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General and complete disarmament**Relationship between disarmament and development****Report of the Secretary-General***Summary*

The present report is submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution [71/62](#). It addresses the further strengthening of the relationship between disarmament and development within the United Nations. In addition, the report contains information received from Member States on the subject.

* [A/72/150](#).



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I. Introduction

1. In paragraph 1 of its resolution [71/62](#), on the relationship between disarmament and development, the General Assembly stressed the central role of the United Nations in the relationship between disarmament and development and requested the Secretary-General to strengthen further the role of the Organization in this field.
2. In paragraph 2 of the resolution, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to continue to take action, through appropriate organs and within available resources, for the implementation of the action programme adopted at the 1987 International Conference on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development (See [A/CONF.130/39](#)).
3. In paragraph 6 of the resolution, the General Assembly reiterated its invitation to Member States to provide the Secretary-General with information regarding measures and efforts to devote part of the resources made available by the implementation of disarmament and arms limitation agreements to economic and social development. Furthermore, in paragraph 7, the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to report to it at its seventy-second session on the implementation of the resolution. The present report is submitted pursuant to that request.
4. On 20 February 2017 the Secretariat sent a note verbale to Member States seeking their views on this issue, followed by a second note verbale dated 12 June 2017. At the time of writing, replies have been received from Argentina, Brunei Darussalam, Colombia, Cuba, El Salvador, Jordan, Lebanon, Paraguay, Spain and Ukraine. The European Union also sent its views. This information is contained in sections III and IV below. Additional replies received after 31 July 2017 will be posted on the website of the Office for Disarmament Affairs¹ in the language of submission only.

II. Implementation of General Assembly resolution [71/62](#)

5. During the reporting period, the United Nations continued to promote the relationship between disarmament and development and to implement the recommendations contained in the action programme of the 1987 International Conference on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development.
6. As the issue of disarmament and development straddles several different disciplines — from political, disarmament, armed violence prevention to social and economic development — close cooperation and coordination among multiple United Nations departments and agencies relevant to the issues is essential. The Coordinating Action on Small Arms mechanism, chaired by the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs, is the most relevant inter-agency mechanism for the issue of disarmament and development. The mechanism ensures that full attention continues to be paid in entities of the United Nations system to the development-related aspects of arms regulation and disarmament. The Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action, which comprises all United Nations entities involved in mine action and is chaired by the Mine Action Service, addresses landmines and cluster munitions and their relevant development impacts. In this context, the Coordination Group continues to serve as a forum for coordination on the topic, particularly from the perspective of the positive effects of demining on social and economic development.

¹ www.un.org/disarmament/.

7. In 2016, the mechanism took up various disarmament and arms control issues that are highly relevant for development, such as small arms, improvised explosive devices, disarmament, demobilization and reintegration, the Arms Trade Treaty, and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Particularly noteworthy, is the integration of security-related themes into the 2030 Agenda, through its target 16.4, which seeks, among other things, to significantly reduce the illicit flow of arms. The United Nations will continue its activities assisting States in strengthening their capacity to attain this target.

8. Since 1981, the Office for Disarmament Affairs maintains the United Nations Report on Military Expenditures, a voluntary transparency instrument by which Member States exchange information related to their military expenditures. The information provided by Member States through that instrument could be a basis for determining trends in military spending and for fostering discussions among Member States on appropriate levels of military spending. The information submitted by States is available on the online database maintained by the Office for Disarmament Affairs.²

III. Replies received from Governments

Argentina

[Original: Spanish]
[3 May 2017]

The Argentine Republic has traditionally taken a comprehensive approach to actions and initiatives in the areas of disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control. These are areas where Argentina has been actively involved at the regional and global levels in defending the role of multilateralism in general, and of the United Nations in particular, in addressing the challenges posed.

Argentina has actively promoted confidence-building measures, especially in the area of conventional weapons. Argentina is committed to contributing to international peace and security through transparent participation in the international community's collective efforts in the firm belief that greater openness and transparency regarding arms will build confidence, promote stability, help States to moderate their transfer policies, and strengthen peace.

