



United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs



2017 - 2018



The General Assembly convenes a high-level meeting to commemorate and promote the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons on 26 September 2017. UN Photo/Rick Bajornas

Front cover: UNLIREC and the United Nations Volunteers launched a new project in Trinidad and Tobago in June 2017 to support the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular Goal 16 on promoting just, peaceful and inclusive societies.



**International Day
for the
Total
Elimination
of
Nuclear Weapons**

26 September

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List of acronyms

| | |
|---------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| ASEAN | Association of Southeast Asian Nations |
| CAB | Conventional Arms Branch |
| DDR | disarmament, demobilization and reintegration |
| DNP | disarmament and non-proliferation |
| ECCAS | Economic Community of Central African States |
| FMCT | fissile material cut-off treaty |
| GICHD | Geneva International Center for Humanitarian Demining |
| IATG | International Ammunition Technical Guidelines |
| ICT | information and communications technology |
| IOB | Information and Outreach Branch |
| ITI | International Tracing Instrument |
| OSCE | Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe |
| RDB | Regional Disarmament Branch |
| SALW | small arms and light weapons |
| UN | United Nations |
| UNLIREC | United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean |
| UNODA | United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs |
| UNRCPD | United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific |
| UNREC | United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa |
| UNSCAR | United Nations Trust Facility Supporting Cooperation on Arms Regulation |
| WMD | weapons of mass destruction |
| WMDB | Weapons of Mass Destruction Branch |

United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs

UNODA promotes:

- ▶ Nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation;
- ▶ Strengthening of the disarmament regimes with respect to other WMD (chemical and biological weapons);
- ▶ Disarmament efforts in the area of conventional weapons, especially landmines and small arms, which are the weapons of choice in contemporary conflicts.

UNODA provides substantive and organizational support for norm-setting in the area of disarmament through the work of the General Assembly and its First Committee, the Disarmament Commission, the Conference on Disarmament and other bodies. It fosters disarmament measures through dialogue, transparency and confidence-building in military matters, and encourages regional disarmament efforts. These include the UN Register of Conventional Arms and regional forums.

It also provides objective, impartial and up-to-date information on multilateral disarmament issues and activities to Member States, States parties to multilateral agreements, intergovernmental organizations and institutions, departments and agencies of the UN system, research and educational institutions, civil society, especially non-governmental organizations, the media and the general public.

UNODA supports the development and implementation of practical disarmament measures after a conflict, such as disarming and demobilizing former combatants and helping them to reintegrate with civil society.

UNODA structure

- The **Conference on Disarmament Secretariat and Conference Support Branch (Geneva Branch)** provides organizational and substantive servicing to the Conference on Disarmament, the single multilateral disarmament negotiating forum of the international community, and its ad hoc committees. The Branch facilitates full implementation and promotes universalization of multilateral arms control and disarmament agreements, including the Biological Weapons Convention and the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons.
- The **Weapons of Mass Destruction Branch (WMDB)** provides substantive support in the disarmament of WMD (nuclear, chemical and biological weapons). It supports and participates in multilateral efforts to strengthen the non-proliferation of WMD and in this connection cooperates with the relevant intergovernmental organizations and specialized agencies of the UN system, in particular the International Atomic Energy Agency, the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons and the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization.
- The **Conventional Arms Branch (CAB)** focuses its efforts on all weapons not considered WMD, including SALW. It is responsible for substantive conference support for the UN Programme of Action on SALW and the UN transparency registers. The Branch chairs the UN internal coordination mechanism on small arms, ammunition and the arms trade.
- The **Regional Disarmament Branch (RDB)** provides substantive support, including advisory services, to Member States and regional and subregional organizations on disarmament measures and related security matters. It oversees and coordinates the activities of the three UNODA Regional Centres: UNREC based in Lomé, UNLIREC in Lima and UNRCPD in Kathmandu.
- The **Information and Outreach Branch (IOB)** organizes a wide variety of special events and programmes in the field of disarmament, produces UNODA publications (such as the *Disarmament Yearbook* and the UNODA Occasional Papers), updates content and design of the UNODA website, and maintains databases for specialized areas (Disarmament Treaties, General Assembly Resolutions and Decisions and the UNODA Documents Library).
- The **Vienna Office of UNODA** cooperates with disarmament and non-proliferation institutions interacting in Vienna. Working as a catalyst, the Office focuses on highlighting the added value of partnerships in the areas of, among others, disarmament and non-proliferation education, prevention of terrorism, and confidence- and security-building measures.

Foreword

Disarmament is an essential contributor to international peace and security, and its advancement has been central to the work of the United Nations (UN) since its founding. In 2017 and 2018, Member States and other donors provided crucial financial and in-kind support for numerous efforts across the disarmament spectrum, from working to free the world of all weapons of mass destruction (WMD), to promoting effective regulation of conventional armaments, to tackling risks associated with the weaponization of emerging technologies. The UN Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) is sincerely grateful for this generosity.

In May 2018, Secretary-General António Guterres unveiled his new Agenda for Disarmament, *Securing Our Common Future*, highlighting the practical actions necessary to reinvigorate dialogue and negotiations on multilateral disarmament while benefiting the field with new momentum and fresh ideas. A voluntary contribution enabled UNODA to convene three days of informal high-level discussions for the development of this important document and, upon its publication, to issue editions in both English and French.

Extrabudgetary funds were also behind the development of a flagship e-learning initiative designed to promote the peaceful and secure use of information and communications technology. Drawing on reports by groups of governmental experts established by the UN Secretary-General at the request of the General Assembly, the initiative is intended to equip Member States, researchers and students with a greater understanding of the application of international law in the use of information and communications technology, voluntary non-binding norms of responsible State behaviour, and practical measures for confidence-building and capacity-building.

Voluntary funding made it possible to publish *Effective Weapons and Ammunition Management in a Changing DDR Context*, a practical handbook designed to support the process of helping combatants to exit armed groups, remove weapons from battlefields and reintegrate themselves into civilian life.

In addition, Member States provided crucial financial support for the work of the UN SaferGuard Technical Review Board, which provides direct protection of lives and livelihoods from the danger of poorly stored ammunition. Donors also funded a meeting of technical experts from across Latin America and a validation exercise to expand the roster of proven ammunition experts. Meanwhile, States continued their support to the UN Trust Facility Supporting Cooperation on Arms Regulation, a flexible funding mechanism that achieves “quick wins” for arms control.

Through these projects and many other efforts described in the pages that follow, UNODA and its funders have achieved tangible progress in support of multilateral disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control goals. In an international security environment beset by political turbulence and runaway military spending, donor contributions represent significant investments in creating a more peaceful, stable and secure future. Let us continue to pool our passion and resources in pursuit of our highest human aspirations.



Izumi Nakamitsu
United Nations High Representative
for Disarmament Affairs
October 2018

Developing the Secretary-General's Agenda for Disarmament

In May 2018, Secretary-General António Guterres unveiled *Securing Our Common Future: An Agenda for Disarmament*, an outline of practical actions to reinvigorate dialogue and negotiations on international disarmament while bringing new ideas and momentum to the field.

The development of the Secretary-General's Agenda took place in a period of heightened tensions, increasing military spending and arms competition, proliferating armed groups equipped with a vast array of weapons, and protracted conflicts responsible for unspeakable human suffering.

In unveiling the Agenda, the Secretary-General stressed that the deteriorating international security environment makes disarmament—including arms control, non-proliferation, prohibitions, restrictions, confidence-building and, where needed, elimination—even more essential to place at the centre of the work of the UN.

"Disarmament prevents and ends violence. Disarmament supports sustainable development. And disarmament is true to our values and principles", he said to an audience of students, faculty and administrators at the University of Geneva in Switzerland.

Developed in a collaborative process, *Securing Our Common Future* focuses on three areas: disarmament to save humanity; disarmament that saves lives; and disarmament for future generations. By integrating disarmament into the priorities of the whole UN system, the Agenda lays the foundations for new partnerships and greater collaboration between the UN and Governments, civil society, the private sector and others. It focuses on practical measures and indicates where the Secretary-General intends personally to engage and support Member States in carrying out their responsibilities.

The development of the Agenda was a multi-step endeavour that included consultations with Member States, academia and non-governmental organizations.



"We are living in dangerous times. Cold War tensions are back, global military spending is at its highest and protracted conflicts are causing unspeakable human suffering. This is why I launched my disarmament agenda."

António Guterres

As part of the process, and with the generous support of **Sweden**, UNODA convened three days of informal high-level discussions in February 2018 among government and independent experts at New York's Greentree Estate. Approximately 40 participants engaged in the candid and in-depth exchanges, producing important input for the Agenda's development. In addition to supporting these valuable consultations, the financial contribution of **Sweden** also enabled UNODA to issue editions of *Securing Our Common Future* in both English and French.

The Secretary-General emphasized in the publication that countries have pursued disarmament throughout history to build a safer, more secure world, to protect people from harm and to prevent and end crises and armed conflict. He stressed that heightened tensions and dangers can only be resolved through serious political dialogue and negotiation—never by more arms—and that disarmament and arms control measures, with their ability to help ensure national and human security in the twenty-first century, must be an integral part of our collective security system.



Secretary-General António Guterres presents his Agenda for Disarmament at the University of Geneva on 24 May 2018. UN Photo/Jean-Marc Ferré

Promoting arms and ammunition controls in changing conflict settings

As conflict has evolved, the UN has acted both to protect peacekeepers and sustain disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) programmes, which help combatants transition out of armed groups, remove weapons from battlefields and reintegrate into civilian life.

