuse. The Youth Declaration for Biosecurity was released in 2021, youth recommendations for the ninth Review Conference of the States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction were released in 2022 and the Youth for Biosecurity Fellowship was launched in 2023.

The Office expanded its awareness-raising and education efforts, including through outreach and capacity-building. In 2021 and 2022, it continued partnering with the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe to train young professionals, annually awarding 150 scholarships, with an emphasis on women candidates.

In 2023, the Office launched its first-ever disarmament education strategy to engage younger audiences through broader peace education initiatives. In May 2023, the Office opened a call for applications for the Youth Leader Fund for a world without nuclear weapons, offering opportunities for youth to learn about the consequences of nuclear weapons use.

The Office continued to offer opportunities for youth to build professional experience through internships, consultancies and the Junior Professional Officers Programme.

Department of Global Communications

[Original: English]

[26 May 2023]

The Department of Global Communications has worked closely with the Office for Disarmament Affairs to promote youth engagement and empowerment in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation.

The Department's social media platforms, with over 64 million followers, marked the first commemoration of the International Day for Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Awareness on 5 March 2023 with new data graphics, targeting a younger audience to promote disarmament education. Within the first two days of the promotion, the social media messages reached nearly 400,000 users.

Furthermore, an Instagram augmented reality filter was designed, featuring the Knotted Gun sculpture. The filter was predominantly used by younger audiences. Instagram users were invited to interact with the iconic sculpture and share their own messages of peace. This campaign was promoted across United Nations social media platforms in nine languages and reached over 200 million people around the world.

In September 2021, the Department, through United Nations News stories, covered the youth-focused session of the Conference on Disarmament, with statements from senior United Nations officials as well as the Envoy of the Secretary-General on Youth. The Department also covered the Security Council meeting in September 2021 marking the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty and spotlighted a prominent member of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO) Youth Group.

A university student from Hiroshima who works with artificial intelligence to colourize black-and-white photographs of the hibakusha was featured in one of the videos produced by the Department of Global Communications.

With 59 field offices, the Department reaches youth with messaging in local languages on disarmament. For instance, since 2021, United Nations information centre in Tokyo has supported 15 events to raise awareness of the dangers of nuclear arms, including by organizing or supporting symposiums, dialogues and festivals focused on the topic as well as activities in celebration of international days devoted to non-proliferation, the elimination of nuclear weapons and education on the parties to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

In August 2021, the Envoy of the Secretary-General on Youth contributed to the Conference on Disarmament, marking the first time that the youth agenda was included in its discussions. To increase awareness of the Youth for Disarmament agenda, the Office supported key outreach and advocacy initiatives for the #YouthInAction for Disarmament Campaign to mark the anniversary of General Assembly resolution [74/46](#), such as Disarmament Week and the #StepUp4Disarmament youth campaign, both in 2021.

European Union

[Original: English]

[31 May 2023]

The European Union believes that young people can significantly contribute to the promotion and attainment of sustainable peace and security, including in contributing towards the mitigation of risks posed by weapons of mass destruction and conventional arms. The European Union Global Strategy on Foreign and Security Policy includes engagement to nurture societal resilience also by deepening work on education, culture and youth. The importance of this area of engagement was also demonstrated by common European Union co-sponsorship of General Assembly resolution 76/45.

In October 2022, the Youth Action Plan in European Union External Action for 2022–2027 was adopted. It is the first-ever policy framework for a strategic partnership with young people around the world to build a more resilient, inclusive and sustainable future. It will enhance meaningful youth participation and empowerment in the external action policies of the European Union.

The actions of the European Union in disarmament and non-proliferation systematically consider youth engagement, namely, under Council of the European Union decisions:

- in support of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction, which includes a project aimed at fostering biosecurity networks, including youth networks, in the global South;
- in support of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, which funds education and training for youth on the peaceful uses of chemistry;
- in support of efforts to prevent and combat illicit proliferation and trafficking of small arms and light weapons and ammunition and their impact in the Americas, through a programme which offers daily extracurricular activities and trainings for at-risk youth in communities on prevention of violence and assistance to victims;
- in support of the gender-mainstreamed fight against small arms trafficking and misuse, in line with the women and peace and security agenda, which includes Modular Small-arms-control Implementation Compendium modules ensuring meaningful and safe participation in small arms and light weapons control initiatives and the inclusion of, inter alia, youth as members of national coordination bodies.