With regard to conventional weapons, Argentina believes that the excessive accumulation and uncontrolled proliferation of firearms have very serious consequences for sustainable social and economic development, posing a serious challenge to the promotion of human rights of all societies.

Therefore, Argentina considers the strengthening of existing mechanisms relating to arms control, illicit trafficking and arms transfers a priority.

Argentina was actively involved in, inter alia, the negotiations for the Arms Trade Treaty and the establishment of the Register of Conventional Arms, considering that international stability cannot be based solely on national controls and that these instruments contribute to peace and security. At the regional level, the Union of South American Nations has developed a mechanism for transparency in countries' military inventories.

The emphasis that Argentina has placed on strengthening these mechanisms is part of its broader commitment over recent decades to the development, implementation and strengthening of subregional, regional and global confidence-building measures.

² www.un-arm.org/Milex/home.aspx.

Brunei Darussalam

[Original: English]
[22 May 2017]

Brunei Darussalam prioritizes its development mainly through its education strategies and economic diversification approaches, as stipulated in its long-term national objectives (Brunei Vision 2035). For fiscal year 2016-2017, Brunei Darussalam has allocated 30 per cent of its budget to fund national development projects and around 12 per cent to the education sector. Comparatively, the defence sector has been allocated less of the total government spending than those two sectors. Brunei Darussalam has also undertaken various measures in realizing the Millennium Development Goals and implementing the Sustainable Development Goals.

Brunei Darussalam supports disarmament efforts and the non-proliferation of all types of weapons of mass destruction at both the regional and global levels. Brunei Darussalam is a party to most of the major regional and global instruments pertaining to disarmament and non-proliferation. Brunei Darussalam also aligns itself with the commitments of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations on these issues.

On a national scale, Brunei Darussalam has strict laws with regard to the public ownership of any type of arms and weapons. Brunei Darussalam has also been effective in controlling any movement, especially illicit movement, of arms and weapons in and out of the country. Disarmament activities within Brunei Darussalam encompass demining activities to remove explosive remnants left behind from previous wars. Other tangible disarmament activities in the country are limited to articulating its commitment to these issues through expressing support or by being party to such agreements or treaties, ensuring transparency and participating in any confidence-building measures, sharing information and best practices and enhancing diplomacy while encouraging others to support the multilateral efforts on disarmament instruments. Meanwhile, the threat level from armed groups within the country is also considered very low, albeit caution and prevention are vigilantly exercised.

As a result of strict non-proliferation laws in Brunei Darussalam, monetary expenditures on disarmament efforts are considered minimal. Besides the customary expenditure on security, spending on disarmament activities (both at the international and national levels) can be assumed to be insignificant and will not affect the country's defence spending or its overall budget.

In Brunei Darussalam, disarmament and development are not directly correlated, yet they mutually reinforce for an environment conducive to peace. As disarmament spending is minimal, it is not at the expense of the country's development plan.

Colombia

[Original: Spanish]
[1 May 2017]

The Republic of Colombia, as a State committed to disarmament, non-proliferation, arms control and the promotion of national development, gives the highest priority to the development of national policies to foster the elimination of elements that may hinder growth and environmental, economic and social development.

While Colombia recognizes that there is a two-way relationship between development and armed violence, it believes that weapons in themselves are not the fundamental cause of violence and conflict. On the contrary, it is the understanding of Colombia that such issues are a manifestation of criminal conduct associated with issues such as drugs, terrorism and transnational organized crime.

In that connection, the position of Colombia has been to adopt a two-pronged strategy: at the national level, strengthening national policies for the prevention of violence and the promotion of development; and at the international level, establishing international standards to ensure that those issues are addressed in a collaborative manner.

Colombia plays an active role in development. Since the structuring of the post-2015 development agenda, Colombia has become the torch-bearer for the establishment of objectives, goals and indicators to measure the impact of national policies and the adoption of appropriate measures to create better conditions for social, environmental and economic development. The establishment of a true partnership for development requires working together, in a spirit of mutual cooperation, to achieve sustainable development.