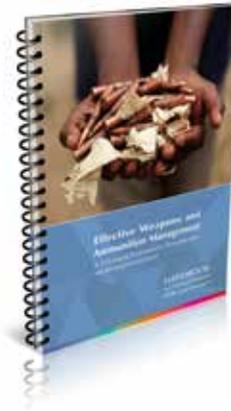
To address the unique challenge to peace from uncontrolled flows of weapons and ammunition, UNODA joined forces with the Department of Peacekeeping Operations in 2017 to launch a new multi-year initiative in support of DDR practitioners.

By equipping these experts with resource materials to design and implement state-of-the-art programmes in line with the highest international standards and guidelines related to small arms and ammunition control, this project can provide additional protection to peacekeepers, who have increasingly had to operate in unstable environments characterized by a diversity of actors and widely available weapons.

The joint project, entitled “Weapons and Ammunition Management in a Changing DDR Context”, contributes to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly Goal 16 on peace, justice and strong institutions and its Target 16.4 on reducing illicit arms flows. It addresses a growing need to integrate weapons and ammunition management and more comprehensive arms control measures into DDR programmes, and it promotes further integration of arms control into innovative programming such as community violence reduction initiatives, people-centred activities that counter instability and violence by helping populations address local needs.

The project achieved an early success in January 2018 with the publication of a practical handbook on weapons and ammunition management in DDR settings. The handbook draws on the highest international standards—namely, the Modular Small Arms Implementation Compendium (MOSAIC)¹ and the International Ammunition Technical Guidelines—

and close consultations with DDR practitioners and weapons and ammunition experts currently deployed in peace operations. Its publication in English and French was made possible by a financial contribution from **Germany**.



Following the handbook’s release, a pilot training course for DDR practitioners took place in June 2018 at the UN Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa in Lomé. The five-day course, which benefited from the financial support of **Germany** and **Switzerland**, included participants from the UN Mine Action Service, the UN Police, Small Arms Survey, the Folke Bernadotte Academy, the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre and the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining. The event also drew DDR practitioners from peace operations in the Central African Republic, the Sudan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Mali.

Building on lessons learned from the pilot training, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and UNODA will refine the training with the aim of offering an annual course to DDR practitioners on weapons and ammunition management at the Regional Centre in Togo.

Peacekeeping and small arms and ammunition control benefit from close alignment and integration. Through this initiative, the UN will continue to seek creative ways to respond more effectively to the needs of communities affected by conflict.

¹ Formerly known as International Small Arms Control Standards.

Securing ammunition, saving lives

Insufficiently managed ammunition stockpiles pose the dual dangers of unintended explosions and diversion to the illicit market. Explosions at munition sites can wreak humanitarian disaster on communities, resulting in death, injury and displacement. Poorly managed ammunition stocks that are trafficked to unauthorized recipients can negatively impact peace and security while impeding sustainable development.

In 2008, in response to the challenges posed by poorly managed ammunition stockpiles, the General Assembly requested the UN to develop technical guidelines for adequate ammunition management. The resulting International Ammunition Technical Guidelines (IATG), first released in 2011, provide practical, step-by-step advice for national authorities and other relevant stakeholders that wish to improve the safety and security of ammunition storage sites.

Under the UN SaferGuard Programme, which is the IATG knowledge management platform, the Guidelines are disseminated and their technical updates are carried out. IATG implementing partners—including representatives of armed forces, police officers and border control officials—and non-governmental technical experts participated in various activities of the programme.

The UN SaferGuard Technical Review Board, a group of national technical ammunition experts who provide advice on IATG dissemination and maintenance, held its annual meeting in December 2017 in Geneva. With the financial support of **Switzerland**, the members of the Review Board addressed technical issues of critical importance to the maintenance of the IATG, including the next comprehensive review and revision of the Guidelines in 2020. The Board members also considered measures to further increase the user-friendliness of the IATG and their supporting implementation tools.

With the generous support of **Sweden, Switzerland** and **Germany**, a regional IATG outreach event was convened in Lima in July 2018. Technical ammunition experts from across Latin America and the Caribbean met to exchange views on national experience and good practice in ammunition management and to discuss regional trends in ammunition trafficking. Experts also reflected on their experiences in applying the IATG and engaged in practical exercises for utilizing the IATG implementation support tools.

The UN SaferGuard validation process is an initiative launched in March 2016 to support IATG implementation efforts by identifying a standardized set of ammunition staff competencies and populating a roster of validated ammunition technical experts to offer assistance to interested States. The General Assembly has welcomed the establishment of the UN SaferGuard quick-response mechanism comprising these experts.

With the financial support of **Germany** and **Austria**, and building on a pilot exercise held in Switzerland in 2017, a 2018 UN SaferGuard validation exercise was held in Vienna in August 2018. Immediately beforehand, participating experts had the chance to participate in an IATG sensitization course led by technical experts from Germany and Austria. Eleven technical experts from diverse global regions, representing national authorities, UN entities and non-governmental organizations, participated in the course and validation. The experts, through various practical activities and round-table discussions, demonstrated their ammunition competencies in line with the IATG and were assessed according to the UN SaferGuard validation methodology. Annual validation exercises are planned and the programme's roster of experts will be further built with a view to supporting States in ammunition management practices.



UN SaferGuard

Securing ammunition, protecting lives

Supporting the Programme of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons: Boosting preparations for the Third Review Conference

Since its universal adoption in 2001, Member States have used the UN Programme of Action on the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons (SALW) as the key framework for multilateral discussions on SALW trafficking.

In preparation for the Third Review Conference on the Programme of Action in June 2018, UNODA implemented a project aimed at boosting Member States' substantive and political preparedness on the key issues participants would tackle. The effort—made possible with a generous financial contribution from the **European Union** and technical support from Small Arms Survey—included four thematic symposiums, five regional preparatory meetings and a sponsorship programme.

The thematic symposiums, conducted in October and November 2017, enabled experts to identify concrete, practical and actionable recommendations that States could consider at the Third Review Conference to help strengthen their small arms-related work. The symposiums focused on the following key issues:

1. SALW tracing and stockpile management in conflict and post-conflict situations
2. SALW and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and gender-related aspects of small arms control
3. Recent developments in the manufacturing, technology and design of SALW
4. Synergies between the Programme of Action and other relevant instruments

Small Arms Survey published all recommendations from the symposiums in a briefing paper¹ ahead of the Third Review Conference.

The UNODA Regional Centres organized the five regional preparatory meetings, which took place in early 2018, and respectively covered Latin America, the Caribbean, South-East and South Asia, West and Central Africa, and East and Southern Africa. These meetings provided an opportunity for representatives of Governments and regional organizations to learn about the symposiums' recommendations and review other key aspects of the Programme of Action and its International Tracing Instrument (ITI), alongside regional small arms-specific issues, priorities and lessons learned.

In preparation for the Third Review Conference, Small Arms Survey conducted an analysis of national reports submitted on the implementation of the Programme of Action and the ITI.² This independent assessment, which was presented at a Conference side event, complemented the symposiums and regional meetings by providing an overview of the current state of play, progress in implementation, and assistance opportunities under the Programme of Action framework.

In addition, UNODA used financial contributions from the **European Union** and **France** to establish a sponsorship programme that brought 18 governmental and civil society experts from developing countries to the Third Review Conference, thereby ensuring robust attendance and diverse views from all regions of the world. The sponsorship programme provided participants with unique networking opportunities, built national capacities and raised awareness about the UN small arms process, helping to enhance implementation of the Programme of Action and the ITI.

The Third Review Conference provided a rare opportunity for States to review the implementation of the Programme of Action and the ITI and to agree on a road map for the future. These projects in support of the Conference enabled solid preparations and diverse expert participation, contributing to its positive outcome.

¹ <http://www.smallarmssurvey.org/about-us/highlights/2017/highlight-bp-symposia.html>.

² <http://www.smallarmssurvey.org/about-us/highlights/2018/highlight-report-poa-iti.html>.

Investing in arms control, supporting development

The proliferation and illicit trade of conventional arms fuel conflict and terrorism while eroding social and economic development around the world. Effective regulations for these weapons are essential to promoting stability, security and peace for sustainable development.

In 2017 and 2018, the UN Trust Facility Supporting Cooperation on Arms Regulation (UNSCAR) continued to provide a flexible mechanism for funding projects that achieve “quick wins” for arms control. Since its inception in 2013, the Trust Facility has used \$9 million to finance 64 short-term projects, all aimed at facilitating implementation of global instruments for conventional arms regulation.

For instruments such as the Programme of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons, the selection of projects is partly based on the needs indicated by Member States in their national reports on implementation. As of this writing, 140 States have benefited directly or indirectly from activities funded by the Trust Facility.

UNSCAR funds projects undertaken by UN system partners, regional organizations, non-governmental organizations and research institutes. For the 2017-2018 reporting period, it supported activities that included capacity-building of national authorities and civil society organizations, support in the use of implementation tools and guides, and action-oriented research. Relevant thematic issues ranged from illicit production, tracing and stockpile management to end-use and end-user control, effective regulation of arms brokering, gender considerations and public awareness.

Australia, Canada, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Ireland, Japan, Netherlands, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the **United Kingdom** have provided financial contributions to the Trust Facility. Donors participate in the UNSCAR Strategic Planning Group and provide policy advice to the operation of UNSCAR, including recommendations on what projects to fund.

Each year, UNSCAR selects small-scale, targeted assistance projects to receive funding through a call for proposals and a competitive application process.

The Trust Facility has continued improving the effectiveness of its assistance through robust coordination and monitoring mechanisms as well as strong processes to match needs with appropriate



resources. Once projects are selected, implementing partners are required to ensure support from beneficiary countries, to coordinate with other finalists and to build upon previous efforts and synergies. This collaboration has reduced unwanted competition and duplication of efforts among implementing partners, particularly where thematic and regional focus areas are closely related.

