



# General Assembly

Distr.: General  
23 June 2022

Original: English

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## Seventy-seventh session

Item 100 (a) of the preliminary list\*

**Review and implementation of the Concluding Document  
of the Twelfth Special Session of the General Assembly:  
United Nations disarmament fellowship, training and  
advisory services**

## **United Nations disarmament fellowship, training and advisory services programme**

### **Report of the Secretary-General**

#### *Summary*

In 2021, 19 fellows (10 women and 9 men) completed the disarmament fellowship programme. The long-standing programme tailored its curricula to adjust to restrictions linked to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19), introducing new virtual segments to complement or substitute for site visits.

The programme is aimed at strengthening fellows' expertise and professional training in negotiation techniques and multilateral diplomacy, their critical thinking and understanding of factors that either foster or undermine disarmament efforts, the ability to bridge political, regional and technological divides by bringing together ideas and attitudes that promote tolerance, dialogue and concerted international efforts towards disarmament. In preparing the fellows for their future roles in the field of disarmament and arms control, the programme addresses theory and practice and combines first-hand impressions and knowledge of weapons and their effects, with direct interaction and networking with key representatives of the disarmament community. To date, the programme has trained 1,077 officials from 171 States, a large number of whom hold positions of responsibility in the field of disarmament and international security within their own Governments.

The Secretary-General is pleased to note the contribution of the programme of fellowships on disarmament to a greater awareness of the importance of disarmament, arms control and non-proliferation. The Secretary-General expresses his appreciation to all the Member States and international organizations that have supported the programme throughout the years, thereby contributing to its success.

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\* [A/77/50](#).



## **I. Introduction**

1. In its resolution 75/74, entitled “United Nations disarmament fellowship, training and advisory services”, the General Assembly, inter alia, commended the Secretary-General for the diligence with which the programme had continued to be carried out and requested him to continue to implement annually the programme within existing resources and to report thereon to the Assembly at its seventy-seventh session. The present report is submitted pursuant to that mandate.

## **II. Programme of fellowships on disarmament**

### **A. Fellowships for 2021**

2. A total of 19 fellowships were awarded in 2021 (10 women and 9 men). Efforts were taken to achieve the equal, full and effective participation of both women and men as well as equitable geographical representation among the 2021 fellows.<sup>1</sup>

### **B. Programme of studies in 2021**

3. The programme continues to address the theory and the practice of disarmament. On the one hand, it consists of lectures, presentations, round tables, panels and other forms of interactive group discussion with senior diplomats and officials from international organizations and representatives of academic institutions, civil society and think tanks on the functioning of the disarmament machinery and key disarmament issues. On the other hand, it comprises field visits, demonstrations of on-site inspections, visits to weapons destruction facilities, nuclear test sites, nuclear reactors and scientific laboratories, research projects, simulations of multilateral negotiations and other practical exercises. The activities of the programme in 2021 are summarized below.

4. The 2021 programme offered a hybrid format of virtual and in-person activities spanning the three traditional programmatic segments: an introduction to the United Nations disarmament machinery and norms; practical disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control study visits; and familiarization with multilateral efforts at Headquarters. The 19 fellows, who had initially been selected for the 2020 programme which was cancelled owing to the COVID-19 pandemic, took part in the revamped programme between 6 September and 29 October 2021.

#### **Introduction to the United Nations disarmament machinery and norms**

5. The first segment of the 2021 programme was held at the United Nations Office at Geneva and at other locations in Switzerland. In addition to receiving a general introduction to the disarmament machinery and international humanitarian law, the fellows were exposed to various aspects of multilateral work on disarmament, including potential negotiations, through the work of the Conference on

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<sup>1</sup> Shah Md Ashraful Alam Mohon (Bangladesh), Erika Helena Campos (Brazil), Aleksandra Aleksandrova Atanasova (Bulgaria), Saleh Mahamat Nour (Chad), Aixa Paumier López (Cuba), Maria Estrella Mikue Owono (Equatorial Guinea), Shota Mchedlishvili (Georgia), Abylaikhan Bogenbaiuly (Kazakhstan), Abdirahman Abdullahi Abdi (Kenya), Aidyn Seidakhmatov (Kyrgyzstan), Michelle Al Asmar (Lebanon), Gabija Luksaite (Lithuania), Elodie Lydia Moana Raseta (Madagascar), Nizhan Faraz Bin Rizal (Malaysia), Gabdo Togo (Mali), Ana Alicia Kubli Sobrino (Mexico), Bandar Mahdi S. Alnahdi (Saudi Arabia), Abdul Kareem Al Mekdad (Syrian Arab Republic) and Choolwe Mulenga Chikolwa (Zambia).