The European Union also promotes disarmament and non-proliferation education for young persons through activities of the European Union Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Consortium, which include educational exchanges and the engagement of young persons, including through the non-proliferation and disarmament mentorship programme of the Young Women and Next Generation Initiative.

United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research

[Original: English]

[30 May 2023]

The United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) made notable achievements in terms of its Youth Engagement Programme during the

2022–2023 period, a testimony to its continued commitment to youth engagement. It successfully completed several important activities focusing on youth and disarmament. Of particular importance was the development of an online youth disarmament orientation course (<https://www.unidir.org/academy/youth-disarm>), which was publicly launched on 8 December 2022, with over 200 participants registered to attend the event. The UNIDIR youth disarmament orientation course was specifically developed for a young audience from all regions of the world to introduce them to the disarmament agenda and provided youth (18 years of age and over) with age-appropriate content containing key concepts on disarmament and up-to-date information on relevant topics.

An additional important activity was the Institute's first global disarmament essay competition (<https://www.unidir.org/essay2022>) on addressing the disarmament, security and development nexus. UNIDIR received 121 essays from young participants from 38 countries. The three winning essayists presented their research in an online award ceremony in December 2022, which also featured the publication of a compendium of the best essays (<https://unidir.org/publication/disarmament-security-and-development-nexus-compendium-unidir-annual-youth-disarmament>).

Also, on 4 and 5 May 2022, UNIDIR hosted an in-person Model United Nations simulation (<https://www.unidir.org/events/model-un-2022-space-security-and-first-committee>) with the Geneva International Model United Nations, at which 60 student delegates engaged in active and substantive discussions on space security and presented a draft resolution.

A second edition of the Model United Nations simulation on the use of lethal autonomous weapon systems was held on 20 and 21 April 2023. Last, but not least, in 2022, the Institute's graduate professional programme enabled 24 graduate professionals (62 per cent of whom were women and 38 per cent men) from 15 countries in Europe, Asia, Africa and North and South America to join UNIDIR and participate in research and other activities.

International Atomic Energy Agency

[Original: English]
[9 May 2023]

International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) safeguards

The fourteenth Symposium on International Safeguards, held in October 2022, featured an inaugural student essay competition, resulting in 40 submissions from youth around the world. Twenty per cent of submitted Symposium papers came from students and early career professionals. A special session on youth empowerment entitled "Millennial nuclear caucus on safeguards" featured a panel with early career professionals and a speed mentoring event.

IAEA provided mentors to the Young Women in Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Mentorship Programme, created under the Young Women and Next Generation Initiative established by the Vienna Center for Disarmament and Non-proliferation and the International Affairs Institute in the framework of the European Union Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Consortium.

During the period, there were three offerings of the Safeguards Traineeship Programme to participants from States with little or no nuclear fuel cycle to help develop capacity in the area of non-proliferation and IAEA safeguards. Participants received an in-depth and hands-on curriculum at IAEA, including technical visits to nuclear facilities in supporting member States.

In 2022, the first-ever Introduction to IAEA and Safeguards, a two-week course dedicated to young professionals (35 participants from 25 countries), was held.

The IAEA Marie Sklodowska-Curie Fellowship Programme and the Lise Meitner Programme

The Marie Sklodowska-Curie Fellowship Programme aims to help to increase the number of women in the nuclear field, supporting an inclusive workforce of both men and women who contribute to and drive global scientific and technological innovation. Since its launch in 2020, 360 students studying in 65 countries have been selected, representing 110 member States. From the 360 selected, 26 pursued master's studies in the safeguards and non-proliferation field.

IAEA launched the Lise Meitner Programme in March 2023. It aims to boost women's career development in the nuclear sector. It provides early- and mid-career women professionals with opportunities to participate in a multi-week visiting professional programme and to advance their technical and soft skills.

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

[Original: English]
[31 May 2023]

In 2023, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) adopted a new strategy to assist States in reducing illicit firearms and interconnected threats from a multidimensional and integrated approach that includes prevention, arms control and adequate criminal justice responses at the global, regional and national levels (see https://www.unodc.org/documents/treaties/Firearms_2023/Strategy_FACT_SHEET_2023_Final.pdf).

