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General and complete disarmament

Women, disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control

Report of the Secretary-General

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



I. Introduction

1. The General Assembly, in its resolution [75/48](#), entitled “Women, disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control”, urged Member States, relevant subregional and regional organizations, the United Nations and the specialized agencies to promote equal opportunities for the representation of women in all decision-making processes with regard to matters related to disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control and urged Member States to strengthen the effective participation of women in organizations in the field of disarmament.
2. The General Assembly also encouraged Member States to better understand the impact of armed violence, in particular the impact of the illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons, on women and girls; to develop national action plans on women and peace and security; to strengthen the collection of data disaggregated by sex and age; and to develop appropriate and effective national risk assessment criteria to facilitate the prevention of the use of arms to commit violence against women.
3. The General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to seek the views of Member States on ways and means of promoting the role of women in disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control and to report to the Assembly at its seventy-seventh session on the implementation of resolution [75/48](#). The present report is submitted in accordance with that request.
4. In that connection, a note verbale was sent to all Member States, relevant United Nations entities and other international organizations seeking their views on the subject. The replies received or an executive summary of the reply are contained in sections II, III and IV of the present report. Any views received after 31 May 2022 will be posted on the website of the Office for Disarmament Affairs in the original language received.

II. Replies received from Governments

Australia

[Original: English]
[31 May 2022]

Australia strongly supports the full and equal participation of women in disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control and the implementation of resolution [75/48](#). Gender-inclusive responses to global and regional challenges are at the core of Australia’s foreign policy and are necessary for stability, security and prosperity. Linking resolution [75/48](#) to related agendas – including the women and peace and security agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals – facilitates the achievement of mutually reinforcing objectives.

Australia has taken a number of steps to implement resolution [75/48](#) and promote the role of women in disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control, including but not limited to the following:

- Our National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security 2021–2031 outlines Australia’s aim to “increase women’s participation and leadership in Australia’s security sector and diplomatic sector”.¹ Australia promotes this in a number of ways, including through the advocacy work of Australia’s Ambassador for Women and Girls.

¹ Australia, National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security 2021–2031, 2021, p. 49.

- Australia is proud to have women represent Australia, at home and abroad, on issues of disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control, including the following examples:
 - o Australia's inaugural (2020–2022) Ambassador for Arms Control and Counter-Proliferation, Amanda Gorely, is now Ambassador for Disarmament in Geneva
 - o Sally Mansfield, Australia's then Ambassador for Disarmament, assumed the presidency of the second session of the Conference on Disarmament in 2020
 - o Several women experts have been nominated to participate in multiple United Nations group of governmental experts meetings
 - o Australia applies the 40/40/20 formula (40 per cent women, 40 per cent men, 20 per cent any gender) to its delegations to all multilateral forums on disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control
- Australia advocates for the inclusion of commitments and language that promote gender perspectives in disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control. During Australia's presidency of the Conference on Disarmament in 2020, Australia proposed a technical amendment to introduce gender-neutral language to the rules of procedure – a step towards full, equal and meaningful participation – and continues to advocate for this outcome.
- Australia has been pleased to note the growing focus on gender equality and gendered perspectives during the current review cycle of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and will continue to advocate for this work. Australia co-sponsored the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research working papers “Integrating gender perspectives in the implementation of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons”,² submitted to the 2019 Preparatory Committee for the 2020 Review Conference, and “From pillars to progress: gender mainstreaming in the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons”,³ submitted to the tenth Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty.
- Through Australia's former role as Co-Chair of the Group of Friends for Women in Nuclear, which comprises 35 Member States, Australia worked in consultation with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to identify practical initiatives to increase the representation of women in IAEA, including on training for women educators, and earmarked some of its contribution to the IAEA Marie Skłodowska-Curie Fellowship Programme in 2022 for women from Pacific Island countries.
- Australia is a strong supporter of the United Nations Trust Facility Supporting Cooperation on Arms Regulation, for which donors have agreed that proposals must demonstrate that they have taken gender considerations into account.
- Australia consistently prioritizes mine action assistance that is gender-responsive and was pleased to support the translation of the Gender Guidelines for Mine Action Programmes in 2021.
- Australia's International Cyber and Critical Engagement Tech Strategy contains “diversity and gender equality” as a core value, and, together with Canada, the Netherlands, New Zealand, the United Kingdom and the United States, Australia launched the Women in International Security and Cyberspace Fellowship.

² [NPT/CONF.2020/PC.III/WP.27](#).

³ [NPT/CONF.2020/WP.54](#).

Notwithstanding the essential work done by women, they continue to be underrepresented, particularly in positions of leadership, representation and influence. Member States can take practical steps to further enable the full and equal participation of women in disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control.

For example, Member States can deepen their understanding of gender as a cross-cutting issue in international security and systematize intersectional gender analyses, including disaggregated data. Australia also encourages Member States to recognize, promote and celebrate the contribution of women in disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control. Gender diversity and inclusion should be considered when appointing delegations, experts or panel participants.

Member States should also seek to strengthen action on gender equality and inclusion in the structures, policies and workplaces of organizations working on disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control. This could also include the appointment of gender specialists and provision of adequate resources for the integration of gender considerations.

For further details, we encourage Member States to consider Australia's full submission for the report of the Secretary General on the implementation of General Assembly resolution [75/48](#) on the Office for Disarmament Affairs website.