In partnership with regional organizations and civil society, the Trust Facility has taken significant funding and coordination actions aimed at strengthening implementation of practical activities in the African region. In the Sahel, for example, the African Union established operational guidance on weapons stockpile management and provided relevant trainings to national authorities. In West and Central Africa, civil society partners addressed craft manufacture of small arms, provided policy guidance to States whose neighbours are under arms embargoes and built national capacities to trace collected small arms.

UNSCAR also continued to offer funding throughout the year for special-circumstances projects to address urgent and unexpected situations. During the review period, two such projects took place to assess or relocate stockpile facilities respectively located in Eswatini and Saint Lucia.

UNSCAR accepted project proposals in June and July 2018 for its next annual funding cycle, stressing new thematic priorities intended to further reinforce integration of arms control efforts into national development agendas in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In addition, the Trust Facility required all applicants to specify aims and measures they would adopt to address gender considerations in their programming and project implementation. A solid increase in the number of applications it received, from 40 in 2017 to 53 in 2018, confirmed that UNSCAR is fully recognized as an attractive, accessible funding mechanism to promote short-term arms control interventions.

Supporting Security Council work on weapons and ammunition management

The UN Security Council has long considered how to counter destabilizing effects from the accumulation, illicit circulation and misuse of SALW in zones of conflict, and effective weapons and ammunition management has emerged as a critical part of the puzzle.

This is particularly true with respect to Council-mandated peacekeeping operations, where DDR practitioners have applied expertise on weapons and ammunition management to establish weapon registration and marking systems. In the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Mali, these systems have helped ensure the traceability of all weapons and ammunition collected as part of DDR programmes—an achievement that could save lives.

Such successes in applying weapons and ammunition management techniques show the importance of putting related knowledge to work in a broad range of contexts. The Security Council regularly takes action in a number of relevant areas, including through the adoption and implementation of arms embargoes, disarmament activities, work to end the recruitment and use of child soldiers, counter-terrorism measures, efforts against transnational organized crime and initiatives to protect civilians in armed conflict.

This is why UNODA used financial support from the **Netherlands** to develop a text to assist Member States in mainstreaming conventional arms and ammunition management in the work of the Security Council.

This “aide-mémoire” outlines specific arms and ammunition management concerns arising from Security Council discussions, and it catalogues previous resolutions on topics such as security sector reform and law enforcement, arms embargoes and counter-terrorism that refer to weapons and ammunition management activities.

By reviewing previous language, the aide-mémoire is intended to be a valuable resource for States on the historical treatment of weapons and ammunition management matters in the Security Council. The publication also provides a set of recommendations and conclusions to assist States in addressing weapons and ammunition management in a comprehensive and effective manner in line with Security Council mandates.

UNODA plans to continuously update the aide-mémoire, starting with the publication of a revised version for 2020.



The Security Council meets on the report of the Secretary-General on small arms and light weapons on 18 December 2017.

UN Photo/Manuel Elias

Strengthening the Secretary-General's Mechanism for Investigation of Alleged Use of Chemical, Biological and Toxin Weapons

Throughout 2017 and 2018, UNODA continued its work to strengthen the Secretary-General's readiness to investigate potential future allegations of chemical, bacteriological (biological) or toxin weapons use.

These efforts were tied to the Secretary-General's Mechanism—the authority that the General Assembly and Security Council granted his office in the 1980s to carry out such investigations—and the work has drawn on the lessons learned from the 2013 investigation into allegations of chemical-weapon use in the Syrian Arab Republic.



Qualified experts on the roster of the Secretary-General's Mechanism receive instruction in sampling at a training course hosted by the Government of France in November 2017. Photo credit: Ministère des Armées de la France

UNODA work in this area has focused, in particular, on strengthening the Mechanism's capacity to respond to allegations of biological-weapon use. Voluntary contributions from [Canada](#), the [Netherlands](#), [Norway](#), [Sweden](#) and the [European Union](#) were integral to these efforts.

A central part of UNODA capacity-building has involved training the qualified experts nominated to the Mechanism roster by their Governments. All training by the Office benefited from voluntary funds.

In November 2017, France hosted a training course for experts that emphasized core skills such as report-writing, interviewing and negotiations, evidence gathering and management, and field communications. The course itself was divided equally between classroom content and practical, hands-on activities.

The following month, UNODA held the first workshop for "expert consultants", high-level specialists in their fields who would advise the Secretary-General in a consultative capacity when preparing for and conducting an investigation. After completing an overview of the Mechanism, the participating expert consultants took part in a table-top exercise where they

"advised" the Secretary-General on the credibility of a simulated allegation.

Then, in February 2018, the United Kingdom hosted a training session on command and control aspects of an investigation at its Defence Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Centre in Salisbury, Wiltshire. Experts received instruction on how to manage an investigation, including its forensic aspects, and they practiced developing tactical plans to carry out their mandates.

UNODA also continued to maintain and expand the roster of qualified experts, expert consultants and laboratories nominated by Member States to support investigations through the Mechanism. New outreach efforts have enabled the roster to incorporate increasingly diverse skill sets, including not just scientists, but also experts in the areas of health and safety, law enforcement and forensics.

Additionally, UNODA engaged with Member States, under the leadership of Germany, Sweden, Switzerland and the United States, on efforts to establish a network of laboratories to analyse samples in an investigation of an alleged biological-weapon use.

Preventing the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery to non-State actors

In 2017 and 2018, the UN Trust Fund for Global and Regional Disarmament Activities held voluntary contributions from **Canada, Germany, Japan, Kazakhstan, the Republic of Korea, Spain, Sweden, the United States** and the **European Union** in support of activities related to UN Security Council resolution 1540 (2004). The resolution, which was unanimously adopted on 28 April 2004, obliges all Member States to take measures to prevent the proliferation to non-State actors of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons and their means of delivery, as well as establish appropriate domestic controls over related materials to prevent their illicit trafficking.

UNODA applied some of these extrabudgetary funds in support of measures that the Security Council had adopted in 2016, drawing from a five-year comprehensive review of the 2004 resolution's implementation (S/2016/1038). Resolution 2325 (2016) is aimed, in part, at welcoming diverse non-governmental participation in implementation-related events, as well as at encouraging action by the UN Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004) (1540 Committee) to identify, compile and share upon request by States appropriate effective implementation practices.

To advance these objectives in 2017 and 2018, UNODA used Trust Fund contributions to undertake the following activities: engaging with civil society, including industry and academia; supporting national implementation and effective best practices; and partnering with regional and international organizations.

Engaging with civil society, including industry and academia

In November 2017, Germany and UNODA organized the fifth in a series of global industry conferences on resolution 1540 (2004), known as the "Wiesbaden Process", further strengthening the partnership between industry representatives and regulators to enhance non-proliferation efforts. Conference participants discussed international trends and new developments in strategic trade controls, considered practical steps for

the continuing dialogue with industry, and produced a paper on transactional due diligence that was presented to the 1540 Committee.

During the 2015 Industry Conference, participants acknowledged the importance of regionalizing the process. In this context, India and UNODA organized a regional conference in April 2018 in New Delhi, entitled "Securing Global Supply Chains through Government-Industry Partnerships towards Effective Implementation of UNSCR 1540".

Supporting national implementation and effective best practices

To support the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004), Timor-Leste and UNODA organized a national round-table discussion in Dili. The event, which took place in October 2017, led to the submission of this Member State's first report to the 1540 Committee the following January.

Promoting the sharing of experiences, lessons learned and effective practices in the areas covered by resolution 1540 (2004), the Committee encourages States, where appropriate, to conduct voluntary peer reviews. In this context, UNODA supported the peer review between Chile and Colombia that culminated in mutual visits by government delegations from both countries in their respective capitals. This exchange, which took place in October 2017, included in-depth discussions, experience sharing and information exchange. The two States submitted a joint report on the successful conduct of the review to the 1540 Committee, and they presented the results to Committee members in New York in June 2018.

Partnering with regional and international organizations

The **Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe** co-financed a project that it conducted with UNODA to promote the comprehensive implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) in Central Asia and Mongolia. This initiative, which concluded in January 2018, also benefited from Trust Fund contributions by the **United States**.

Facilitating inclusive participation by States in possible future treaty negotiations on fissile material

Negotiating a non-discriminatory, multilateral and internationally and effectively verifiable treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons and other explosive devices is a long-standing disarmament priority. In forums such as the Conference for Disarmament, Governments have held years of deliberations in search of such an agreement, which would strengthen the nuclear non-proliferation regime and may constitute an important step towards the elimination of nuclear weapons.

In support of a high-level expert preparatory group mandated by the General Assembly (in resolution 71/259) to consider and make recommendations on substantial elements of such a treaty, UNODA carried out multiple activities in 2018 in support of the informal consultations by the group. These exchanges were open to all Member States, facilitating their involvement in the discussion on fissile material and possible future negotiations.

In one project generously funded by **Canada** for this purpose, UNODA cooperated with its Regional Centres to organize three workshops for Member States: in Africa, in Asia and the Pacific, and in Latin America and the Caribbean. The workshops provided knowledge and information on issues relevant to banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices, including challenges to and opportunities for engaging in negotiations on a fissile material cut-off treaty (FMCT), the possible scope and key elements of such a treaty, and its structure. The workshops promoted regional and subregional dialogue on a possible FMCT while enabling Governments to exchange views on how to address the fissile material issue.

Also in 2018, UNODA commenced a multi-year project aimed at helping Member States in the same three regions to participate in the consultative process of the high-level expert preparatory group and in possible future FMCT negotiations.