UNODC recognizes the importance of involving young people in efforts to reduce illicit firearms and associated criminality as part of the new strategy. In particular, one of the strategy's outcomes refers to active engagement with youth representatives to find collective responses and policies to reduce illicit proliferation, trafficking and misuse of firearms and interconnected threats such as urban or gang-related violence in certain regions. This approach is expected to be translated into specific actions in the upcoming work of UNODC.

UNODC, through its Global Firearms Programme, implemented a joint project in Jamaica with the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, which contains a component on preventing and reducing firearms-related violence in the country. The project, funded by the Saving Lives Entity fund, focuses on reducing violence through policy reform and behaviour-modification training in schools, in addition to strengthening national legislation on firearms, policy responses and capacity-building for criminal justice officers.

In 2022, UNODC launched the Youth Empowerment Accelerator (YEA!) Framework, which maps the youth-focused initiatives of UNODC and provides key youth mainstreaming actions to advance meaningful youth engagement at the Office.

Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe

[Original: English]

[9 May 2023]

(1) The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), together with the Office for Disarmament Affairs in Vienna, conducted the Scholarship for Peace and Security training programme on conflict prevention and resolution through arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation, which was dedicated to young professionals, especially women, from across the OSCE region and beyond. The 2018–2022 joint initiative was implemented with the aim of empowering young professionals to engage in peace and security issues, in the politico-military sphere in particular. Through increasing the knowledge and comprehension of young professionals of the arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation framework, with a focus on OSCE instruments related to conventional and weapons of mass destruction, as well as emerging technologies and cross-cutting issues, and through engaging in capacity-building, the initiative aims to contribute to decreasing the gender and generation gaps in the security sector. Most of the Scholarship's participants indicated that the programme contributed to increasing their knowledge on arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation and inspired their personal views on gender mainstreaming in the security sector.

During the reporting period, the following activities took place, encompassing two editions of the initiative. The fourth edition of the Scholarship for Peace and Security, a nine-week online course, was conducted on the OSCE e-learning platform from May to July 2021 with 120 successful graduates, 90 per cent of whom were women. The fifth edition was a nine-week course conducted on the OSCE e-learning platform from May to July 2022 with 123 graduates, 88 per cent of whom were women. A one-week in-person course was held in Vienna in November 2022 for 44 selected women graduates from 39 OSCE participating States and two partners for cooperation.

(2) Through the OSCE Perspectives 2030 Online Academy, young professionals engaged with experts from OSCE and drafted policy recommendations for decision-makers. Two groups decided to focus, respectively, on preventing cyberattacks on critical infrastructure and on standardizing and increasing the transparency of reporting on military emissions in order to ensure prompt discussion of the military sector's environmental impact.

Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization

[Original: English]

[9 May 2023]

The Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO) is committed to the implementation of General Assembly resolution 74/64. To that end, CTBTO has proactively engaged its over 1,300-member-strong CTBTO Youth Group, which is composed of young people from 125 countries, to advocate for the Treaty's entry into force and for nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament.

In September 2021, the Security Council convened a meeting under the Presidency of Ireland to mark the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty. The meeting included the first-ever briefing by a member of the CTBTO Youth Group, Maggie Wanyaga, who persuasively argued that young people are the best advocates for nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. In

addition, Youth Group members Ahmed Elsabagh and Shizuka Kuramitsu participated in the tenth ministerial meeting of the Friends of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, which took place during the high-level segment of the seventy-seventh session of the General Assembly.

In 2021 and 2022, through its mentoring programme, research fellowship and the “building bridges” project, the Organization was able to expand its outreach and provide capacity-building to young people from States that had yet to sign the Treaty. It also worked with youth movements and organizations engaged in protecting the environment, ensuring sustainable development and advocating for greater peace and security for all.

CTBTO recognizes that engaging, empowering and educating young people can provide opportunities, insights and ideas that advance our shared goals. That is why over 80 CTBTO Youth Group members were invited to participate in the 2022 CTBTO Science Diplomacy Symposium. Similar numbers are expected to participate in the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Science and Technology Conference in June 2023.