Burkina Faso

[Original: French]
[31 May 2022]

Burkina Faso has made the issue of gender in general and women in particular a major public policy priority. Consequently, women lie at the heart of concerns in the fight for disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control.

In order to combat poverty and ensure the resilience of women, Burkina Faso has put in place resources dedicated exclusively to the promotion of women's economic empowerment. These resources allow women to establish income-generating activities and to integrate into the economic fabric of Burkina Faso. This empowerment allows women to escape certain forms of violence, including armed violence in society.

Women are major actors in non-proliferation and combating the illicit flow of arms: they are victims of armed violence but they can also be perpetrators or accomplices in cases of such violence.

Burkina Faso has ratified the Arms Trade Treaty and the Economic Community of West African States Convention on Small Arms and Light Weapons, Their Ammunition and Other Related Materials. While the first of those legal instruments regulates the conventional arms trade at the international level, the purpose of the second is to combat, inter alia, proliferation, transfer, use and manufacture in the West African community. Burkina Faso endorses the provisions of article 7.4 of the Arms Trade Treaty, which reads: "The exporting State Party, in making this assessment, shall take into account the risk of the conventional arms covered under article 2 (1) or of the items covered under article 3 or article 4 being used to commit or facilitate serious acts of gender-based violence or serious acts of violence against women and children". In other words, Burkina Faso, which for the past seven years has been the victim of terrorist attacks and kidnappings on its territory, has remained especially vigilant with regard to the transfer of arms within the country or through its jurisdiction. It ensures that such transfers will not be used to commit serious acts of violence against women, girls, children and vulnerable persons.

In the terrorist attacks attributed to armed terrorists, women and children were killed in some localities of the country. The situation has also caused the displacement within the country of more than 1 million people, most of whom are women and children living in precarious conditions who are unable to gain access to basic social services such as education and health.

Given its geographical position in West Africa, Burkina Faso suffers from the negative impact of weapons on the population in general and on women and children in particular. The country shares a porous border of more than 1,300 km with the sister Republic of Mali. The Libyan crisis of 2011 brought weapons into the country that were in the hands of terrorist and secessionist groups.

Burkina Faso cannot guarantee arms control alone because of the deleterious security situation in the Sahel. Only synergistic actions by the fully committed countries of the region will bring about solutions in line with the concept of women, disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control. In view of the above, Burkina Faso hopes that other sister nations, international, regional and subregional organizations and bodies will help to make the disarmament of non-State armed groups and the control of arms flows a top priority.

Cambodia

[Original: English]
[31 May 2022]

The topic of the resolution is “Women, disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control”, and it was approved on 7 December 2020. This resolution was proposed by the Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago back in September 2010, with the aim of addressing the impacts of war on women and promoting women’s participation in conflict resolution mechanisms and peacekeeping. The Kingdom of Cambodia has not taken any action at the national level related to this resolution, despite becoming a signatory to the Arms Trade Treaty on 10 October 2013.

In support of the international legal provisions to eliminate nuclear weapons and weapons of mass destruction in the country, the region and the world, Cambodia has implemented Security Council resolution [1540 \(2004\)](#) and complied with a number of international organizations and agreements that support the reduction of risks posed by nuclear weapons or materials, as follows:

- International Atomic Energy Agency-developed Integrated Nuclear Security Support Plan
- European Union Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Risk Mitigation Centres of Excellence Initiative
- United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute
- Agreements with partner countries

In addition, Cambodia has promulgated many national laws and regulations to mitigate nuclear risks, including the following:

- Constitution of the Kingdom of Cambodia
- Law on Anti-Money-Laundering and Combating the Financing of Terrorism
- Law on Customs
- Law on Counter-Terrorism
- Law on Prohibition of Chemical, Nuclear, Biological and Radiological Weapons

- Law on Combating the Financing of the Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destructions

Cambodia has also established the following national institutions responsible for matters related to the nuclear sector:

- National Authority for the Prevention of Chemical, Nuclear, Biological and Radiological Weapons
- Ministry of Mines and Energy
- Ministry of Health
- General Department of Customs and Excise
- Secretariat of the National Counter-Terrorism Committee

Honduras

[Original: Spanish]
[17 May 2022]

In response to the request of the Office for Disarmament Affairs to Member States regarding compliance with resolution [75/48](#) relating to the sub-item entitled “Women, disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control”, the Government of Honduras reports that women and men both have the same opportunities. Furthermore, as the guarantor of human rights and, in the specific case of gender equality, the Armed Forces are willing to faithfully comply with international conventions and United Nations resolutions whose purpose is to achieve gender equality in all spheres and in decision-making processes.

India

[Original: English]
[31 May 2022]

India attaches high importance to promoting gender equality and the meaningful participation of women in achieving international peace and security.

India welcomes the fact that resolution [75/48](#) recognizes that the role of women in disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control should be further developed, in particular the need to facilitate the participation and representation of women in policymaking, planning and implementation processes related to disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control.

Armed conflicts have a devastating impact on the lives and dignity of women. The evolving nature of the conduct of hostilities involving armed non-State actors has placed women and girls in war-torn, fragile and humanitarian contexts at great risk of being subjected to violence and discrimination.

India is cognizant that addressing such complex challenges requires close cooperation, collaboration and coordination between Member States and other relevant stakeholders across multiple forums and in a sustained manner. India participates actively in various United Nations forums that invest in and accelerate progress towards gender equality. India has also been among the major contributors to the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) since its inception.