The project, financed entirely by the **European Union** pursuant to Council Decision 2017/2284, would comprise a series of regional and subregional workshops, meetings of experts from regional organizations and other entities, and the establishment of a repository of relevant information and publications. UNODA has cooperated closely with its three Regional Centres to implement the project, which is aimed, in part, at facilitating regional and subregional dialogue among Member States and regional organizations on the implications of a future treaty and its relationship with existing regional and global instruments for disarmament and non-proliferation. In addition to allowing the sharing of knowledge and information on issues relevant to banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices, the workshops will provide opportunities to exchange views and discuss challenges and ways ahead in relation to a future treaty. The workshops will also address potential components of a future FMCT, thereby increasing the capacity of Member States to participate in possible future negotiations.

These activities have helped advance the Secretary-General's commitment, reiterated in his Agenda for Disarmament, for UNODA to support the commencement of and early conclusion of negotiations on a FMCT.

Strengthening the ban against biological weapons

No international verification regime or stand-alone international organization exists to facilitate the full and effective implementation of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction, commonly known as the Biological Weapons Convention. This makes voluntary contributions crucial to supporting activities under the treaty, which is a cornerstone of the multilateral disarmament regime and the earliest

multilateral disarmament treaty to ban an entire category of WMD.

Since 2016, the **European Union** has continued to provide voluntary financial contributions through Council Decision 2016/51 in support of the Convention. The activities supported by this funding have included promoting universal adherence to the Convention, enhancing interaction with non-governmental stakeholders on science and technology through a



More than 50 participants attended the Regional Workshop on the Implications of Developments in Science and Technology for the Biological Weapons Convention in the Middle East and North Africa, held at Amman, Jordan, on 11 July 2018.

series of regional workshops,¹ and developing national capacities in 10 States parties² to ensure effective implementation. The Council Decision also provided funds for the development of promotional resources, such as publications, educational materials and awareness-raising products.

Voluntary funds were also critical to supporting and increasing participation by developing States parties in Convention meetings in 2017 and 2018. Thanks to contributions by **Australia**, **Germany** and **India** to the Convention's sponsorship programme, 24 experts from 24 States parties obtained sponsorships that enabled them to take part in the 2017 Meeting of States Parties.³ Similarly, **Australia**, **Canada** and **Germany** provided voluntary contributions to support the participation of eight experts from eight States parties in the 2018 Meetings of Experts.⁴

In 2017 and 2018, **Canada** made a voluntary contribution through its Global Partnership Programme for a multi-year project to enhance the preparedness of the UN Secretariat and international organizations to respond to any deliberate use of biological weapons. In addition, **Japan** provided a grant in 2018 for a two-year project aimed at ensuring a coordinated international response to any potential use of a biological weapon.

Several States parties also provided funding in support of strengthening domestic implementation of the Convention. In 2018, **Japan** made a voluntary contribution to support a training workshop at the end of the year for the Convention's National Contact Points from South-East Asia and the Pacific. Separately, **Germany** committed during the year to fund a regional workshop in Kazakhstan in October 2018 on national implementation of the Convention for Central Asian States parties. Additionally, **Australia** provided funding in 2018 for a universalization and implementation training workshop for the Pacific.

Also in 2018, **Norway** provided a voluntary contribution to hold two one-day workshops in Geneva to address issues related to cooperation and assistance under article X of the Convention.

In 2017 and 2018, **Germany** and the **European Union** funded the development of an electronic platform for submitting confidence-building measures under the Convention. In addition, **Ireland** provided a voluntary contribution in 2017 to support the Convention's Implementation Support Unit in improving the Article X Cooperation and Assistance Database.

¹ These regional workshops were held in Kyiv, Mexico City, Amman and Pretoria. The last workshop will be held in Manila towards the end of 2018.

² Cameroon, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Iraq, Lebanon, Malawi, Malaysia, Nepal, Sierra Leone and Yemen are beneficiaries under the Extended Assistance Programmes of the European Union.

³ The contributions supported expert participants in the 2017 Meeting of States Parties and the 2018 Meetings of Experts from Afghanistan, Bhutan, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Colombia, El Salvador, Georgia, Ghana, Kyrgyzstan, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malawi, Mali, Nepal, Paraguay, Peru, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, the Sudan, Swaziland, Thailand, Togo, Ukraine, Uzbekistan and Viet Nam.

⁴ The contributions supported expert participants in the 2018 Meetings of Experts from Angola, Georgia, Madagascar, Myanmar, the Niger, Uganda, Ukraine and the United Republic of Tanzania.

E-learning about the peaceful use of information and communications technology

Few technologies have been as powerful as information and communications technology (ICT) in reshaping economies, societies and international relations. Cyberspace touches every aspect of our lives. The benefits are enormous, but they do not come without risks. There are disturbing trends in the global ICT environment, including a dramatic increase in the malicious use of ICT. These trends pose risks for all States and potentially impact international peace and security.

Existing and potential threats from ICT use have been the focus of five Groups of Governmental Experts since 2004. The General Assembly mandated these Groups to examine possible cooperative measures to address such threats, and their resulting recommendations have helped shape a framework to enhance international stability in the area. In 2015, the Assembly called on Member States to be guided in their use of ICT by the recommendations of that year's Group.

In 2017, UNODA received a voluntary financial contribution from **Singapore** to develop a flagship e-learning initiative based on the reports of these Groups of Governmental Experts. The initiative is aimed at providing interested Member States—particularly those that have not yet participated in the Groups of Governmental Experts—as well as researchers and students with a greater understanding of the use of ICT, how they affect international security and the work that has been done at the international level to address these issues.

The e-learning initiative will explain the key elements contained in the reports of the Groups of Governmental Experts in five modules: existing and emerging threats in the ICT environment; norms, rules and principles for the responsible behaviour of States in the use of ICT; how international law applies to the use of ICT; confidence-building measures to ensure a peaceful ICT environment; and international cooperation and assistance in ICT security and capacity-building.

Promoting peaceful ICT use is a responsibility that Member States share with the private sector, academia and civil society. The training materials have therefore been enriched by the valuable input of partners from across these sectors. In developing the course, UNODA has also worked with several regional organizations to highlight their efforts in supporting their member States on the use of ICTs in the international security context.

Thanks to its availability online, the e-learning platform will be accessible and easy to use. It can also be used to support capacity-building training workshops and multilateral dialogue. The launch of the e-learning initiative is expected to take place in October 2018. As discussions on how to promote international stability in the ICT environment continue, the initiative has the potential to support meaningful strides towards an open, secure, stable, accessible and peaceful ICT environment.



The e-learning initiative aims to build capacity and provoke thought based on the recommendations of the Groups of Governmental Experts on Developments in the Field of Information and Telecommunications in the Context of International Security.

United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa

Reducing the risk of illicit small arms and ammunition flows in the Sahel

With support from the [European Union](#), the UN Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa (UNREC) continued to implement a three-year project assisting six States in the Sahel—Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania, the Niger and Nigeria—in improving the physical security and stockpile management of government-owned small arms, light weapons and associated ammunition to prevent their diversion and illicit trafficking. The project, which UNREC launched in June 2015, has consisted of field assessment and consultation missions, reviews and updates of existing national legislation and standard operating procedures in line with international guidance, rehabilitation and construction of weapons and ammunition storage sites, and training and educational outreach.

As part of the same project, UNREC organized a series of workshops from July 2017 to March 2018 where high-level political and technical experts could review, adapt and validate a set of proposed standard operating procedures developed by the Centre based on the Modular Small Arms Implementation Compendium (MOSAIC)¹ and the International Ammunition Technical Guidelines. In 2018, the Centre's activities included conducting six train-the-trainer workshops—in Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania and the Niger, as well as another scheduled in Nigeria for October 2018.

Mainstreaming gender in the Lake Chad Basin region to prevent terrorists from acquiring arms and ammunition

In 2017, UNREC initiated a project to further integrate gender perspectives into disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control processes in the Lake Chad Basin region by building the capacities of civil society organizations to support the implementation of Security Council resolutions 1325 (2000), 2349 (2017) and 2370 (2017). The [Swedish](#)-funded effort was designed to (a) increase participation by women in conflict resolution at all levels of decision-making and (b) mainstream gender perspectives in the fight against

terrorist activities and the illicit trafficking of SALW in four Boko Haram-affected countries: Cameroon, Chad, the Niger and Nigeria. The project was also designed to support the achievement of Target 16.4 of the Sustainable Development Goals, which seeks to significantly reduce illicit arms flows by 2030.

In support of the new project, UNREC developed a training manual on the role of women in promoting peace and security in the Lake Chad Basin region. Using this new text, the Centre organized a three-day capacity-building workshop in Lomé in December 2017, bringing together 16 experts, including 14 women, to pursue greater cooperation between civil society and Governments in the fight against illicit trafficking of arms and ammunition. The participants—comprising experts from civil society and representatives of the four Lake Chad Basin countries—discussed the importance of women's involvement in combating arms and ammunition proliferation and of effectively incorporating gender perspectives into the region's disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control processes. The attendees also considered the relevance of a gendered approach to fighting terrorist threats, with particular emphasis on Boko Haram. In addition, the Centre developed a database of non-governmental organizations in the Lake Chad Basin region actively engaging in peace and security issues, particularly those concerning SALW.

Aiding in the implementation of Security Council resolution 2178 (2014) in Lake Chad Basin countries

UNREC, with funding from [Switzerland](#), completed a project launched in 2016 to assist Lake Chad Basin countries affected by Boko Haram in building their capacities to prevent the acquisition of SALW by foreign terrorist fighters. The project also benefited from the financial support of the [UN Counter-Terrorism Centre](#).

In the final phase of the project, the Centre supported weapon-marking processes in the Lake Chad Basin countries by organizing two training

¹ Formerly known as International Small Arms Control Standards.



