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Draft report

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Addendum

Programme questions: proposed programme budget for 2026

(Item 3 (a))

Programme 3 Disarmament

1. At its 12th meeting, on 19 May 2025, the Committee considered programme 3, Disarmament, of the proposed programme plan for 2026 and programme performance in 2024 ([A/80/6 \(Sect. 4\)](#)).

Discussion

2. Delegations expressed appreciation for the work of the Office for Disarmament Affairs and its efforts to promote general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control, in the light of the complex and deteriorating global security environment. Several delegations reaffirmed their commitment to and support for multilateralism and the Office's efforts to impartially implement decisions of the Security Council and the General Assembly, in a depoliticized manner and in strict accordance with mandates provided by Member States.

3. With regard to paragraph 4.1, a delegation noted that the change in wording from the phrase "exacerbating such concerns" in the previous year's proposed programme plan to "heightened the urgency" was a step in the right direction. With regard to paragraph 4.2, the delegation expressed concern about the suggestion that States' positions resulted from the security environment, and the implication, in paragraph 4.6 (a), that disarmament efforts depended on a conducive environment rather than contributing to one.



4. A delegation acknowledged the persistent challenges in disarmament and international security, and noted with concern the alarming frequency of emerging threats. The same delegation emphasized that cooperation and compromise were essential to fulfilling obligations with regard to maintaining international peace and security.
5. A delegation raised concerns about the reference in paragraph 4.3 to *Securing Our Common Future: An Agenda for Disarmament*, and it was noted that some elements were not supported by all Member States. The delegation opined that the Agenda was an initiative of the Secretary-General and had not been developed by Member States.
6. Delegations reiterated the need to accelerate progress towards a world free of nuclear weapons, which posed an existential threat to humanity. The need for the total prohibition and elimination of nuclear weapons in a transparent, verifiable, irreversible and time-bound manner was stressed.
7. Delegations welcomed the Office's work in relation to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, which was the cornerstone of nuclear disarmament, nuclear security and civil nuclear prosperity, and its work towards the entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty. A delegation opined that nuclear non-proliferation was as important as the elimination of existing nuclear weapons. The importance of cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency and the facilitation of peaceful uses of nuclear energy and disarmament was highlighted.
8. The view was expressed that the existing multilateral arms control and disarmament machinery played a pivotal role in stabilizing international security and order. The delegation noted the role of the Conference on Disarmament as the sole multilateral negotiating body on disarmament and expressed the need for the international community to oppose selectivity and utilitarianism. The same delegation underscored the legitimacy of the peaceful use of science and technology and encouraged the Office to take measures to effectively implement resolutions of the General Assembly on promoting international cooperation on the peaceful use of science and technology, in particular in the context of international security.
9. The Office was commended for its efforts to promote education on global military expenditure. A delegation noted with regret that military spending and conflicts had increased, while peace agreements remained elusive. The delegation emphasized the importance of investment in education, health and safety, over weapons.
10. Delegations called for enhanced efficiency in programme implementation through streamlined project designs, a reduction in documentation and in the number of meetings, the elimination of redundancies, and improved coordination. In reference to table 4.10, which listed the number of meetings of the Disarmament Commission, a delegation questioned the use of that metric and suggested that it might have been more efficient to hold fewer meetings.
11. A delegation expressed appreciation for the support provided 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, which had been successful and had resulted in consensus. The Office was commended for its efforts in developing a road map for Central America and the Dominican Republic on preventing and combating the illicit trafficking and proliferation of firearms, munitions and explosives. The delegation appealed to the Committee to offer recommendations and champion the work of the Office.

12. A delegation welcomed the continued commitment of the Office to addressing chemical and biological weapons and its cooperation with the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW). The importance of the Working Group on the strengthening of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction, and the need for effective and universal implementation of the Convention, were stressed. A delegation opposed the inclusion in the programme plan of references to General Assembly resolution [79/1](#), on the Pact for the Future, while another delegation was of the view that the resolution demonstrated the international community's ability to rally behind common objectives, including disarmament, and expressed optimism that it could facilitate further progress in multilateral disarmament.

13. A delegation opined that the Office should not interact with civil society on disarmament issues and that such interactions should be authorized by the Member States. A similar view was expressed on gender issues. Another delegation welcomed the references to gender mainstreaming in the Office's activities, deliverables and results.

14. With respect to subprogramme 1, Multilateral negotiations and deliberations on disarmament and arms limitation, concerns were raised about the use in paragraph 4.16 (b) of the term "treaty-making conferences", which lacked precedent in disarmament forums. The delegation highlighted the inadmissibility of such terminology and emphasized the need to adhere to agreed language.

15. Delegations expressed support for Office's work on disarmament education, including the fellowship programme mentioned in paragraph 4.16 (c).

16. A delegation highlighted the vital work of the Disarmament Commission, which served as a unique platform for deliberations on key disarmament issues. The lack of progress within the open-ended working group on the prevention of an arms race in outer space in all its aspects was noted with concern.

17. With respect to subprogramme 2, Weapons of mass destruction, concerns were raised regarding the contents of paragraph 4.29 (i) and the Office's support for the efforts of OPCW to ensure accountability for the use of chemical weapons. The delegation emphasized that such actions should not go beyond the mandate of OPCW and stressed that ensuring accountability for the use of chemical weapons was the prerogative of the Security Council. It was further noted that the monthly reports of the Director-General of the OPCW Technical Secretariat, submitted pursuant to Security Council resolution [2118 \(2013\)](#), did not indicate any support provided by the Office.

18. Clarification was sought on the cooperation with intergovernmental organizations and the interaction with civil society mentioned in paragraph 4.29 (g).

19. A delegation commended Brazil, together with Norway, for initiating the Group of Scientific and Technical Experts on Nuclear Disarmament Verification and for the successful discussions held in Geneva.

20. The importance of the Secretary-General's Mechanism for Investigation of Alleged Use of Chemical and Biological Weapons, and the need for its effective operationalization, were underscored.

21. With respect to subprogramme 3, Conventional arms, delegations supported the Global Framework for Through-life Conventional Ammunition Management and requested further information on the fellowship programme on small arms and light weapons, including its current implementation status and future plans, referenced in paragraph 4.46.

22. Delegations expressed concern about the illicit trafficking and misuse of small arms and light weapons. It was noted that the successful outcome of the 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, which had been marked by the adoption of a strong outcome document, underscored the continued commitment of the international community to strengthening efforts in that field.

23. With respect to subprogramme 4, Information and outreach, delegations welcomed efforts to ensure meaningful and inclusive participation and empowerment of youth in disarmament and non-proliferation discussions, and expressed appreciation for the initiatives of the Office in that regard.

Conclusions and recommendations

24. **The Committee recommended that the plenary or the relevant Main Committee or Main Committees of the General Assembly, in line with Assembly resolution [79/247](#), consider the programme plan for programme 3, Disarmament, of the proposed programme budget for 2026 under the agenda item entitled “Programme planning” at the eightieth session of the Assembly.**