Women have held leadership positions in the Indian Ministries of External Affairs and Defence and have led India’s disarmament and arms control efforts.

Indian women have excelled at the United Nations and various international organizations and have occupied prominent positions as negotiators. Hansa Mehta's stellar efforts as India's delegate to the Human Rights Commission in 1947–1948 culminated in the replacement of the phrase “all men are born free and equal” in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights with “all human beings are born free and equal”. In 1953, Vijay Lakshmi Pandit became the first woman to be elected President of the General Assembly. Over the decades, several women ambassadors have ably represented India at various multilateral forums on disarmament and international security, including the Conference on Disarmament, the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons and the Board of Governors of the International Atomic Energy Agency. India is pleased to note that its expert who is participating in the Group of Governmental Experts on the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms, Muanpuui Saiawi, is chairing the three sessions of the Group during the period 2022–2023.

India works closely with UN-Women, United Nations peacekeeping operations and other relevant United Nations agencies to advance women's role and participation in matters relating to international security. India's contribution of the female formed police unit to the United Nations Mission in Liberia represented the first-ever women contingent in the history of United Nations peacekeeping operations and was lauded as a role model by the United Nations when the United Nations Mission in Liberia was wound up in March 2018.

We strongly believe in capacity-building to complement various cross-cutting efforts in promoting the participation and agency of women in peace and security issues. In this context, India actively encourages the participation of women diplomats in its Annual Disarmament and International Security Affairs Fellowship, launched in 2019. India has hosted specialized courses for women military officers in partnership with UN-Women at the Centre for United Nations Peacekeeping in New Delhi. India has also taken the lead in hosting specialized training courses for peacekeepers relating to sexual violence in armed conflict situations.

India is pleased to note efforts by Member States to mainstream gender perspectives and promote the equal participation of women in various disarmament and non-proliferation forums and instruments. A number of General Assembly resolutions and group of governmental experts reports pertaining to disarmament and international security exhort the international community to achieve this aim, and they enjoy India's support.

India stands ready to contribute to further international efforts relating to both the normative and the practical aspects of promoting women's participation and role in disarmament and international security.

Lebanon

[Original: Arabic]
[31 May 2022]

The Ministry of National Defence is empowering women and strengthening their participation in the field of disarmament by integrating them into units that deal with disarmament and non-proliferation. The Lebanese Army has put that idea into practice; women are represented in all units.

Mexico

[Original: Spanish]

[31 May 2022]

Mexico is submitting this document pursuant to General Assembly resolution [75/48](#), entitled “Women, disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control”, by which the Secretary-General is requested to seek the views of Member States on ways of promoting the role of women in disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control.

The gender perspective is of increasing importance in the field of disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control. Thanks to the work of the United Nations and the efforts of the international community, this perspective stands now on a firm foundation that supports the work done in this area.

Mexico pays special attention to the role played by women in conflict prevention and resolution, as well as in peace negotiations, peacebuilding and peacekeeping; humanitarian response; and post-conflict reconstruction. Great importance is attached to the full involvement and equal participation of women in all initiatives aimed at maintaining and promoting peace and security.

In January 2020, Mexico announced the adoption of a feminist foreign policy, which aims to reduce and eliminate structural differences, gaps and inequalities between genders in order to build a more just and prosperous society. The Government of Mexico was the first in Latin America to adopt a feminist foreign policy.

For Mexico, gender mainstreaming implies the full involvement and equal participation of both men and women. Mainstreaming the gender perspective in the disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control agenda could facilitate disarmament, demobilization and reintegration processes.

The promotion and mainstreaming of gender equality, and of the women and peace and security agenda, in the context of the work of the Security Council, have been a priority for Mexico as an elected member of the Council in the period from 2021 to 2022.

Mexico currently co-chairs the Informal Expert Group on Women and Peace and Security of the Council. In 2021, the group met eight times to issue recommendations related to the following situations of which the Council is seized: Afghanistan, Haiti, Lebanon, Libya, Mali, Somalia, South Sudan and Yemen. Mexico also held a meeting with the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict.

Mexico promoted Security Council resolution [2616 \(2021\)](#) on the impact of small arms and light weapons on international peace and security. In the resolution, the Council urged Member States to mainstream perspectives that take into account the disproportionate impact of the flows of illicitly trafficked weapons on women and children in policymaking and implementation processes of programmes to combat the illicit trafficking and diversion of arms and related materiel of all types, and recognized the importance of women’s full, equal and meaningful participation in all such efforts.

During the most recent United Nations Peacekeeping Ministerial Conference (Seoul, 7 and 8 December 2021), Mexico announced an increase in its deployment of uniformed women specialists in human rights, gender equality, military justice, psychology and social work.

During the reporting period, 19 uniformed women from the Mexican Armed Forces were deployed in four peacekeeping operations: Central African Republic,

India and Pakistan, Mali and Western Sahara, as well as in the special political mission in Colombia. Currently, about 35 per cent of the Mexican personnel deployed in peacekeeping operations are women.

In line with the women and peace and security agenda, in 2021, the Mexican Joint Training Centre for Peace Operations was the venue for the United Nations mandatory pre-deployment course with a gender focus.

In January 2021, Mexico presented its first national action plan in accordance with Security Council resolution [1325 \(2000\)](#) on women and peace and security. The first report on its implementation will be presented during the first half of 2022.

At the Generation Equality Forum, held in 2021, Mexico promoted the establishment of the Compact on Women, Peace and Security and Humanitarian Action and signed five specific commitments on gender issues.