High Representative for Disarmament Affairs Izumi Nakamitsu examines a seized weapon on 5 July 2018 during the opening ceremony of the new UNREC premises in Lomé.

workshops in November 2017: a French-language session in N'Djamena for government personnel and military officers from Cameroon, Chad and the Niger; and an English-language course in Abuja for officials from Nigeria. Through the two-day workshops, 47 participants received training on marking weapons based on a guide developed by UNREC, entitled *Handbook for the Inter-Institutional Course on Combating Illicit Trafficking in Small Arms and Light Weapons, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition in Africa*.

The two workshops also provided an opportunity to raise awareness among Government and civil society experts on international arms control norms, guidance and good practices that could assist the beneficiary States in preventing the acquisition of arms and ammunition by terrorists or terrorist groups, including foreign terrorist fighters.

Supporting Central African States to “Silence the Guns”

With funding from the **UN Peace and Development Trust Fund** and in support of “Silence the Guns in Africa by 2020”, a flagship initiative of the African Union Agenda 2063, UNREC launched an effort to assist Central African States in implementing the Kinshasa Convention,² which entered into force in March 2017.

Working with the UN Regional Office for Central Africa, UNREC organized a regional conference, held in May 2018, where it engaged with the Economic Community of Central African States and its 11 member States to secure their endorsement of the project and agree on its schedule. As another part of its assistance to Central African States, the Centre was working to develop and disseminate a guide for implementing the Convention.

Assisting with physical security and stockpile management in Madagascar and Togo

With funding from **Japan** and **Togolese private institutions**, UNREC launched a project in July 2018 in support of physical security and stockpile management in Madagascar and Togo. The effort includes training and direct support in marking government arms and privately owned weapons, destroying seized and obsolete weapons and ammunition stockpiles, constructing or rehabilitating arms depots, and raising public awareness regarding the danger of using firearms and the importance of arms marking.

Other contributions to UNREC

The Regional Centre has continued to benefit from the political and financial support of its host country, **Togo**, which provided new and spacious premises for the Centre in Lomé.

² Central African Convention for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons, Their Ammunition and All Parts and Components That Can Be Used for Their Manufacture, Repair and Assembly.

United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean

Reinforcing momentum to implement Security Council resolution 1540 (2004)

In 2017 and 2018, the UN Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean (UNLIREC) continued to support eight States of the region in implementing UN Security Council resolution 1540 (2004), which requires effective measures to prevent the proliferation of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons, especially to non-State actors. The generous support of **Canada** made this work possible.

With assistance from UNLIREC and the 1540 Committee's Group of Experts, Belize and Peru formally presented their 1540 National Action Plans to the Committee. Meanwhile, Guyana and Antigua and Barbuda drew on the Centre's legal advice to further align their domestic legislative frameworks with obligations under the resolution.

The Regional Centre also assisted Peru in strengthening its regulatory framework by more closely harmonizing its national legislation with obligations related to the Biological Weapons Convention.

Separately, the Centre developed new tools to aid States in elaborating control lists and strengthening their licensing regimes to counter proliferation of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons. It cooperated with international partners to organize four joint training sessions, including several on hazardous chemical materials and maritime and port security.

Supporting weapons and ammunition destruction processes

In September 2017, UNLIREC completed a **German**-funded project contributing to the historic peace process negotiated between the Colombian Government and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia–People's Army. The Centre helped plan the logistics of the process for laying down arms, and it shared expertise on methods and techniques for deactivating SALW. These efforts culminated in the destruction of approximately 9,000 small arms and 1,765,000 units of small arms ammunition.

With funding from the **United States**, UNLIREC supported Peru in destroying over 18,000 obsolete weapons, in compliance with international standards such as the UN Programme of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons. The Centre also assisted Peru in bolstering the safety and security of government arsenals.

Engaging youth to advance the 2030 Agenda

As part of a 2017 initiative funded by the **UN Trust Fund for Human Security**, UNLIREC supported work by States to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development—specifically Goal 16 on peace, justice and strong institutions—by engaging local youth in measuring violence and insecurity through participatory indicators in collaboration with UN Volunteers. In Peru, UNLIREC also worked with youth and adults as part of this multi-agency project to seek solutions to the growing phenomenon of firearms possession and use in schools.

Supporting women's role in improving public security

To further promote women's participation in disarmament, arms control and non-proliferation initiatives, UNLIREC convened its first "International Symposium on Women and Security" in Lima on 12 and 13 December 2017, drawing 41 female professionals from across the region. In addition to discussing strategies for promoting women's involvement in regional peace and security matters, the participants explored how arms control could be strengthened to improve the lives of women in Latin America and the Caribbean. The Centre also launched the third edition of its *Forces of Change* publication, highlighting the essential role of women from the region in achieving sustainable peace and development. **Sweden** provided funding for these efforts.

Supporting international arms control efforts

Financing from **Germany** was critical to a variety of capacity-building and training activities by the Centre in support of international arms control.



Third UNLIREC course on interdicting small arms, ammunition and parts and components in Uruguay in April 2018.

In 2017, UNLIREC launched a new training tool to assist front-line law enforcement responders in using X-ray identification to stop weapons diversion through the mail. This initiative has resulted in real-life interdictions reported in beneficiary States.

Additionally, private security companies received UNLIREC-led training on managing arms and ammunition stockpile facilities, boosting their readiness to counter risks of weapons diversion for illicit use.

The Centre also procured a new laser-marking machine to support technical and capacity-building aspects of the “secondary marking” of firearms, which takes place after manufacture and typically at the time of importation. Such training will support target States in reinforcing firearms tracing mechanisms in the region. In a separate education initiative to inform public debate about preventing and combating ammunition proliferation, the Centre published two studies on ammunition control practices and trends in Latin America and the Caribbean.

With a financial contribution from the **Arms Trade Treaty Voluntary Trust Fund**, UNLIREC continued to deliver on-site training and technical assistance to government officials from El Salvador and Guatemala for their efforts to implement the Arms Trade Treaty. With funding from **Sweden**, the Centre also convened a Caribbean-based subregional workshop to assist States in complying with their reporting obligations under the Treaty.

Preventing and solving firearms-related crimes

UNLIREC trained security sector officials from eight Caribbean States to further harmonize their development of sound national strategies for investigating and prosecuting firearms-related cases. Specialized training sessions covered topics such as the proper handling and processing of firearms-related evidence. Additionally, under the same programme, improvements were made to the infrastructure of national laboratories where evidence is processed.

As a result, authorities identified in 2018 their first potential “match” in the Americas using the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) Ballistics Information Network. This finding—involving a firearm recovered in Belize and markings for Guatemala—reflected the benefits both of sharing firearms-related evidence across borders and of utilizing sound tracing mechanisms. This project, funded by the **United States** and **Canada**, contributed to implementation of both the Programme of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons and its International Tracing Instrument.

Support to the Regional Centre

UNLIREC relies on the generosity of States to help carry out its mandate of supporting and providing assistance to Governments in regional disarmament. **Peru** and **Mexico** supported the Centre through financial contributions that helped sustain its day-to-day operations.

United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific

Fostering dialogue and confidence-building on disarmament and non-proliferation

The UN Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific (UNRCPD) co-organized two meetings in November 2017 to address regional and global challenges related to disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control. These forums stimulated frank and dynamic discussions among dozens of attendees from Governments and intergovernmental organizations, research institutes, academia and non-governmental organizations.

The earlier of the two events, the sixteenth annual UN–Republic of Korea Joint Conference on Disarmament and Non-proliferation Issues, was funded by the **Republic of Korea** and hosted on the country's Jeju Island. Over sixty participants joined robust informal discussions of regional and global developments concerning disarmament and non-proliferation, including the adoption in July 2017 of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. Other topics of discussion included a pathway for the denuclearization of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea; challenges to peace and security from advances in fields such as artificial intelligence, cyberspace, 3D printing and unmanned aerial vehicles; and how to strengthen verification and control for chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear materials.

Also, in November 2017, UNRCPD organized the twenty-seventh UN Conference on Disarmament Issues in cooperation with **Japan** and the Prefecture and City of Hiroshima. The Conference drew over 80 representatives for an exchange of views that took stock of current approaches to nuclear disarmament. In addition to discussing the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, the representatives addressed the role of civil society and educational institutions in promoting peace and nuclear disarmament education, including through a broader dissemination of the experiences of atomic bomb survivors. They also discussed priorities of and challenges to the preparatory

process of the 2020 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

Supporting efforts against WMD proliferation

In September 2017, the Centre utilized funding from **Australia** and **Austria** to organize a subregional workshop for South-East Asian States on regional challenges to efforts to implement Security Council resolution 1540 (2004). Forty representatives from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) member States and Timor-Leste received briefings and engaged in discussions both on this issue and on two international legal instruments—the Biological Weapons Convention and the Chemical Weapons Convention—whose implementation could further advance activities under resolution 1540 (2004). In addition, the participants thoroughly examined the roles and benefits of 1540 national implementation action plans and of 1540 national points of contact.

One month later, with the support of **Japan**, UNRCPD organized a national round-table meeting in Timor-Leste to strengthen the country's capacity to further implement resolution 1540 (2004), particularly to assist the country in preparing its first national report. Almost forty officials from relevant government departments and agencies participated in the meeting, consulting closely with experts of the 1540 Committee to review the country's legislative framework for the control of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons and related materials. Subsequently, Timor-Leste submitted its first report to the 1540 Committee.

Building capacity for the control of small arms

In August 2017, UNRCPD organized a subregional training workshop in Mongolia for States in Central Asia to build their national capacities for implementing the Programme of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons. The event included practical exercises on preparing national action plans on SALW control and on utilizing the reporting mechanisms of the Programme of Action, the International Tracing Instrument and the Modular Small Arms Implementation Compendium



Non-governmental organizations focused on women's empowerment participate in the UNRCPD workshop on SALW control and the gendered impact of gun violence, held in Bangkok in July 2018.