Disarmament, and some Geneva-based treaty regimes<sup>2</sup> and research institutions dealing with disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control. The fellows also took part in practical exercises on applying weapons law and the rules of procedure of the Conference on Disarmament. They were required to initiate research on a topic of their choice relating to disarmament, arms control, non-proliferation and international security.

6. The fellows attended plenary meetings of the Conference on Disarmament and were briefed on a wide range of issues, including the key topics of the agenda, history, achievements and current challenges faced by the Conference. They also attended plenary meetings of the second Review Conference of the States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions, were briefed on the content, status and operation of the Geneva-based disarmament and arms control treaties, the work of the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research, the latest development in such fields as, inter alia, the use of explosive weapons in populated areas, improvised explosive devices, the impact of science and technology on the means and methods of warfare, including lethal autonomous weapons systems and cyberwarfare, engaging non-State armed actors, and the role of non-governmental organizations in the multilateral disarmament process. Complementary briefings were given by the Mine Action Service, the International Committee of the Red Cross, the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining and the Geneva Centre for Security Policy, as well as by representatives of civil society (Control Arms).

7. In addition, the fellows held meetings with representatives of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs of Switzerland and the Swiss Parliament, during which they were briefed on Swiss foreign and security policy, with a focus on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, mine action, efforts relating to small arms and light weapons, ammunition management, export control, private security services, emerging technologies and arms control.

#### **Practical disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control: national and intergovernmental site visits**

8. The second segment of the 2021 programme comprised study visits to several intergovernmental organizations: the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) in The Hague and the Reactor Institute Delft at Delft University of Technology, the Netherlands; the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization, and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), in Vienna; and the European Union, in Brussels. That segment of the programme would usually include country study visits to Member States, at their invitation, but owing to the COVID-19 restrictions, most such visits were cancelled and some were replaced, on an exceptional basis, by virtual or in-presence events in Geneva or New York.

9. At OPCW, the fellows were briefed on the origins, operation and status, implementation at the national level, as well as future priorities and challenges relating to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction. They learned

<sup>2</sup> The Convention on the Prohibition of Military or Any Other Hostile Use of Environmental Modification Techniques (1976), the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects (1980) and its annexed protocols, the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction (1972), the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction (1997), the Convention on Cluster Munitions (2008) and the Arms Trade Treaty (2013).

about the Organization's contributions to disarmament and non-proliferation efforts and to promoting international cooperation and assistance, and were updated on activities in relation to the Syrian Arab Republic. Also included in the programme were an introduction to the OPCW laboratory and equipment store, to the Centre for Chemistry and Technology project and a demonstration of equipment for an on-site inspection.

10. During their stay in The Hague, the fellows also visited the nuclear reactor at the Reactor Institute Delft (Delft University of Technology) and were briefed on nuclear technology and non-proliferation and on the scientific and technological aspects of nuclear weapons.

11. The study visit to IAEA comprised briefings on the international legal framework and the implementation of the Agency safeguards system, on the safety and security of nuclear materials and radioactive sources and on the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. Visits to the IAEA laboratories in Seibersdorf, Austria, the Incident and Emergency Centre, and the safeguards equipment laboratory at the Vienna International Centre were also included.

12. During the visit to the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, the fellows received comprehensive briefings on the origins and status of the Treaty, the functioning of the verification regime and its civil and scientific applications, the continuing efforts towards the universalization and entry into force of the Treaty, the work of the Preparatory Commission and the structure of the international monitoring system. They had a tour of the Organization's Operations Centre, the International Data Centre, and an international monitoring system facility, and participated in a group quiz.

13. While in Vienna, the fellows were briefed on the functioning of export control regimes, in particular, the Wassenaar Arrangement on Export Controls for Conventional Arms and Dual-Use Goods and Technologies, the Nuclear Suppliers Group, and the Zangger Committee. Through a virtual visit to OSCE they were introduced to OSCE work in the political-military dimension and received updates on the involvement of OSCE in arms control and in maintaining security and cooperation in Europe and beyond.

14. The fellows also visited the Vienna Centre for Disarmament and Non-Proliferation and heard presentations on the topic of "Weapons of mass destruction and arms control in the Middle East: challenges and opportunities", and on arms control agreements between the United States of America and the Russian Federation (and previously, between the United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics). In Vienna they were also briefed on the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons and first Meeting of States Parties to the Treaty.