As a member of the International Atomic Energy Agency, Mexico continues to participate in the Group of Friends for Women in Nuclear, established in 2017. Its purpose is to promote joint efforts to increase the representation of women at the secretariat of the Agency through practical initiatives.

Mexico will continue to participate in all initiatives undertaken by international organizations and disarmament forums aimed at strengthening the gender perspective and increasing the participation of women in disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control issues, as well as in conflict prevention and resolution and peacekeeping.

Poland

[Original: English]
[31 May 2022]

Poland continuously strives towards the full, equal and meaningful participation of women in all aspects of peace and security processes. It is crucial to ensure equal opportunities for the representation of women in all discussions and decision-making processes, including with regard to matters related to disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control, in particular as it relates to the prevention and reduction of armed conflicts, which are the source of violence, in particular against women and girls.

Poland supported General Assembly resolution [75/48](#), entitled “Women, disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control”, and joined the group of sponsors of this document. The provisions of the resolution are in line with Poland’s active engagement in the implementation of the United Nations women and peace and security agenda.

On the basis of the priorities of the Polish National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security (2018–2023), Poland supports all activities aimed at enhancing the involvement of women in conflict prevention and disarmament initiatives. More inclusive mechanisms incorporating women’s and youth perspectives are essential to meeting current and future security challenges.

One of the priorities of the Polish National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security is combating conflict-related sexual violence and violence against women and girls. Therefore, Poland is committed to taking effective steps to eliminate these phenomena, bearing in mind the increasing, worrying tendencies to use violence as a weapon of war. Protection of and support for the victims of conflict-related sexual and gender-based violence is equally important.

Poland strives to ensure that women are represented at all levels of its delegations to international meetings on disarmament, non-proliferation and arms

control and undertakes actions to facilitate the participation and representation of women in policymaking, planning and implementation processes in this field.

Poland supports joint statements and declarations advocating strengthening the linkages between multilateral disarmament frameworks and the women and peace and security agenda. In 2021, Poland co-signed the letter addressed to the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, Izumi Nakamitsu, expressing gratitude for her support for the proposal on a technical update to the Conference on Disarmament rules of procedure put forward during its 2021 session to reflect equality between women and men (the proposal was unable to gather consensus in 2021). At the plenary meeting of the Conference on Disarmament in March 2022, Poland became a part of the joint statement on women's participation in the work of the Conference.

The creation of effective mechanisms for enhanced cooperation and increased synergy between the women and peace and security agenda and the Agenda for Disarmament will be beneficial for joint implementation efforts aimed at strengthening women's role in peace processes. It will furthermore substantially contribute to expertise and capacity development of all stakeholders working in both fields.

In line with paragraph 6 of resolution [75/48](#), Poland takes actions aimed at empowering women, including through mentoring, networking, knowledge-sharing and capacity-building efforts, to participate in the design and implementation of disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control efforts. As an example of capacity-building efforts, Poland strongly supports and provides financial contributions to the Maria Skłodowska-Curie Fellowship Programme of the International Atomic Energy Agency, which – we are proud to note – is named after the most prominent Polish female scientist, who was a two-time Nobel prize winner in the areas of chemistry and physics. Its objective is to encourage and support young women pursuing a career in nuclear-related fields, including nuclear non-proliferation, and to increase the overall participation of women in the area of nuclear science and technology.

Poland reaffirms its commitment to the advancement of the women and peace and security agenda and supports the full and equal engagement of women in discussions, processes and decision-making concerning all aspects of disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control.

Serbia

[Original: English]
[31 May 2022]

The position of women in the Ministry of Defence and the Serbian Armed Forces

The Ministry of Defence and the Serbian Armed Forces adopted the concept of gender equality as one of their strategic commitments in previous years, and in 2021 they continued to implement the plan and measures to increase the representation of women and their equal participation in all tasks, applying various measures. Accordingly, during the second half of 2021, preparations were made for the establishment of a special internal organizational unit within the human resources sector, which will take over the responsibility for planning, monitoring, promoting and reporting on the implementation of equal opportunity policies, including the implementation of a gender perspective.

In accordance with the first two national action plans for the implementation of Security Council resolution [1325 \(2000\)](#) on women and peace and security, the

Ministry of Defence has developed special mechanisms for the implementation of gender equality, proposing measures for its enhancement, as follows:

- By a conclusion of the Government dated 10 November 2021, the Political Council for the implementation of the 2017–2020 National Action Plan was formed with a new composition.
- On 16 March 2021, the decision was made to appoint Colonel Dr. Snežana Vasić as an adviser to the Minister of Defence for the implementation of the 2017–2020 National Action Plan as a mechanism for introducing a gender perspective in the policies and programmes of the State administration and local self-governing bodies that deal with creating the necessary preconditions for the realization of the goals of this plan.
- Due to personnel changes and recognition of the need to expand the activities and competencies of the analytical group for the analysis of the implementation of the National Action Plan, which is formed by decision of the Minister of Defence and whose members are representatives of organizational units of the Ministry of Defence and the Armed Forces, a new analytical group was formed on 23 November 2021.
- In the second half of 2021, the list of “persons of trust” – persons who provide primary collegial assistance in cases of gender-based discrimination, and whose mandate and functioning are regulated by a special internal act (instruction) – was updated at the level of the entire Ministry of Defence and Serbian Armed Forces.
- An additional tool is being used to apply gender analysis when planning the budget.