(MOSAIC)¹ assessment tool. Additionally, participating government officials learned how data collected for national reports on the Programme of Action can also help measure progress on the reduction of illicit arms flows under Target 16.4 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The project received funding from **UNSCAR**.

In December 2017, UNRCPD organized a workshop in Phnom Penh, in cooperation with Cambodia, for ASEAN member States and Timor-Leste on combating the illicit trafficking and diversion of SALW and other conventional arms and ammunition. Funded by **Germany**, the workshop facilitated regional dialogue and strengthened subregional cooperation in meeting this challenge. Participants highlighted the need to consolidate subregional efforts to address challenges from illicit arms, emphasizing the roles both of the ASEAN Association of Heads of Police and of cooperation with international law-enforcement organizations. They also discussed the development of a regional action plan to combat illicit arms trafficking, including through a proposed draft for an ASEAN convention against trafficking in firearms.

Empowering women's participation in small arms control

In the context of its regional project on women, peace and security, UNRCPD organized a subregional

workshop in Bangkok in July 2018 to address gun violence and illicit small arms trafficking from a gender perspective. Funded by **UNSCAR**, the workshop brought together representatives from South-East Asian non-governmental organizations focused on gender issues and parliamentarians interested in arms-control issues with the goal of empowering women in the region to further strengthen control of illicit SALW. Civil society participants learned about the gendered impact of gun violence and took part in practical exercises and training to initiate advocacy activities on combating the illicit trade in small arms and to promote key arms control instruments such as the Arms Trade Treaty and the Programme of Action on SALW. The workshop provided opportunities for representatives of non-governmental organizations and parliamentarians to exchange ideas, discuss strategies and consider opportunities to jointly address the challenges posed by the illicit SALW trade and its distinct impact on women.

Other contributions to the Regional Centre

UNRCPD also benefited from financial contributions from **China, Kazakhstan, Nepal** and **Thailand**. Additional in-kind contributions came from **Finland**, through a UN Youth Volunteer, and from **Japan** and **Switzerland**, which each provided one Junior Professional Officer.

¹ Formerly known as International Small Arms Control Standards.

Vienna Office

Fostering cooperation between UNODA and Vienna-based organizations

In 2017 and 2018, the Vienna Office of UNODA continued to foster closer cooperation with Vienna-based agencies and civil society organizations on issues related to disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control. Its partners continued to include the UN Office at Vienna, the International Atomic Energy Agency, the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization, the UN Office on Drugs and Crime, the UN Office for Outer Space Affairs and the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE).

In cooperation with these and other locally based entities, the Vienna Office undertook particularly significant work during this period to advance youth education and strengthen partnerships, contributing to two action points identified in the Secretary-General's Agenda for Disarmament. Its activities in these areas included continued efforts to develop and promote the Disarmament and Non-Proliferation (DNP) Education Partnership, an alliance of 30 institutions cooperating to help implement the landmark UN study of 2002 on disarmament and non-proliferation education, promote the linkage between disarmament and development, and facilitate the entry of women into the disarmament field. Together, the activities contributed towards the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals, especially Goal 5 on gender equality and Goal 16 on peace, justice and strong institutions.

Austria supported these efforts through a financial contribution that helped cover the staff and operational costs of the Vienna Office.

Promoting the participation of women in peace and disarmament

The DNP Education Partnership aims primarily to address women's historical under-representation in disarmament and non-proliferation activities. The unique experiences of women can help promote the realization of disarmament goals, but while more women have been coming to the field, a significant gap remains. The Vienna Office has worked to close this gap by providing women professionals with the skills they need to succeed in a DNP career, including through several initiatives launched under the DNP Education Partnership.

The "Women Scholarship for Peace: Global South" initiative, whose first year-long phase concluded in 2017 with financial support from **Germany**, provided scholarships that enabled 138 young women professionals from 75 countries of the Global South to access quality training through partner institutions such as the University for Peace. Pending additional funding, the Vienna Office plans to organize a second phase of the initiative focused on engaging female practitioners and individuals in particularly under-represented regions.

Similarly, the "OSCE Scholarship for Peace and Security"—financed through OSCE by **Germany, Spain, Austria** and **Finland**—provided 60 scholarships to young female professionals and 10 to young male professionals from OSCE States and Partners for Co-operation. Scholarship recipients took part in an eight-week online course, after which 46 of the female recipients travelled to Vienna for further training from 12 to 16 February 2018. The additional training included instruction on nuclear safeguards, chemical and biological weapons, gender equality, arms control and the arms trade. In addition to seeing the Vienna Office, participants had the opportunity to visit the International Atomic Energy Agency, the Vienna Centre for Disarmament and Non-Proliferation and the UN Office on Drugs and Crime. Participants also visited the OSCE secretariat in the Hofburg palace to observe a meeting on security sector reform.



OSCE Scholarship for Peace and Security recipients travelled to Vienna to participate in training from 12 to 16 February 2018.

Voluntary contributions to UNODA from 1 January 2016 to 31 December 2017

(in United States dollars)

| Donor by fund | 2016 | 2017 | Total |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Trust Fund for the UN Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa (UNREC) | | | |
| Cameroon | 7,272 | | 7,272 |
| France | | 23,596 | 23,596 |
| Togo | | 12,028 | 12,028 |
| Economic Community of Central African States | 21,730 | | 21,730 |
| European Union | | 1,348,803 | 1,348,803 |
| Subtotal | 29,002 | 1,384,427 | 1,413,429 |
| Trust Fund for the UN Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean (UNLIREC) | | | |
| Canada | 1,304,208 | 429,893 | 1,734,101 |
| El Salvador | | 11,900 | 11,900 |
| Germany | 620,428 | 733,017 | 1,353,445 |
| Guatemala | | 38,530 | 38,530 |
| Guyana | 1,031 | | 1,031 |
| Mexico | 5,000 | | 5,000 |
| Panama | | 3,000 | 3,000 |
| Peru | 28,802 | 24,036 | 52,838 |
| Sweden | | 236,693 | 236,693 |
| United States | | 395,903 | 395,903 |
| Subtotal | 1,959,469 | 1,872,972 | 3,832,441 |
| Trust Fund for the UN Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific (UNRCPD) | | | |
| Australia | 102,975 | 22,935 | 125,910 |
| China | 150,000 | 50,000 | 200,000 |
| Germany | | 61,417 | 61,417 |
| Japan | | 18,181 | 18,181 |
| Kazakhstan | 10,000 | | 10,000 |
| Nepal | 111,685 | | 111,685 |
| New Zealand | 64,645 | | 64,645 |
| Republic of Korea | 41,700 | 40,000 | 81,700 |
| Thailand | 3,000 | 3,000 | 6,000 |
| Subtotal | 484,005 | 195,533 | 679,538 |
| Trust Fund for Global and Regional Disarmament Activities | | | |
| Australia | 416,043 | 19,910 | 435,953 |
| Austria | 159,236 | 179,211 | 338,447 |
| Azerbaijan | 1,972 | | 1,972 |
| Canada | 1,478,306 | 761,680 | 2,239,986 |
| China | 5,000 | 270,000 | 275,000 |
| France | | 112,827 | 112,827 |
| Germany | 238,713 | 486,223 | 724,936 |
| India | 10,000 | | 10,000 |
| Ireland | 8,919 | 4,255 | 13,174 |
| Japan | 16,666 | 1,027,000 | 1,043,666 |
| Kazakhstan | | 50,000 | 50,000 |
| Netherlands | 34,124 | | 34,124 |
| Singapore* | | 183,060 | 183,060 |
| Spain | 110,988 | | 110,988 |
| Sweden | 217,368 | | 217,368 |
| Switzerland | 78,002 | 40,161 | 118,163 |
| Thailand* | 1,000 | 1,000 | 2,000 |

Voluntary contributions to UNODA from 1 January 2016 to 31 December 2017

(in United States dollars)

| Donor by fund | 2016 | 2017 | Total |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| European Union | 1,122,811 | 3,476,165 | 4,598,976 |
| Geneva International Center for Humanitarian Demining | | 109,500 | 109,500 |
| Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe | 159,025 | | 159,025 |
| Subtotal | 4,058,173 | 6,720,992 | 10,779,165 |
| UN Trust Facility Supporting Cooperation on Arms Regulation | | | |
| Australia | | 164,057 | 164,057 |
| Canada | | 738,553 | 738,553 |
| Finland | | 294,811 | 294,811 |
| Germany | 672,646 | 696,864 | 1,369,510 |
| Ireland | 63,694 | | 63,694 |
| Spain | 22,297 | | 22,297 |
| Sweden | 220,653 | 239,492 | 460,145 |
| Switzerland | 50,000 | 100,000 | 150,000 |
| Subtotal | 1,029,290 | 2,233,777 | 3,263,067 |
| Total | 7,559,939 | 12,407,701 | 19,967,640 |

Note: The following donors have made contributions to UNODA trust funds that were recorded in the accounts in 2018: Australia, Canada, El Salvador, Germany, Guatemala, Japan, Mexico, Nepal, Netherlands, Panama, Peru, Poland, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand and United Arab Emirates.

* Contributions for the former Trust Fund for the UN Disarmament Information Programme, which has been consolidated with the Trust Fund for Global and Regional Disarmament Activities.

UNODA trust funds

Trust Funds for UNREC, UNLIREC and UNRCPD

Support the Regional Centres to promote disarmament, arms control, non-proliferation, peace and security in their respective regions, assisting Member States through policy, legal and technical assistance, capacity-building training, practical disarmament measures, as well as fostering dialogue, disseminating information and promoting advocacy across a range of priority peace and security matters, from small arms to nuclear weapons, relevant to regional stakeholders.