Likewise, Colombia believes that issues related to peace and post-conflict cannot and should not be limited; rather, based on the interlinkages among them, it must be understood that to achieve peace and successfully address post-conflict processes, various social, economic and environmental issues must also be addressed. Without development there is no peace, and without peace there can be no development.

Cuba

[Original: Spanish]
[6 April 2017]

Today's vast military expenditure should be used to promote the achievement of the 17 Goals and 169 targets of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

According to estimates, Sustainable Development Goal 4 on education could be achieved at a cost that would be lower than 10 per cent of annual military spending, whereas with a little more than that figure, Sustainable Development Goals 1 and 2 on the elimination of extreme poverty and hunger, respectively, would be achieved. Half of the world's annual military spending would be sufficient to achieve most of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Humankind's very survival is continuously threatened by the existence of some 15,395 nuclear weapons. Cuba reiterates its support for the total elimination of weapons of mass destruction, including nuclear weapons. The resources now being used to build up nuclear arsenals should be used instead for the benefit of humanity and the eradication of poverty.

Cuba reiterates its proposal that half of current military expenditure should be allocated to an international United Nations-managed fund established for that purpose. The objective of such a fund should be to ensure sustainable socioeconomic development and help countries achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

The Declaration on the Right to Development, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 1986, established that funds derived from disarmament measures should be channelled to development, especially in the least developed countries.

The United Nations should play a central role in the implementation of the action programme of the International Conference on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development of 1987 and should foster the interrelationship between disarmament and development.

The action programme envisages the adoption of measures to reduce the level and magnitude of military expenditures and reallocate those resources to social and economic development in developing countries, and review issues and develop studies and plans related to the conversion of military industry to civilian production.

The Revolutionary Armed Forces of Cuba have, whenever necessary, placed their military resources and capabilities, including military units and camps, military transportation and aircraft, engineering resources, medical services and other logistical resources at the service of the country's economic and social development.

Relevant examples include the relocation of the Granma Naval Academy so that its former premises could accommodate the Latin American School of Medicine; the provision of military personnel and fumigation equipment for the campaign to eradicate disease vectors; the support provided for food production; and the services offered by military construction companies for the building of schools, water channels, reservoirs, roads and natural disaster evacuation routes.

Cuba will continue to fulfil its commitments under the action programme adopted at the International Conference on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development.

The international community must take urgent and concrete measures to ensure that the resources currently devoted to military purposes are redirected towards activities that generate economic and social development and a life of dignity for all human beings.

El Salvador

[Original: Spanish]
[2 May 2017]

In order to comply with the country's obligations to the United Nations with regard to General Assembly resolution [71/62](#) on the relationship between disarmament and development, the armed forces of El Salvador have taken measures, inter alia, to maintain the commitment to contribute to the maintenance of international peace and security and the promotion of concerted international efforts in the field of disarmament and non-proliferation.

In that connection, since December 2013 the Ministry of Defence of El Salvador has been marking firearms, with a view to combating the national and regional illicit trafficking in firearms to contribute to the maintenance of stability and to promote economic and social development in the region.

Jordan

[Original: Arabic]
[2 June 2017]

The United Nations and the international community devote considerable attention to disarmament and socioeconomic development. This topic is linked to the issue of the arms race and continuing military expenditure, which negatively affect the world's human, financial and natural resources and place a significant burden on national economies.

Foreign debt has risen in the Arab world because Arab States have increased their arms purchases in response to political, economic, financial and social problems, mass migrations forced by the prevailing conditions, the so-called Arab Spring and the presence of terrorist groups. Those factors have, in turn, slowed down the development process. In addition, the tension caused by the threat that Iran poses to the region, the Arab-Israeli conflict, the excessive use of weapons by Israel and Iran and their ongoing development of a strategic and nuclear weapons arsenal have all caused Arab States to seek to obtain weapons in order to achieve a strategic balance in conventional weapons. As a result, expenditure has been redirected from development to the military.