These mechanisms operate in the Ministry of Defence and the Serbian Armed Forces, despite the fact that there is currently no national action plan for the implementation of Security Council resolution [1325 \(2000\)](#) on women and peace and security (the previous one pertained to the period from 2017 to 2020), and through their activities give full contribution to the implementation of gender equality in the defence system. In addition, the organizational units of the Ministry of Defence and the General Staff of the Armed Forces have designated persons who monitor the implementation of the principle of gender equality within their organizational units and periodically report to the adviser to the Minister of Defence for national action plan implementation.

It is important to note that the Ministry of Defence and the Serbian Armed Forces, through the implementation of the existing system of monitoring, training and advancement of staff, are careful not to allocate duties according to sex or gender, but rather according to the competencies of persons assigned to work in the Ministry of Defence and the Armed Forces. Although the percentage of women in command and management positions (officers, non-commissioned officers and civilians) in 2021, in relation to the total number of command and management positions in the Ministry of Defence and the Armed Forces, was 9.53 per cent, this figure should be perceived in a positive light because it shows a slight increase compared with 2020.

In 2021, out of 559 members of the Ministry of Defence and the Armed Forces who participated in multinational operations outside the borders of the Republic of Serbia, 77 were women, accounting for 13.77 per cent. The projection for 2022 is that female members will comprise up to 14 per cent of the total number of deployed personnel of the Serbian Armed Forces.

Of the total number of employees in the Ministry of Defence and the Serbian Armed Forces in 2021, 23.89 per cent were women, which is an increase of almost

1 per cent compared with the 2020 figures. This trend of increasing representation of women is present in all categories of employed members of the Serbian Armed Forces. Among officers, the percentage of women is 8.63 per cent, among non-commissioned officers 3.05 per cent, and among professional soldiers 16.08 per cent, while the percentage of women among civil servants in the military and military appointees is the highest, amounting to 53.75 per cent.

Switzerland

[Original: English]

[17 May 2022]

Switzerland is convinced that gender equality is an essential condition for the pursuit of sustainable, resilient and lasting peace and that the full, equal and effective participation of women in conflict prevention and resolution, peace processes and security policy is of paramount importance. In response, Switzerland pursues a gender-sensitive foreign policy in the field of peace and security.

Generally, Switzerland strives to include gender-sensitive approaches in all its peace and security policy endeavours, notably in operational programmes. It considers promoting equal opportunity and strengthening the role of women as essential elements of arms control and disarmament policy. Therefore, in its recently adopted 2022–2025 Arms Control and Disarmament Strategy, Switzerland places particular emphasis on gender-specific aspects and on the equal participation of women in all areas of arms control and disarmament. Switzerland's efforts to that effect are also guided by its fourth National Action Plan 2018–2022 on the implementation of Security Council resolution [1325 \(2000\)](#) on women and peace and security. The Plan includes specific sub-goals on protecting women and girls through the control of small arms trade and increasing women's participation and gender considerations in arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation.

Switzerland regularly adopts a gender perspective (and addresses issues) in its statements, be it in the framework of the United Nations or in the context of other relevant regimes of arms control and disarmament efforts. In addition, we support various initiatives to ensure that gender is better integrated into multilateral arms control and disarmament processes, whether it be treaties such as the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention, the Convention on Cluster Munitions or the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, to name but a few.

In line with its Arms Control and Disarmament Strategy, Switzerland aims to strengthen the integration of mine action as well as small arms and light weapons and ammunition management in peacebuilding, taking into account a gender perspective. Through its core contribution to the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining, Switzerland supports the Gender and Mine Action Programme and thereby promotes gender mainstreaming among mine action partners. The Gender and Mine Action Programme assists a wide range of mine action stakeholders in analysing their work through a gender and diversity lens, assessing how projects and programmes are implemented, and ensuring that the priorities and capabilities of women, girls, boys, men and diverse groups are highlighted and their needs met.

In addition, Switzerland has initiated innovative research on the gender dimensions of ammunition management, leading to the mainstreaming of such considerations in the International Ammunition Technical Guidelines. It also promotes the meaningful participation of women in national and local small arms and light weapons control processes, including through dedicated research on good practice. This year, Switzerland co-chairs the Women and Peace and Security Focal Points Network jointly with South Africa. In this context, focal points will discuss,

inter alia, how to protect women's rights and recognize women's agency at the interface between the women and peace and security agenda and arms control and disarmament, with a particular focus on small arms and light weapons.

As a member of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) Forum for Security Cooperation, Switzerland also joins other OSCE participating States' efforts to integrate and empower women in the security sector and the fields of arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation. During its chairmanship of the Forum in 2019, Switzerland initiated a security dialogue on women and peace and security entitled "Participation of women in the security sector: from the why to the how", which was aimed at discussing why the integration of women is important in the security sector and how better representation can be achieved.

In the context of the Arms Trade Treaty, Switzerland commends the efforts of the Working Group on Effective Treaty Implementation to develop a voluntary guide for the implementation of articles 6 and 7, which includes the provision referring to serious acts of gender-based violence and violence against women and children (art. 7.4). Switzerland further reiterates the obligation to take into account the risk of conventional arms being used to commit or facilitate serious acts of gender-based violence or serious acts of violence against women and children during licensing procedures in connection with arms exports. In the hope of a better implementation of the provision by States parties and to advance the discussion in that field, Switzerland has mandated the Small Arms Survey to conduct a study on how licensing officers (could) apply the provision in the context of the pre-transfer risk assessment and what data are needed in that regard.