Trust Fund for the UN Trust Facility Supporting Cooperation on Arms Regulation

Supports the implementation of the ATT and the Programme of Action on SALW by funding projects of UN partners, regional organizations, non-governmental organizations and academia. Funded activities range from organizing expert discussions and raising awareness to building capacity and destroying weapons.

Trust Fund for Global and Regional Disarmament Activities

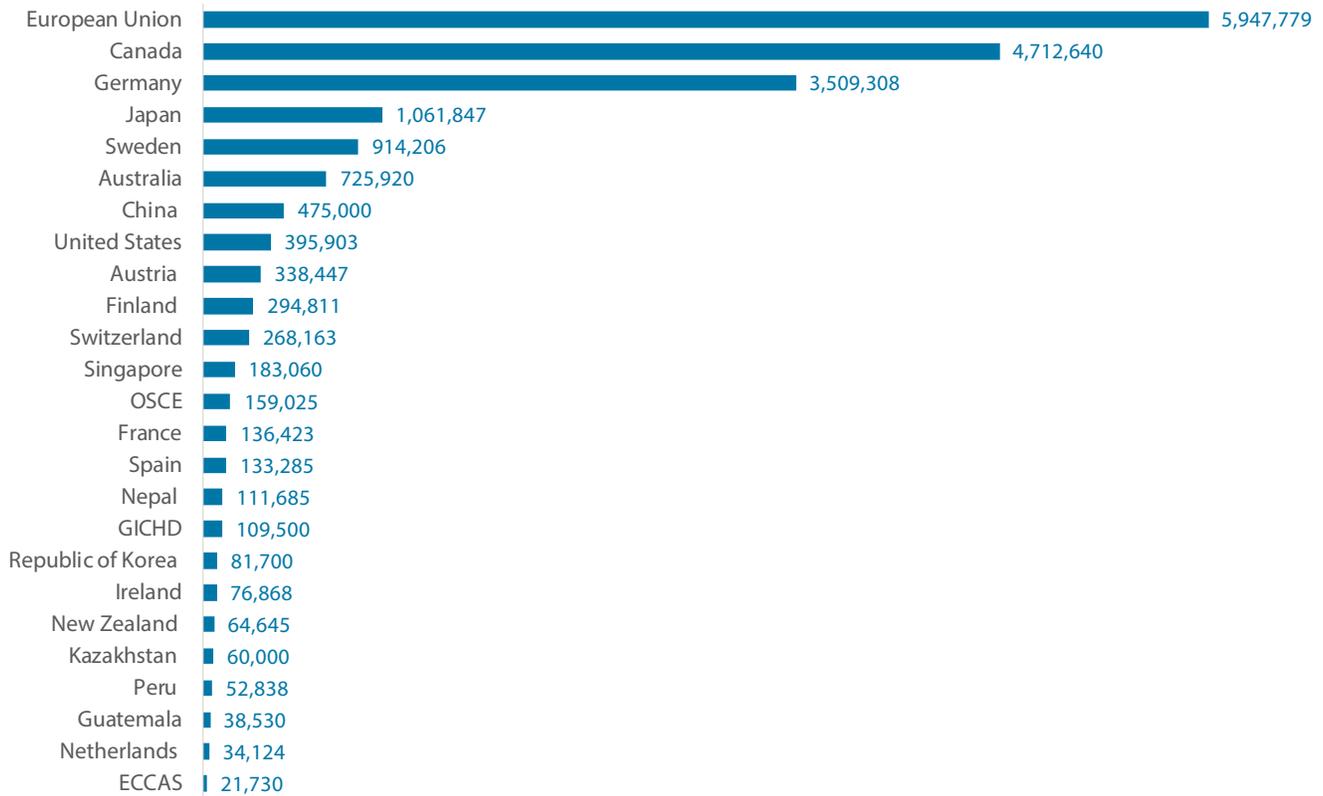
Supports measures to promote disarmament, arms control and non-proliferation at the global and regional levels, through studies, expert discussions, capacity-building and practical disarmament measures. This trust fund is also the vehicle for extrabudgetary activities from voluntary contributions earmarked in support of UN Security Council resolution 1540 (2004).

Trust Fund for the UN Disarmament Information Programme

Supports greater public awareness and understanding of multilateral efforts for arms control and disarmament through information and educational materials, communication tools, conferences and seminars, special events and outreach.

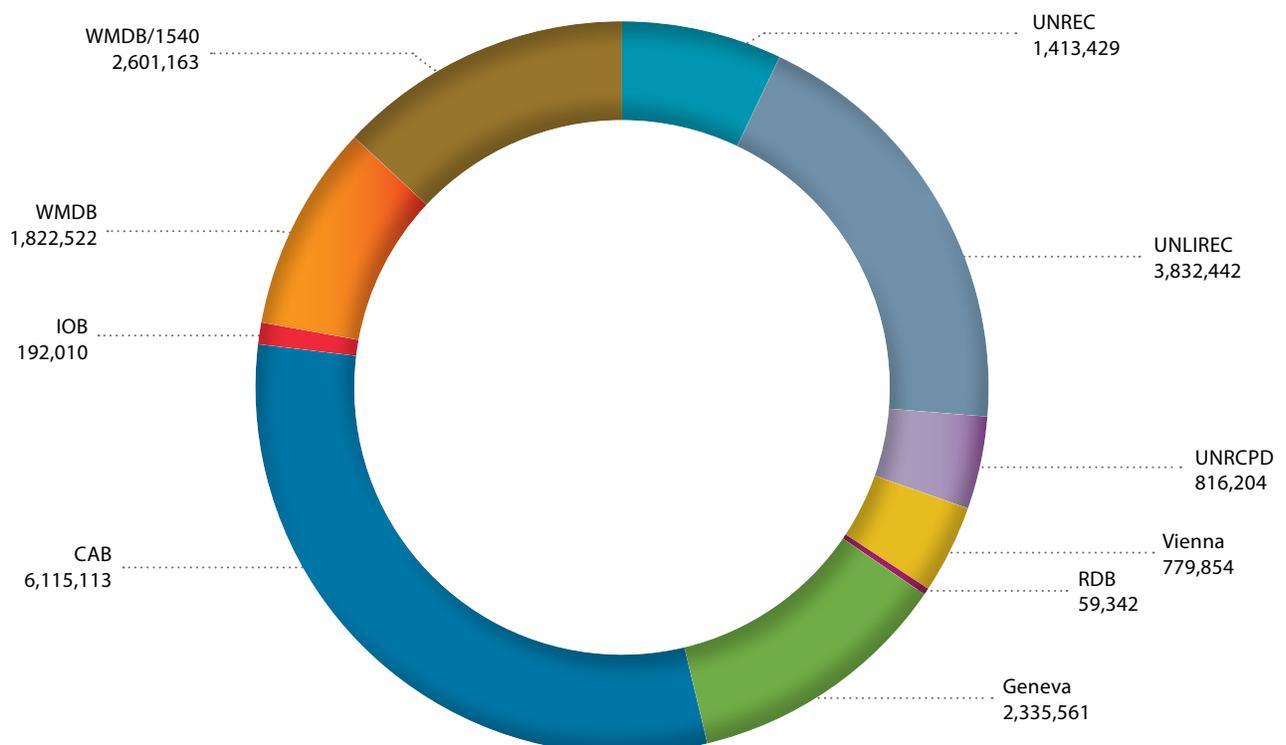
Top 25 donors from 1 January 2016 to 31 December 2017

(in United States dollars)

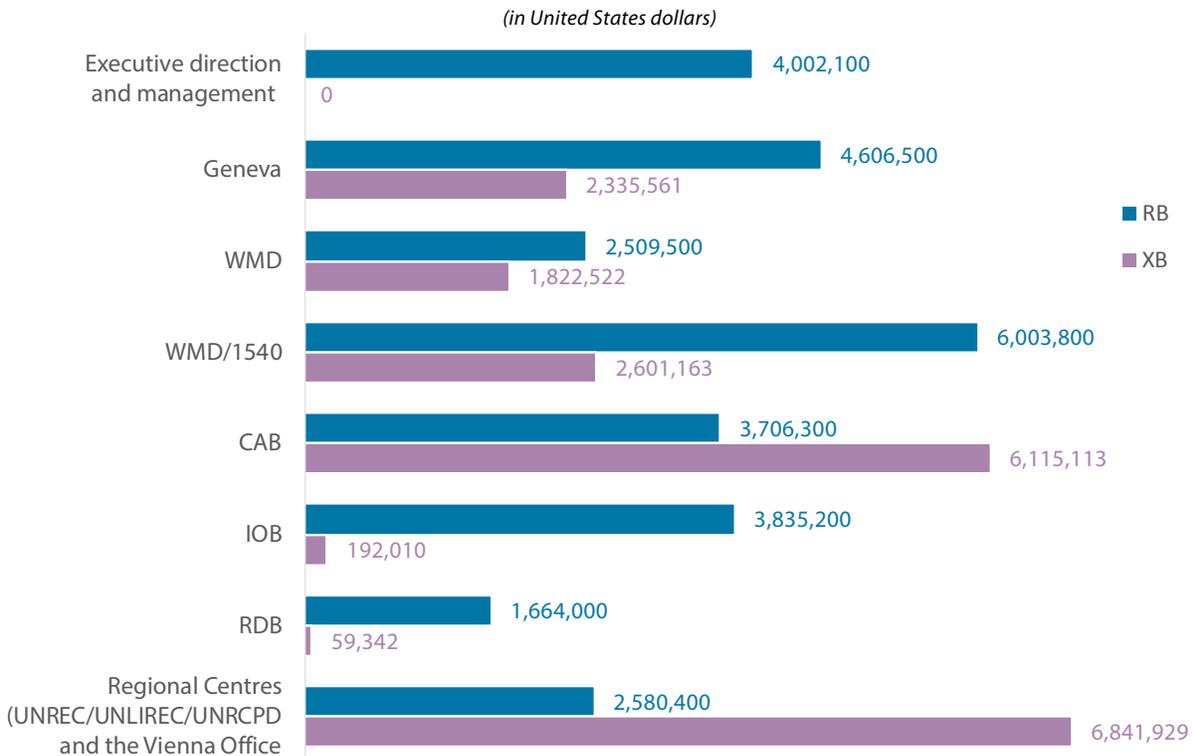


Extrabudgetary income by branch or centre from 1 January 2016 to 31 December 2017

(in United States dollars)



Regular budget vs. extrabudgetary resources from 1 January 2016 to 31 December 2017



Regular budget (RB)

UNODA receives most of its funding from the regular budget to carry out its programmed activities. For the years 2016-2017, the amount from the regular budget was \$22.9 million. The regular budget covers costs associated with 61 posts (in New York, Geneva, Lomé, Lima and Kathmandu), meetings of governmental experts mandated by the General Assembly, and the UN Programme of Fellowships on Disarmament. The regular budget also covers staff travel, technical expertise as required, administrative support and a portion of the operational costs of the three Regional Centres of UNODA.