From a humanitarian perspective, the conflict has caused a considerable number of deaths, permanent disabilities and injuries. It has exacerbated unemployment and caused substantial refugee flows, which have destabilized the region's economies, societies, industry, education and development planning.

Terrorism and terrorist organizations have directly affected security and stability in the region and in States around the world. The consequences in political, economic, social and humanitarian terms have been severe. States have been forced to expend huge amounts in order to tackle and suppress terrorism, and their development programmes have suffered as a result.

With regard to security and border control, the presence of variously named terrorist groups in the region has forced States to allocate some of their financial resources to countering smugglers and saboteurs, in order to protect their borders. This, too, has added to their military expenditure. If military expenditure is curbed, disarmament is encouraged and the concept of security through confidence-building is strengthened, it will be possible to allocate financial, human and material resources to civilian purposes and scientific and economic projects that would boost development in the affected States.

At various official forums on armaments, the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan has reiterated that it is fully committed to United Nations non-proliferation and disarmament programmes. It has taken the following steps to develop its legislation at the domestic, regional and international levels:

(a) At the national level, Jordan has promulgated the requisite arms control legislation, regulations and measures, and enacted laws concerning the import, stockpiling, transfer and brokering of arms. Jordan has furthermore cleared minefields along the border and employed a large proportion of that land for agricultural purposes.

(b) At the regional level, Jordan has ratified the conventions on armaments and arms control concluded at the League of Arab States level.

(c) At the international level, Jordan has acceded to several international instruments concerning disarmament and non-proliferation.

Lebanon

[Original: Arabic]
[20 April 2017]

Lebanon has consistently supported international instruments related to disarmament in general and the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction in particular, because such weapons constitute a threat to security and peace, and the money that is spent on them could be used to promote and further development in various areas.

Lebanon is beset by armed violence and is in need of all possible assistance in relieving the suffering that it causes. All means available are being used to promote economic and social development, despite the security and military circumstances that are currently affecting the country and the onerous duties that the army must carry out both along the borders and inside the country with a view to implementing Security Council resolution [1701 \(2006\)](#).

Paraguay

[Original: Spanish]
[28 April 2017]

Paraguay has implemented its 2030 National Development Plan, whose main strategies include poverty reduction and the promotion of social development. For Paraguay, comprehensive security and general welfare are two great ends in themselves, as the former assures defence and the latter guarantees development. For Paraguay, therefore, it is clear that there can be no development without security or vice versa.

In view of the fact that the reform of the disarmament machinery must go hand in hand with the need to eliminate poverty, Paraguay undertakes efforts to maintain balanced military spending, compatible with the inherent right to individual or collective self-defence, and to channel its resources towards initiatives aimed at the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, and in particular target 16.4 to significantly reduce illicit arms flows and combat all forms of organized crime.

In that respect, complying with regional disarmament and arms limitation conventions and with the assistance of the United Nations, Paraguay periodically destroys surplus and obsolete military holdings as part of its commitment to the process of controlling and eliminating illicit arms trafficking and to reduce the risks of storage. In addition, campaigns are conducted to raise awareness among civil society of the need to reduce crime rates and increase citizen security. Paraguay has a policy of destroying surplus firearms and ammunition that are collected or seized instead of selling them in the secondary market.

Disarmament education begins with the dissemination of information. It would be almost impossible to convince Governments to lay down their arms as long as they continue to believe that arms races are essential to international security. In that regard, convinced that transparency in military matters is essential to the establishment of a climate of trust among the countries of the entire world, and pursuant to General Assembly resolution [70/21](#), Paraguay submitted its report on its military expenditures for the financial year 2015 and intends to send it on an annual basis.

Spain

[Original: Spanish]
[22 May 2017]

Spain recognizes fully the need to take effective measures linking disarmament and development, to ensure that these two elements, which share a common focus, are mutually reinforcing.

Suffering and casualties resulting from armed conflict primarily affect civilians, inhibit economic development and reconstruction and hamper access to prosperity in many parts of the world.