Switzerland is also committed to advancing gender aspects in the field of nuclear weapons. To this end, it supports projects, such as the one led by Reaching Critical Will, whose goal is to promote a gender perspective at the tenth Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. More generally, Switzerland is convinced that the inclusion of gender-specific considerations will be helpful on the way to abolishing nuclear weapons and thus welcomes an inclusive approach in multilateral panels and forums.

Conscious that gender equality in disarmament forums and gender mainstreaming in disarmament processes is a long-term endeavour, Switzerland provides financial support to projects that seek to contribute to this goal. In 2020, we sponsored the Gender and Disarmament Programme of the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research. In the belief that promoting the training of women who wish to pursue a career in international security through education and training is particularly important and will bear fruit in the long term, we also support the United Nations and OSCE scholarship programme and the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Fellowship Programme, which make an important contribution in this regard.

To conclude, Switzerland wishes to highlight challenges posed by new technologies and the importance of integrating a cross-cutting gender perspective when considering weapons systems, which are heavily supported and/or driven by artificial intelligence. Military applications with artificial intelligence can lack a thoroughly implemented gender perspective and are prone to produce gender biases. They should therefore, in our view, be given the utmost attention.

Trinidad and Tobago

[Original: English]
[31 May 2022]

With its philosophy of providing a “people-centred approach to governance”, the Government of Trinidad and Tobago recognizes that the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women remain pivotal to the achievement of the national development strategy of Trinidad and Tobago, Vision 2030, which is in full alignment with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Trinidad and Tobago views the protection and advancement of the rights of women and girls within the overall framework of the promotion and protection of human rights. Human rights being indivisible, there can be no human rights without women’s rights.

General Assembly resolution [65/69](#) on women, disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control, which Trinidad and Tobago took the initiative to introduce in the Assembly in 2010, highlights the valuable contribution of women to practical disarmament measures in the prevention and reduction of armed violence and conflict and in promoting disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control. The resolution challenges the international community to adopt and to institutionalize the formula of equitable representation of women at all levels in decision-making processes related to peace and security. General Assembly resolution [75/48](#) builds on the initial resolution [65/69](#).

While Trinidad and Tobago is not a producer of small arms and light weapons, its geographical location predisposes the country to illicit transnational criminal activity, including trafficking in these types of illegal weapons. Police statistics confirm that a high proportion of these weapons are involved in the commission of violent crime in Trinidad and Tobago, including in acts of domestic violence, which often end with the murder of the spouse/partner and children.

The widespread availability of small arms and light weapons has reached alarming proportions in Trinidad and Tobago. Related criminal activity adversely impacts the lives of women and children through the involvement of their husbands/partners and fathers in offences that may end with the premature death of young men in the prime of their lives, who are often the primary source of sustenance for the family. As a result, surviving family members are at increased risk of destitution, as they are unable to look after themselves, and children may be permanently scarred, angry and traumatized, especially if they witnessed the violence to which their father was subjected at the time of his death.

In Trinidad and Tobago’s limited experience, the gap between policy and practice is progressively being reduced, as evidenced by the ascendancy of women, alongside their male counterparts, to the most senior ranks within the various branches of the national security apparatus.

Efforts to ensure that women serve at all levels of these organizations and at various high-level ranks continue to be a priority throughout the national security apparatus through policies and procedures for equal opportunities. Trinidad and Tobago also remains committed to capacity-building initiatives specific to gender approaches to disarmament. In 2021, collaboration between the Trinidad and Tobago Defence Force, the High Commission of Canada and the University of the West Indies resulted in a conference being hosted to raise awareness of gender-based violence and the equal inclusion of women, under the theme “Building resilience”. The conference focused on building a platform for gender-based empowerment in defence and security operations and inspiring security agencies to acknowledge and ensure the equal representation of women throughout all spheres.

Since its launch in 2020, the Gender-based Violence Unit of the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service, which is headed by a woman, has expanded to encompass all nine policing divisions across the country, with ongoing training and capacity-building at its forefront. Training includes workshops and awareness-raising sessions on:

- Gender-based violence and the law
- Human and children's rights
- Investigation of domestic violence and sexual offences

For Trinidad and Tobago, the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women goes beyond symbolic numerical parity with their male counterparts. Within the context of the current reality, the objectives are twofold, namely, to achieve gender equity in representation and to sustain and institutionalize that equity once it is achieved. In this regard, Trinidad and Tobago is of the view that it might be both necessary and desirable for all stakeholders to undertake deliberate interventions, at a sufficiently early stage, to ensure the establishment of an ever-expanding pool of talented female thinkers, policymakers and practitioners, substantial in number, with a command of the necessary skill sets, as a means of guaranteeing sustainability built on gender balance/equity in the medium and long terms.

Trinidad and Tobago will continue to robustly support international and regional initiatives to advance these goals and strongly encourages Member States to report on progress made and challenges encountered in the field of women, disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control.

III. Replies received from the United Nations system

International Atomic Energy Agency

[Original: English]

[31 May 2022]

For its input to the report on General Assembly resolution [75/48](#), entitled “Women, disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control”, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) would like to report on the two areas below.

First, in 2020, IAEA launched the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Fellowship Programme. Its objective is to encourage and support young women pursuing a career in nuclear-related fields and to contribute to the emergence of a new generation of women leaders in nuclear science and technology. Through the Fellowship Programme initiative, IAEA is encouraging women to enter and remain in the nuclear industry sector. Raising the overall participation of women in the nuclear fields worldwide will contribute to gender equality in national programmes and at IAEA.