15. The study visit to the European Union included, inter alia, briefings on the European Union Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Consortium, European Union policy on weapons of mass destruction and conventional weapons, including emerging technologies, missile defence and space security, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), the role of the European Union with respect to the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, as well as a visit to the European Parliament and meetings with a member of the European Parliament and representatives of the European External Action Service.

16. Owing to the travel restrictions imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic, the usual study visits to Japan, Kazakhstan and the Republic of Korea were, on an exceptional basis, replaced by encounters with senior national officials, as well as virtual visits and events.

### **Familiarization with multilateral diplomatic efforts at Headquarters**

17. The third segment of the programme is held at Headquarters and is intended to further familiarize the fellows with other key disarmament, arms control and non-proliferation issues, as well as with the work of the First Committee of the General Assembly and the mandate and activities of the Office for Disarmament Affairs. In 2021, this segment of the programme included a panel on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation and a panel on strategic cooperation between the United States and the Russian Federation.

18. The fellows attended briefings by the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs and senior staff of the Office for Disarmament Affairs, senior diplomats and representatives of civil society and academic institutions on a range of subjects, including: nuclear doctrines and approaches; the functioning of the First Committee; the Disarmament Commission; the Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters; the responsibilities and activities of the Office for Disarmament Affairs; items included on the agenda of the First Committee; and multilateral diplomacy and decision-making within the United Nations. The fellows had the opportunity to attend meetings of the First Committee.

19. While in New York, the fellows took part in a simulated negotiation exercise on a General Assembly resolution. The exercise included the coordination of group positions, introduction, negotiations and action on a resolution on lethal autonomous weapons systems.

20. During the segment, the fellows finalized their research work on a topic of their choosing relating to disarmament, arms control, non-proliferation and international security, and made presentations on their key findings. At the end of the programme, the fellows were awarded certificates of participation by the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs and the Chair of the First Committee.

### **C. Preparations for the 2022 programme**

21. The selection of fellows and programmatic visits for the 2022 programme is complete, with 25 candidates having been identified (13 women and 12 men).<sup>3</sup> The 2022 programme is scheduled to be held from 22 August to 28 October and will generally follow the traditional syllabus, bearing in mind the continued restrictions linked to the pandemic and in keeping with recent developments in the field of disarmament and non-proliferation.

## **III. Conclusion**

22. The United Nations programme of fellowships on disarmament was established by the General Assembly at its tenth special session, in 1978, with a view to

<sup>3</sup> Walid Medar (Algeria), Aminata Ivone Kaputu Cabina (Angola), Alyssa Ladina Salonge Weste (Antigua and Barbuda), Maite Milagros Unzaga (Argentina), Soksamnang Nov (Cambodia), Marise Mounir Habib Morcos (Egypt), Lucile Coralie Robin (France), Mabel Ama Owusua Attigah (Ghana), Gonzalo Mauricio Vásquez Orozco (Guatemala), Sosheena Foranda Parmanand (Guyana), Néstor Ivan Pérez Gradiz (Honduras), Szabolcs Svercsok (Hungary), Ika Fitriyana Kusumaningrum (Indonesia), Syed Mohsen Sajjadi (Iran (Islamic Republic of)), Rawad M.A. Shalabi (Libya), Marija Jovović (Montenegro), Alaa Mazher Bokhari (Pakistan), Symone Esichang Ubedei (Palau), Natalia Agnieszka Hapek (Poland), Sheldon Terrence Henry (Saint Kitts and Nevis), Bwerani Chuquel Useni Acton (Suriname), Malessinani Akaolo (Togo), Bekhzod Kodirov (Uzbekistan), Viet Dung Van (Viet Nam), and Akram Ahmed Ismail Sallam (Yemen).

promoting expertise in disarmament in Member States, especially in developing countries. During its 44 years of operation, the programme has trained 1,077 officials from 171 States. Today, many alumni hold positions of responsibility in the field of disarmament, including senior positions within their own Governments and in relevant international organizations. The broad support for the biennial resolution on the United Nations disarmament fellowship, training and advisory services and the large number of nominations for the programme received every year by the Office for Disarmament Affairs are testimony to the quality of the fellowship programme and the interest of Member States in the programme. The Secretary-General is particularly satisfied with the high number of women nominated for participation in the programme during the reporting period.

23. The Secretary-General reiterates his gratitude to all States and organizations that have supported the programme throughout the years, thereby contributing to its success.

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