Spain has historically reaffirmed its firm commitment to disarmament and development, adopted legislative and operational measures, and promoted active disarmament and development policies in other geographical areas.

Domestically, Spain has one of the world's most advanced pieces of legislation in the field of disarmament, which exceeds the requirements set out in the international treaties and commitments. It also has historically made a considerable effort to contain its military expenditures, which represent about 0.91 per cent of gross domestic product in the current year.

Internationally, Spain has been doing its utmost to help in an effective and coordinated manner to address the challenge of the critical issues of development and disarmament.

This approach is demonstrated clearly in the contributions made by Spain during its terms as Chair of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004) concerning the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, nuclear, chemical and biological, and their delivery systems, Chair of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1718 (2006) concerning Democratic People's Republic of Korea and Security Council Facilitator for the implementation of resolution 2231 (2015) concerning the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) for the Islamic Republic of Iran, which reflect the image of Spain as a trustworthy and responsible country with human resources fully capable of taking on particular fundamental responsibilities crucial to the maintenance of international peace and security.

Spain also supports efforts to promote the universalization, defence and strengthening of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and the entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty.

More specifically, the attitude of Spain with regard to the prohibition and total elimination of anti-personnel mines and other weapons with similar effects has always been to promote universalization of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction, to which Spain is a party. Act No. 33/1998, of 5 October 1998, on the total prohibition of antipersonnel mines and weapons with similar effects is the domestic legal instrument through which the obligations imposed on States under the Convention are incorporated into the Spanish legal system and given broad application and scope. Spain complies strictly with the provisions of the Convention and has adopted appropriate measures that totally prohibit all use, stockpiling, production and transfer of anti-personnel mines. On 3 October 2000, it completed the destruction of its mine stockpiles — with the exception of 4,000 units permitted under the Convention for purposes of experimentation in demining materials and techniques — leaving a current stockpile of 1,613 units. Along with other Governments, Spain also promotes the approval of United Nations resolutions urging all countries to adopt these types of measures.

Spain has also played a committed role in international and regional initiatives concerning the clearance of explosive remnants of war, demining and victim care.

To that end, the International Demining Centre was established at the initiative of the Prime Minister in 2002, and the aim is to make it an international source of expertise in humanitarian demining. The Centre offers various teaching and research capabilities in keeping with United Nations standards and provides technical advice on demining and explosive ordnance disposal.

The Centre runs continuous training and specialization courses for demining personnel from other countries. It also offers classes combining theoretical and practical elements for personnel from the various national entities contributing

personnel to peacekeeping operations prior to their deployment to areas where it is thought that mines have been placed or areas that are contaminated with explosive remnants of war.

The Centre has held 54 courses on humanitarian demining, which were attended by more than 1,000 demining personnel and instructors from 19 countries (Afghanistan, Angola, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Mauritania, Mozambique, Nicaragua, Peru, the Russian Federation, Senegal and Tunisia) and the Organization of American States.

As part of the Global Demining Initiative (promoted by the Governments of Colombia, Norway and the United States), the Centre has provided training in Colombia on humanitarian demining for staff from the Colombian Humanitarian Demining Brigade. That is one of the initiatives financed by the Organization of American States Comprehensive Action against Antipersonnel Mines programme, which has received contributions from the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation.

Furthermore, an International Demining Centre official was in Colombia from March to December 2016 to work with the Colombian Armed Forces on the restructuring of the Colombian international humanitarian demining centre.

Some of the training courses required Spanish instructors to travel to other countries, including Chile, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru. Spain has spent more than 3.5 million euros on humanitarian demining courses since the training initiative began.

During the period covered by this report, the International Demining Centre delivered its course on demining instruction, Course VI, for the Organization of American States. The course took place from 25 January to 18 March 2016 at the Centre facilities. There were 12 participants, from five States members of the Organization of American States (Brazil, Colombia, Honduras, Mexico and Paraguay).

From 3 to 7 October 2016, an officer from the Tunisian navy received training from the Spanish navy on underwater deactivation of improvised explosive devices.