Acknowledging the vital role of education in developing a vigorous pipeline of young professionals, in March 2020 IAEA initiated a scholarship programme for female students who wish to pursue a career in the nuclear field, thus helping to close a persistent gender gap. The programme provides, besides recognition as an IAEA Marie Skłodowska-Curie fellow, a monetary scholarship for students enrolled in master's degree programmes in a nuclear-related field. In addition, the programme provides internship opportunities facilitated by IAEA and encourages students to participate in various relevant events related to their specialization.

The Marie Skłodowska-Curie Fellowship Programme supports young women studying in nuclear-related fields relevant to the IAEA mission to advance the safe,

secure and peaceful uses of nuclear science and technology, such as nuclear engineering, advanced reactor designs, nuclear physics and chemistry, nuclear medicine, isotopic techniques, radiation biology, nuclear safety, nuclear security and non-proliferation, and nuclear law, to mention just a few.

The Marie Skłodowska-Curie Fellowship Programme annually provides scholarships and internships to more than 100 female students (subject to available funds) to enter nuclear-related fields in the nuclear industry sector, thus contributing to gender balance and to technological and economic advancement. Internship opportunities facilitated by IAEA allow for the tangible application of knowledge and the ability to effectively address and respond to technological and scientific needs in the nuclear field, following participation in the Fellowship Programme.

Since its launch and over the past two years, the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Fellowship Programme has received 1,042 applications. A total of 210 students have been selected, representing 93 Member States and studying in 53 countries around the globe. Twenty-four students have completed their master's studies with support from the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Fellowship Programme, and more than 20 have started internships facilitated by IAEA. The internships take place across IAEA technical departments and at IAEA collaborating centres, as well as at partner organizations and in industry.

The Marie Skłodowska-Curie Fellowship Programme is envisaged as a long-term initiative funded by extrabudgetary contributions, including in-kind contributions. As such, there is a recurring need to raise sufficient funds for the duration of the Programme, for the targeted number of scholarships and internships as well as for direct project management costs on an annual basis.

As at December 2021, the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Fellowship Programme had received pledges amounting to €7.8 million as well as in-kind contributions sponsoring 33 students. Donors include the European Union, 19 Member States, 2 Member State institutions and industry (2 private sector partners and 1 academic institution).

The Marie Skłodowska-Curie Fellowship Programme supports the Sustainable Development Goals and the empowerment of women in the nuclear field through targeted activities, including education and training. The Fellowship Programme is aligned with the United Nations system-wide policy on gender equality and the empowerment of women.

Second, in the area of safeguards, the Agency provides training and support to Member States on issues relevant to nuclear verification and non-proliferation. The Safeguards Traineeship Programme comprises 55 per cent women participants, and Member States are also strongly encouraged to identify suitable women participants for State training events provided by the Department of Safeguards.

For the Symposium on International Safeguards, IAEA is aiming for the equal representation of women, in particular young women, in panels and discussions, to ensure that their voices are a part of the decision-making process. The Agency focuses on parity (gender, geography and age parity) across all safeguards events, such as General Conference side events.

Internally, the Agency emphasizes its commitment to increasing the representation of women in the development of safeguards policies, programmes and actions. It is focused on creating an enabling environment through its diversity advocates initiative (such as gender champions, but also extending to geographic representation, etc.), as well as through the creation of diverse teams to spearhead gender diversity initiatives within the Department of Safeguards.

Office for Disarmament Affairs

[Original: English]
[31 May 2022]

General observations

Since the General Assembly adopted its resolution [75/48](#), the objective to ensure women's equal, full and effective participation has not been fully met within delegations to multilateral disarmament forums. In the First Committee, in 2021, women constituted 35 per cent of delegations, and 25 per cent of heads of delegations were women. The percentage of women taking the floor in disarmament meetings varied: 23 per cent took the floor in the Conference on Disarmament, 25 per cent in the First Committee, 29 per cent in the Meeting of States Parties to the Biological Weapons Convention, 30 per cent in the seventh Biennial Meeting of States on Small Arms and 43 per cent in the 2022 session of the open-ended working group on security of and in the use of information and communications technologies.

The Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters achieved gender parity. The Group of Governmental Experts to consider further steps to enhance cooperation with regard to the issue of conventional ammunition stockpiles in surplus, the Group of Governmental Experts on Advancing Responsible State Behaviour in Cyberspace in the Context of International Security and the Group of Governmental Experts on Nuclear Disarmament Verification all reached a minimum of 40 per cent women.

In and beyond the field of disarmament, there has been an emphasis on quotas and on promoting a diverse and inclusive work environment in intergovernmental discussions and decision-making, including in outcomes of the Commission on the Status of Women, in the 2021 Generation Equality Forum, in calls by the Secretary-General and the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, and by experts in events and seminars.

In addition, the gender-based impacts of weapons were further explored through events, research and briefing papers by States, civil society and United Nations entities. The International Gender Champions Disarmament Impact Group continued its work in Geneva, and a new impact group on nuclear regulatory agencies was established in Vienna.

Disarmament and arms control have featured prominently in the women and peace and security field since the Secretary-General, in his 2020 report on women and peace and security, called upon States to reverse the upward trajectory in global military spending with a view to encouraging greater investment in human security as one of five key goals for this decade of action on women and peace and security. Disarmament and small arms control were taken up by the Women and Peace and Security Focal Points Network in 2022. Arms control was also reflected in the reports of the Secretary-General on conflict-related sexual violence, with recommendations to address the proliferation of small arms as drivers of such violence.