The increased use of interactive virtual formats has enabled more youth from developing countries to participate in CTBTO activities and has paved the way for a 25 per cent increase in youth membership over the period 2021–2022.

IV. Replies received from civil society and non-governmental organizations

Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament

[Original: English]
[30 May 2023]

The youth wing of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament, the Youth and Student Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament, works within the framework of the Campaign’s policies and overall objective for a world without nuclear weapons, but has autonomy to run its own campaigns. The Youth and Student Campaign tagline is “books not bombs”, to convey the need to prioritize useful public services – such as education – over spending on nuclear weapons.

Delegates have attended international conferences such as the first Meeting of States Parties to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons and the ICAN Act on It Forum in Norway. In the United Kingdom, young members attend events to make the links between nuclear weapons and other important issues of our time. The Campaign works to have a youth presence at campuses across the United Kingdom. Since 2021, a new group has been established at Durham University. The group has already succeeded in getting both their university union and their local elected authority, Durham council, to adopt a motion in support of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

Center for Energy and Security Studies

[Original: English]
[30 May 2023]

An important aim of the Moscow Non-Proliferation Conference is to involve young experts in the field of non-proliferation and arms control. The 2022 Conference was attended by about 200 participants, including some 50 new generation experts under 35 years of age.

Since 2021, the Center and the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO), in cooperation with the CTBTO Youth Group task force, have been working on the implementation of a CTBTO-Center for Energy and Security Studies research fellowship. The aim of the programme is to engage young experts in the field of non-proliferation and arms control, as well as to raise awareness about the Treaty. During the two cycles, 50 young scholars from 33 countries took part.

Hibakusha Stories

[Original: English]
[31 May 2023]

The mission of Youth Arts New York/Hibakusha Stories is to pass the legacy of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki to a new generation, empowering them to build a world free of nuclear weapons. Hibakusha is the Japanese word for atomic bomb survivors.

Owing to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, our in-person activities were greatly curtailed, but from 2022 we are gradually coming back with programmes to engage youth in the movement for nuclear abolition. In November 2022, we were thrilled to again resume our day-long professional development workshop in disarmament education for New York City high school teachers, co-sponsored by the Office for Disarmament Affairs.

IM Swedish Development Partner

[Original: English]
[30 May 2023]

IM developed “humanium metal”, which transforms illicit firearms into peaceful commodities, as a strong advocacy tool. Youth activism plays a central role in the activities of IM.

In 2021, IM hosted an event with the African Union youth diaspora initiative on Silencing the Guns, in collaboration with African civil society organizations. The same year, IM was also invited by the Office for Disarmament Affairs to speak at its Youth for Disarmament event. IM established an event at the museum of photography in Stockholm, at which youth affected by gun violence shared their experiences in spoken word. In 2022, IM developed a fellowship for youth activists that is still ongoing. At the eighth Biennial Meeting of States to Consider 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, IM, together with the International Action Network on Small Arms and Maat for Peace, Development and Human Rights Association, organized a side event that focused on youth participation.

International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons

[Original: English]
[30 May 2023]

In the period under review, the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) has held several specific activities for youth in addition to its general activities.

The Hiroshima–ICAN Academy, held in 2021 and 2022 and featuring 30 participants each year, served as a platform for fostering knowledge, dialogue and

action towards nuclear disarmament. In June 2022, ICAN supported Youth for the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in organizing a youth conference alongside the first Meeting of States Parties to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. This provided a platform for young individuals to actively contribute their perspectives and insights to the proceedings. In April 2023, ICAN brought together 55 youth participants from 21 countries for the Hiroshima Group of Seven youth summit, and several hundred young people from across Europe participated in the ICAN Act on It Forum in Oslo in March 2023.

International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War

[Original: English]

[31 May 2023]

The global medical student and junior doctor movement of International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War works towards the common goal of eliminating nuclear weapons and reversing the climate crisis.

From July 2021 to the present, medical students and junior doctors from International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War have hosted several virtual meetings, including the August 2021 virtual screening of the documentary film *The Vow from Hiroshima*, followed by an interactive discussion with hibakusha Setsuko Thurlow. Our global network played a leadership role at the first Meeting of States Parties to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in June 2022. An expert cohort of youth leaders from over six countries joined United Nations and civil society activities in Vienna, engaging diplomats and presenting at the pre-Meeting civil society forum of the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons. Medical student leaders assisted in the drafting and coordination of the youth statement for the first Meeting of States Parties.

