

Disarmament

Since the birth of the United Nations, the goals of multilateral disarmament and arms limitation have central to its efforts to maintain international peace and security. The UN has given highest priority to reducing and eventually eliminating nuclear weapons, destroying chemical weapons and strengthening the prohibition of biological weapons – all of which pose the most dire threats to humankind. While these objectives have remained constant over the years, the scope of deliberations and negotiations has changed as political realities and the international situation evolved. The international community is now considering more closely the excessive and destabilizing proliferation of small arms and light weapons and has mobilized to combat the massive deployment of landmines – phenomena that threaten the economic and social fabric of societies and kill and maim civilians, all too many of whom are women and children. Consideration is also being given to the need for multilaterally negotiated norms against the spread of ballistic missile technology, the explosive remnants of war, and the impact of new information and telecommunications technologies on international security.

[Basic Facts about the United Nations, © 2014](#)

UN Entities

- **United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA)**
<http://www.un.org/disarmament/>
 - UN Office in Geneva – Disarmament
<http://www.unog.ch/disarmament>
- **Conference on Disarmament**
<http://www.unog.ch/cd>
- **UN Disarmament Commission**
<https://www.un.org/disarmament/institutions/disarmament-commission/>
- **First Committee of the General Assembly** (Disarmament and International Security)
<http://www.un.org/en/ga/first/index.shtml>
- **United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR)**
<http://unidir.org/>
- **Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters**
<https://www.un.org/disarmament/institutions/advisoryboard/>
- **International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)**
<http://www.iaea.org/>
- **Security Council Committee established pursuant to Resolution 1540 (2004)**
<http://www.un.org/en/sc/1540/>

Selected Disarmament Topics

- Nuclear Weapons: <https://www.un.org/disarmament/WMD/Nuclear/>
- Biological Weapons: <https://www.un.org/disarmament/WMD/Bio>
- Chemical Weapons: <https://www.un.org/disarmament/WMD/Chemical/>
- Missiles: <https://www.un.org/disarmament/WMD/Missiles/>
- Arms Trade: <https://www.un.org/disarmament/convarms/armstrade/>
 - Arms Trade Treaty: <https://www.un.org/disarmament/convarms/att/>
- Small Arms: <https://www.un.org/disarmament/convarms/salw/>
- Ammunition: <https://www.un.org/disarmament/convarms/ammunition/>
- Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs): <https://www.un.org/disarmament/convarms/ieds/>
- Landmines: <https://www.un.org/disarmament/convarms/landmines/>
- Cluster Munitions: <https://www.un.org/disarmament/convarms/clustermunitions/>

International Instruments

- Arms Regulation and Disarmament Agreements
<http://disarmament.un.org/treaties/>
- United Nations Treaty Collection, CHAPTER XXVI, Disarmament
<http://treaties.un.org/pages/Treaties.aspx?id=26&subid=A&lang=en>

Research & Documentation

- United Nations Documentation - Research Guide on Disarmament
<http://research.un.org/en/docs/disarmament>
- UNOG Library Resource Guide - Disarmament
<http://libraryresources.unog.ch/disarmament/global>
- UN Library Vienna – Research Guide on Firearms
<http://libraryresearch.unvienna.org/firearms>
- Disarmament Yearbooks Online 1945 - 2015
<https://www.un.org/disarmament/publications/yearbook/>
- The Global Reported Arms Trade – The UN Register of Conventional Arms
<http://www.un-register.org/>

Transparency in armaments builds confidence between countries, and can help determine whether excessive or destabilizing accumulations of arms take place. Being open about armaments may encourage restraint in the transfer or production of arms, and can contribute to preventive diplomacy. Since its inception in 1991, the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms has received reports from more than 170 States. The vast majority of official transfers are captured in the Register.
- 1540 Committee Legislative Database
<http://www.un.org/en/sc/1540/national-implementation/legislative-database/general-information.shtml>

National implementation of the Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) to refrain from supporting non-State actors from developing, acquiring, manufacturing, possessing, transporting, transferring or using nuclear, chemical or biological weapons and their delivery systems.

Further Information

- Global issues on the UN Agenda – Disarmament
<http://www.un.org/en/globalissues/disarmament/index.shtml>
- Disarmament: A Basic Guide (3rd edition, January 2012)
<https://www.un.org/disarmament/publications/basic-guide/>