Spain participated in the entire negotiating process of the Convention on Cluster Munitions until its adoption in Dublin on 30 May 2008, signed the Convention on 3 December 2008 in Oslo and deposited the ratification instrument on 17 June 2009, becoming the tenth signatory country to ratify the Convention. The Convention entered into force for Spain on 1 August 2010.

In March 2009, before the Convention entered into force, the Spanish armed forces destroyed their entire arsenal of cluster munitions, with the exception of those which, in accordance with article 3.6 of the Convention, may be retained for the development of and training in cluster munition detection, clearance or destruction techniques, or for the development of countermeasures. The Spanish armed forces currently possess 110 mortar rounds and five air-dropped bombs for such purposes.

Spain also hosts a North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) centre of excellence on countering improvised explosive devices, which has a multinational workforce of 58 (32 national and 26 international staff) and serves as a source of expertise in the context of NATO efforts to counter improvised explosive devices. In November 2010, the North Atlantic Council approved the Centre's accreditation as a NATO centre of excellence and an international military organization.

As part of the efforts to develop the capacities of the Iraqi armed forces in order to improve the security of the Iraqi population, Spain has provided assistance in the form of counter-improvised explosive device training for Iraqi military personnel. This training was delivered in Jordan by Spanish staff from the NATO Counter-Improvised Explosive Devices Centre of Excellence, which is based in Hoyo de Manzanares, Spain.

In the context of the European Union, Spain supports Joint Action 97/817/CFSP of 28 November 1997 on anti-personnel landmines, which covers actions in such places as Mozambique, Cambodia, Afghanistan, Central America and Angola.

In this regard, and strictly in line with its development assistance policy, Spain continues to promote humanitarian mine clearance efforts and multilateral actions needed to develop technologies for the location, disposal and destruction of mines currently deployed in other countries. It also continues to provide support and assistance for the training of expert officials in demining and victim assistance and physical and psychological recovery (awareness, education and rehabilitation of affected populations). Spain has contributed explosive ordnance disposal teams that have carried out demining work in sensitive areas as part of deployments of the International Security Force in Kosovo,³ the Stabilization Force,⁴ the European Union military operation in Bosnia and Herzegovina (ALTHEA),⁵ the International Security Assistance Force and United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon.

In short, all these actions reflect the financial and technical support provided by Spain for existing programmes. Spain also contributes to the United Nations International Partnership Trust Fund, which supports those programmes.

The linkage between development and disarmament can also be seen in Spain's policy to control the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects. Spain fully implements the Programme of Action developed at the United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, held in July 2001. Most of the Programme's provisions have a lower level of requirement compared to the set of rules being applied by Spain currently. Spain is also bound by the European Union Code of Conduct on Arms Exports, adopted by the Council of the European Union in 1998, concerning the approval or rejection of exports of defence-related or dual-use materials.

To control the trade in arms, Spain has established a reliable system whereby the Inter-Ministerial Regulatory Board for External Trade in Defence-Related and Dual-Use Materials conducts compulsory and binding reviews of administrative authorizations relating to trade in defence-related and dual-use materials. To authorize these import and export operations, the Board takes into consideration the following instruments that ensure that exported weapons do not fall into the hands of countries or organizations that impede the free development of their people:

- European Union Council Common Position 2008/944/CFSP defining common rules governing control of exports of military technology and equipment
- European Union Code of Conduct on Arms Exports
- Act No. 53/2007, of 28 December 2007, on the control of foreign trade in defence-related and dual-use materials, further elaborated in Royal Decree No. 2061/2008.

³ There has been no Spanish presence in the International Security Force in Kosovo since 2009.

⁴ The Stabilization Force in Bosnia and Herzegovina mission has been replaced by the European Union military operation ALTHEA.

⁵ No Spanish units since 2010.