James Martin Center for Nonproliferation Studies

[Original: English]

[30 May 2023]

The aim of the James Martin Center for Nonproliferation Studies is to raise the next generation of non-proliferation experts. For that purpose, we have several disarmament and non-proliferation education project activities for youth. The Critical Issues Forum is a disarmament and non-proliferation education project for high school students from around the world. The project aims to empower high school students. During the past two years, the Forum conducted two online conferences, and five online speaker series engaged youth, mainly high school students, in nuclear disarmament discussions.

The Center continues to offer on-the-job training during the summer for undergraduate students in non-proliferation studies. Students conduct research on issues related to disarmament and non-proliferation from multiple perspectives. The Center launched its Young Women in Nonproliferation Initiative in fall 2018. This programme seeks to increase gender diversity in disarmament and, during this reporting period, the number of participants continued to increase.

Pace University

[Original: English]
[31 May 2023]

Pace University's International Disarmament Institute offers education and research in support of disarmament policymaking from humanitarian, human rights and environmental perspectives. Students and faculty collaborated in coordinating the annual joint civil society statements on youth and disarmament education to the First Committee of the General Assembly, contributed to side events and published articles monitoring the debate in the *First Committee Monitor*. At the first Meeting of States Parties to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, the Institute also contributed to a working paper on implementing disarmament education. The Institute's flagship class on the global politics of disarmament and arms control includes a civic engagement component, placing undergraduate students with non-governmental organizations engaged in disarmament advocacy at the local and international levels. In the past two years, students have contributed almost 1,000 hours of service learning to such efforts.

Peace Boat

[Original: English]
[31 May 2023]

Peace Boat is an international non-governmental and non-profit organization that works to promote peace, human rights and sustainability. Founded by four university students, Peace Boat has always worked with and for youth.

During the reporting period, we conducted 24 online hibakusha testimony sessions in 31 countries, delivering hibakusha voices to over 1,300 people in partnership with schools, municipalities and non-profit organizations; convened the World Nuclear Survivors Forum 2021, the Hiroshima-ICAN (International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons) Academy and the Hiroshima Group of Seven Youth Summit; and actively participated in civil society actions around high-level meetings for nuclear disarmament, such as the first Meeting of States Parties to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons and the tenth Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. Our United States office has provided student interns with opportunities for meaningful participation in numerous nuclear disarmament campaigns and workshops.

Senema Love Foundation

[Original: English]
[30 May 2023]

The Senema Love Foundation is a youth-led non-governmental organization dedicated to undertaking impactful projects in peace-building, education, capacity-building and skills acquisition for young victims of violence. At the core of our work lies the commitment to the non-proliferation of small arms and light weapons through youth action. Our various projects in disarmament in the past two years have reached more than 200 young individuals in Kaduna and Plateau States through transformative initiatives focused on disarmament.

A recent noteworthy project we had was a town hall meeting focused on preventing electoral violence, in which we brought together young people and key stakeholders to address the issue through the lens of the non-proliferation of small arms and light weapons. Through our unwavering dedication and collaboration with

young people, we aim to create a future in which peace and the non-proliferation of weapons are embraced, enabling a society where every individual can thrive and live without fear.

The Simons Foundation Canada

[Original: English]
[5 May 2023]

Since 2003, the Simons Foundation Canada, in partnership with Global Affairs Canada, has offered the Graduate Research Awards for Disarmament, Arms Control and Non-Proliferation Research to enhance Canadian graduate-level scholarship and expand the community of Canadian scholars working on these critical issues. Four students received cash awards in 2021 and 2022, and four successful candidates will receive a cash award and present their papers at a special seminar at Global Affairs Canada in June 2023.

The Simons Foundation Canada continues to fund disarmament education at post-secondary institutions, as described in the report of the Secretary-General on disarmament and non-proliferation education ([A/77/133](#)).

Soka Gakkai International

[Original: English]
[30 May 2023]

Soka Gakkai International strives to strengthen connections between individuals, civil society and the United Nations in order to build a peaceful, just and inclusive world.