UNODA also administers regular budget resources under Special Political Missions (SPM) in support of the 1540 Committee on the non-proliferation of all WMD. Regular budget SPM resources provided for 2016-2017 were \$6 million and covered staff costs, costs for office space and equipment, communications, technical experts, and travel of staff, experts and members of the 1540 Committee.

Extrabudgetary resources (XB)

Voluntary contributions amounted to \$7.6 million in 2016 and \$12.4 million in 2017. These resources have been the principal source of funds to develop and organize capacity-building activities, which are held at the subregional or country level, and which bring together government officials, practitioners, experts and other relevant stakeholders.

Additionally, extrabudgetary funds support the promotion and universalization of standards and norms and the organization of conferences to promote international dialogue and confidence-building. The Implementation Support Units, in Geneva, of the Biological Weapons Convention and the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons are funded solely from extrabudgetary resources.

Voluntary contributions were also provided for UNSCAR, a multi-donor flexible funding mechanism designed to finance projects supporting the implementation of the Arms Trade Treaty and the Programme of Action on SALW.

Voluntary contributions also support the Vienna Office of UNODA.

UNODA continues to rely on extrabudgetary resources to supplement its regular budget for the implementation of its mandates.

UNODA projects supported by donors

| <i>Donor</i> | <i>Project</i> |
|----------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Geneva Branch | |
| Australia | Biological Weapons Convention Sponsorship Programme Sponsorship for participation in the Biological Weapons Convention Meeting of State Parties |
| Azerbaijan | Informal Conference on Disarmament-Civil Society Forum |
| Canada | Support for activities of the FMCT Expert Preparatory Group Wuxi workshop and Biological Weapons Convention Sponsorship Programme Strengthening global mechanisms and capacities—support for the Biological Weapons Convention |
| France | Biological Weapons Convention Implementation Support Unit Side Event |
| Germany | Biological Weapons Convention for the development of an electronic CBM platform |
| India | Biological Weapons Convention Sponsorship Programme |
| Ireland | Biological Weapons Convention Sponsorship Programme Supporting the work of the Implementation Support Unit |
| Netherlands | Biological Weapons Convention Sponsorship Programme |
| Switzerland | Biological Weapons Convention Sponsorship Programme |
| European Union | Supporting Biological Weapons Convention implementation |
| WMDB | |
| Canada | Secretary-General's Mechanism Lessons Learned |
| China | Meeting of Experts on the prevention of an arms race in outer space |
| Sweden | Readiness of the Secretary-General's Mechanism for Investigation of Biological Weapons Workshop on lessons learned from UN/OPCW Lessons Learned |
| WMDB/1540 | |
| Canada | Support of Regional Implementation of UN Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) |
| Germany | Wiesbaden Conference UN Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) Wiesbaden meeting in the Republic of Korea |
| Japan | UN Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) activities |
| Kazakhstan | Support for UN Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) |
| Spain | 1540 Implementation and Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons |
| Sweden | Promotion of the Implementation of UN Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) |
| European Union | UN Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) Related Activities |
| CAB | |
| Australia | Supporting Cooperation on Arms Regulation (UNSCAR projects, 2017-2019) |
| Austria | IATG ammunition expert validation process—UN SaferGuard |
| Canada | Supporting Cooperation on Arms Regulation (UNSCAR projects) |
| Finland | Supporting Cooperation on Arms Regulation (UNSCAR projects, 2017-2019) |
| France | Third Review Conference Sponsorship Programme |
| Germany | Supporting Cooperation on Arms Regulation (UNSCAR projects, 2017) Facilitation of dialogue on military confidence-building measures Support for the application of IATG under UN SaferGuard Programme IATG ammunition expert validation process—UN SaferGuard Support for promoting arms and ammunition controls in changing DDR contexts |
| Ireland | Supporting Cooperation on Arms Regulation (UNSCAR projects) |
| Netherlands | Disarmament Education and Information 2016 "Aide-memoire" to support Security Council work on weapons and ammunition management |
| Spain | 1540 Act. and Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons Supporting Cooperation on Arms Regulation (UNSCAR projects) |
| Sweden | Supporting Cooperation on Arms Regulation (UNSCAR projects, 2018-2020) Secure Ammunition Management through UN SaferGuard |

UNODA projects supported by donors

| <i>Donor</i> | <i>Project</i> |
|----------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Switzerland | Supporting Cooperation on Arms Regulation (UNSCAR projects, 2017-2018) IATG ammunition expert validation process-UN SaferGuard Secure Ammunition Management through UN SaferGuard Support for promoting arms and ammunition controls in changing DDR contexts |
| United Arab Emirates | Secure Ammunition Management through UN SaferGuard |
| European Union | Support of UN Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons |
| GICHD | SaferGuard |
| IOB | |
| Singapore | Development of a Flagship Online Training Course |
| Thailand | Disarmament Information Programme |
| RDB | |
| China | Celebration of the 30th Anniversary of the Regional Centres for Peace and Disarmament |
| Sweden | Capacity Building for African Civil Society Organizations on Gender and Disarmament (UNREC) |
| Vienna Office | |
| Austria | Support for the UNODA Vienna Office for the year 2018 Maintenance of the UNODA Vienna Office |
| Germany | Boosting the Advance of Women on Peace-related issues: Strengthening Tools for Women's Education Training Course on Disarmament, Arms Control and Non-Proliferation for the OSCE Training Modules on Disarmament, Arms Control and Non-Proliferation for the OSCE |
| OSCE | Vienna Office Support for the Development of DNP Education Partnership |
| UNREC | |
| Cameroon | Activities on SALW |
| France | France contribution to UNREC 2017 |
| Togo | Project to support the marking, rehabilitation of store and the destruction of arms, ammunition and other related materials |
| ECCAS | Development of a Guide for the Implementation of the Kinshasa Convention on Small Arms in Central Africa |
| European Union | Action in support of physical security and stockpile management (PSSM) activities to reduce the risk of illicit trade in SALW and their ammunition in the Sahel region |
| UNLIREC | |
| Canada | Bolstering Operational Forensic Ballistics in the Caribbean Legislative Implementation of Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) in Latin America and the Caribbean |
| El Salvador | Strengthening the Capacities of the National Authority for the Implementation of the Arms Trade Treaty through Equipment and Tracing in El Salvador |
| Germany | Combating Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons and Ammunition in the Caribbean Combating Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons and Ammunition in Central and South America Providing Technical Assistance to the UN Mission in the Laying Down of Arms Process in Colombia Strengthening Oversight and Building Capacities for Small Arms Control in the Private Security Sector Mitigating the Diversion of Weapons to Reduce Armed Violence in Latin America and the Caribbean (Arms Trade Treaty) Support for Arms Trade Treaty-related activities |
| Guatemala | Implementation of the Arms Trade Treaty in the Republic of Guatemala |
| Guyana | Support of the Regional Centre's substantive programmes and operational capacities |
| Mexico | Support of the Regional Centre's substantive programmes and operational capacities |
| Panama | Support of the Regional Centre's substantive programmes and operational capacities |
| Peru | Support of the Regional Centre's substantive programmes and operational capacities |
| Sweden | Fulfilling Arms Trade Treaty reporting obligations in the Caribbean Community region (Barbados) Women and Security |
| United States | Technical Assistance for Weapons and Ammunition Destruction in Peru |

UNODA projects supported by donors

| <i>Donor</i> | <i>Project</i> |
|-------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| UNRCPD | |
| Australia | South-East Asian Workshop on Global Challenges to Successful Implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1540 (2004) Capacity-Building Workshop on the Implementation of the Arms Trade Treaty in the Pacific |
| China | Support of the Regional Centre's substantive programmes and operational capacities |
| Germany | Regional Seminar for ASEAN Member States and Timor-Leste on Illicit Trafficking and Diversion of SALW, Conventional Arms and Ammunition |
| Japan | UN Conference on Disarmament Issues |
| Kazakhstan | Support of the Regional Centre's substantive programmes and operational capacities |
| Nepal | Host country's contribution for the refurbishment of the new office for the resumption of UNRCPD operations from Kathmandu |
| New Zealand | Capacity-Building Workshop on the Implementation of the Arms Trade Treaty in the Pacific |
| Republic of Korea | 15th and 16th UN-Republic of Korea Joint Conference on Disarmament and Non-proliferation Issues |
| Thailand | Support of the Regional Centre's substantive programmes and operational capacities |

Opposite page and back cover: Disarmament, demobilization and reintegration pilot project, Bangui, 2017.
Photo credit: MINUSCA