With regard to its foreign operations, Spain devotes significant military resources, both human and technical, to the conduct of disarmament, peacekeeping and assistance missions throughout the world. It supports and has participated in initiatives undertaken by the United Nations, NATO and the European Union in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Kosovo, Angola, Mozambique, Central America, Lebanon, the Gulf of Eden and Afghanistan. Of particular note is the contribution made by Spain since November 2016 to the contingent of United Nations observers of the Colombian peace process.

The number of Spanish troops deployed abroad was approximately 2,100 in 2016. They were primarily involved in peacekeeping missions in Lebanon; efforts to counter jihadist terrorism (Daesh); the delivery of capacity-building in the areas of security and defence in the Sahel, the Central African Republic and the Horn of Africa; efforts to combat piracy in Somalia; efforts to combat human trafficking in the Mediterranean; and peacebuilding, development and reconstruction missions in conflict-affected areas such as Colombia.

Spain reaffirms its determination to continue its efforts to ensure that disarmament and development are two of the pillars supporting a stronger international community and the stability and prosperity of its peoples. The central role of the United Nations and its competent organs in this regard should continue to be enhanced in pursuance of the overall goal of promoting international peace and security.

Ukraine

[Original: English]
[28 April 2017]

Ukraine understands the importance of redirecting the expenditures from military to civil purposes. It fully supports the endeavours of States and diverse international governmental and non-governmental organizations to undertake measures in this regard.

However, since 2014 Ukraine has been facing severe military aggression from Russia. The Russian terrorist forces continue to conduct offensives in eastern Ukraine. The aggressor State builds up its military capacities in the occupied Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol impeding the security not only in the Black Sea area, but in the whole south of Europe as well as North Africa and the Middle East.

Under such conditions Ukraine is forced to increase financing for military purposes in order to defend its territorial integrity and sovereignty. Currently, the invader State makes it impossible to pursue economic and social development by implementing disarmament and arms limitation measures. Ukraine's efforts are directed towards the restoration of peace and security in the country and the reinstatement of control over internationally recognized borders.

Therefore, only the full compliance by all Member States, first and foremost for Ukraine by Russia, with the Charter of the United Nations could create the indispensable preconditions to achieve economic and social development accordance with General Assembly resolution [71/62](#) on the relationship between disarmament and development.

IV. Reply received from the European Union

[Original: English]

[27 July 2017]

Disarmament and development are interrelated, notably regarding small arms and light weapons. As already recognized in 2001 in the United Nations Programme of Action, the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons has a wide range of humanitarian and socioeconomic consequences and causes a serious threat to peace, reconciliation, safety, security, stability and sustainable development at the individual, local, national, regional and international levels. Target 16.4 of the Sustainable Development Goals explicitly mentions the objective of significantly reducing, by 2030, illicit financial and arms flows. The European Union, in its strategy to combat the illicit accumulation and trafficking of small arms and light weapons and their ammunition adopted by the Council of the European Union on 16 December 2005, responds to the accumulation and trafficking of small arms and light weapons and their ammunition and underlines the need for consistent security and development policies.

In a concrete follow-up to the small arms and light weapons anti-trafficking strategy, the European Union provides considerable assistance through a number of projects to various countries to strengthen the action against accumulation and spread of small arms and light weapons. The priorities include stockpile management, the destruction of surplus and confiscated small arms and light weapons, capacity-building for marking, record keeping and tracing small arms and light weapons and tracking the sources of illicit weapons and ammunition in conflict affected areas. The European Union is also assisting countries to enhance their national arms transfer control systems to prevent weapons from falling into unauthorized hands. The European Union also financially supports the activities of the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs and, more generally, confidence-building and transparency measures on arms transfers, which can contribute to minimizing the arms race. European Union support to the Arms Trade Treaty can be mentioned in this regard.

In addition to small arms and light weapons, disarmament projects are also funded by the European Union regarding anti-personnel landmines and chemical weapons. All European Union member States are parties to the respective conventions banning landmines and chemical weapons and requiring their destruction by States parties. European Union support is notably provided to a number of States parties to complete such destruction.

Under various development-related financial instruments, the European Union also funds projects relevant to disarmament, demobilization and reintegration within its larger post-conflict peacebuilding efforts.