During the week of the first meeting of States parties to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, the Soka Gakkai International youth representatives from Austria, Germany, the United Kingdom and Japan joined civil society groups calling for the universalization of the Treaty by organizing the workshop on grassroots educational movements at the youth meeting of States Parties, as well as co-authoring the working paper on peace and disarmament education with the International Disarmament Institute of Pace University. In addition, ahead of the Group of Seven Hiroshima summit, Soka Gakkai International co-sponsored the Hiroshima Group of Seven youth summit organized by the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons. The youth representatives of Soka Gakkai International participated in the summit and contributed to the discussions and the drafting of the youth statement that was delivered on the last day of the summit.

Instituto Tecnológico y de Estudios Superiores de Monterrey

[Original: English]
[12 April 2023]

As part of the International Relations degree curriculum and activities to advance youth engagement and empowerment in disarmament, 54 students conducted research on the political, legal, economic, and ethical implications of autonomous weapons systems and the interests of different State actors on the issue, and analysed the negotiation processes that have taken place within the framework of the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects as well as regional initiatives on the subject. Students also participated in conferences and conducted interviews with civil society

representatives involved in the diplomatic process on autonomous weapons systems and previous disarmament processes, such as negotiations on cluster munitions or anti-personnel mines, and made proposals on influencing government positions to achieve new regulation on autonomous weapons systems. These proposals were delivered to the Latin America Human Security Network to enrich the Stop Killer Robots campaign.

United Nations Association of Mongolia

[Original: English]

[31 May 2023]

The United Nations Association of Mongolia is part of a global network of more than 100 United Nations Associations across the world working to support the work of the United Nations. Formally established in 2021, the United Nations Association of Mongolia has actively sought to engage youth on disarmament and non-proliferation issues through promotion of the Office for Disarmament Affairs' Youth for Disarmament initiative in Mongolia, including by translating and disseminating various opportunities for youth engagement in disarmament. For example, many Mongolian youth have taken part in the #StepUp4Disarmament campaign. Also, through our inaugural global citizen education programme, organized in September and October 2021, we curated content for young educators to use in their classrooms, including a session on weapons of mass destruction.

Youth Fusion

[Original: English]

[18 May 2023]

Ongoing projects include multiple podcast series (including Youth Fusion Experts and Youth Fusion Elders) and we continue to publish articles written by young scholars and disarmament advocates, as well as partner on initiatives such as #StepUp4Disarmament of the Office for Disarmament Affairs. Selected activities from the reporting period include the co-organizing of the annual Intergenerational Forum on Peace, Climate Action and Nuclear Disarmament in Basel, Switzerland in 2022 and 2023; the organizing of a youth delegation to the Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons; and multiple side events in 2022. In 2023, we partnered on the Global Futures Forum and worked to increase meaningful youth participation both online and in person, and we launched the innovative and educational project Youth Hotline Campaign.

V. Conclusion

3. Since the General Assembly's reaffirmation of the important and positive contribution that young people can make in sustaining peace and security through its unanimous support of biennial resolutions [74/64](#) and [76/45](#), entitled "Youth, disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control", Member States, the United Nations, other relevant international and regional organizations and civil society organizations have strengthened their efforts to promote youth engagement and empowerment activities in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation. The replies contained in the present report provide examples of the positive contribution of young people to the field of disarmament and non-proliferation. With 1.8 billion youth living in the world today, their role in the field of disarmament and non-proliferation – including through dialogue platforms, capacity-building, education and outreach initiatives – remains critical to the attainment of sustainable peace and security.

4. As key agents for social change, youth are a driving force for identifying innovative solutions to entrenched challenges. The meaningful and inclusive participation of youth in the field of disarmament and non-proliferation is an opportunity to strengthen trust in public institutions and to make decision-making more effective.¹ While the activities taking place during the reporting period were affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, the shift to new digital technologies may also have facilitated more widespread outreach to youth outside the traditional disarmament and non-proliferation field. As the world builds back from the pandemic, it will be important to retain the respective strengths of both virtual and in-person activities to engage, educate and empower youth for disarmament.

¹ United Nations, “Our Common Agenda policy brief 3: meaningful youth engagement in policy and decision-making processes”, April 2023.