Most multilateral disarmament meetings during this period addressed women's participation and other gender issues through remarks, joint statements, dedicated discussions, and working papers or events, including the following:

- The General Assembly adopted 18 First Committee resolutions with gender-inclusive language in 2020 and 19 in 2021, including first-time language in its resolutions [75/36](#) on reducing space threats through norms, rules and principles of responsible behaviours and [76/33](#) on compliance with non-proliferation, arms limitation and disarmament agreements and commitments. States did not issue joint statements on gender during either session. Civil society organizations

focused their joint gender statements on patriarchal militarism and gender norms.

- In the Conference on Disarmament, the Australian and Canadian presidencies proposed a technical update to the Conference's rules of procedure to render them gender-neutral by replacing male pronouns and possessive adjectives. Despite the efforts and momentum generated, the motion did not garner consensus.
- During the seventh Biennial Meeting of States on Small Arms, States produced an outcome document that reiterated women's equal, full and effective participation and the gender mainstreaming of arms control in the preambular section and acknowledged the connection between the illicit arms trade and sexual violence in conflict and between the Programme of Action and the women and peace and security agenda.
- The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons entered into force on 22 January 2021, reinforcing the importance of the equal, full and effective participation of women and providing gender-sensitive assistance to those affected by nuclear weapons. Meanwhile, recommendations for gender perspectives and inclusivity were made in a range of events in the lead-up to the tenth Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, including in the ministerial declaration of the cross-regional Stockholm Initiative on Nuclear Disarmament.
- Working papers and events on gender equality and on women and peace and security gained attention at the Meeting of States Parties to the Biological Weapons Convention and the open consultations on Security Council resolution [1540 \(2004\)](#), among others.
- At the Second Review Conference of the Convention on Cluster Munitions, the Lausanne Action Plan was adopted, which includes commitments to gender mainstreaming, gender-, age- and disability-disaggregated data collection, and gender-responsive victim assistance.
- The Group of Governmental Experts to Prepare the Review Conference for 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 discussed gender bias in the area of lethal autonomous weapons systems. The open-ended working group on security of and in the use of information and communications technologies called for gender-sensitive cybersecurity capacity-building. States launched the Women in International Security and Cyberspace Fellowship.
- The Group of Governmental Experts to consider further steps to enhance cooperation with regard to the issue of conventional ammunition stockpiles in surplus called for gender mainstreaming and women's equal participation in decision-making and implementation processes. The Office for Disarmament Affairs and the Small Arms Survey launched a report and a briefing paper on the gender dimensions of ammunition management.

Work of the Office for Disarmament Affairs

The Office for Disarmament Affairs launched its gender policy for the period 2021–2025⁴ and continued to systematically integrate gender considerations into its

⁴ Available at www.un.org/disarmament/unoda-gender-policy-2021-2025/.

activities while supporting Member States in bringing gender issues and women and peace and security issues into disarmament and arms control frameworks.

The Office contributed to the building of capacities of young women in disarmament through the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe-Office for Disarmament Affairs Scholarship for Peace and Security, the United Nations Disarmament Fellowship Programme, the European Union-funded Youth for Biosecurity Initiative, and regional capacity-building initiatives. Women represented on average 49 per cent of the almost 11,000 participants in more than 180 events, training sessions and other activities conducted by the Office and its regional centres in 2020 and 2021. The United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean launched the fourth edition of its publication *Forces of Change*,⁵ featuring women in disarmament in the region.

The Office for Disarmament Affairs continued to implement its global flagship project⁶ on gender and small arms control, funded by the European Union, and held in-country training on mainstreaming gender in small arms control policies and programmes. This included training held in Africa that involved working with national small arms commissions on mainstreaming gender in national action plans, monitoring and evaluation frameworks and gender analysis. In the Asia-Pacific region, the focus was on compliance with and the ratification of international arms control instruments and their convergence with the women and peace and security agenda and gender-based violence prevention strategies, while in Latin America a priority remained preventing and eliminating violence against women, and States received training that included a specialized course on firearms investigations from a gender perspective, as well as webinars on normative frameworks.

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

[Original: English]
[31 May 2022]

Research

By collecting and analysing disaggregated data on trends, rates and counts of intentional homicide, including when committed with firearms, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) assesses the impact of small arms and light weapons on women and girls in the context of homicide. Research studies published by UNODC in this respect are available online.⁷

United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime

Gender-related considerations have increasingly been integrated into discussions in the framework of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition (Firearms Protocol).

Recognizing the importance of mainstreaming gender in countering transnational organized crime, UNODC has developed the issue paper entitled “Organized crime and gender: a selection of gender issues relating to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime”, to be published in 2022.

⁵ Available at <https://unirec.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Fuerza-de-Cambio-IV-INGLES.pdf>.

⁶ Further information is available at www.un.org/disarmament/gender-salw-project/.

⁷ See www.unodc.org/unodc/en/data-and-analysis/global-study-on-homicide.html and www.unodc.org/documents/data-and-analysis/Firearms/2020_REPORT_Global_Study_on_Firearms_Trafficking_2020_web.pdf.

At its tenth session, held in 2020, the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime adopted its resolution 10/2, entitled “Strengthening international cooperation against the illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms, their parts and components and ammunition”. In the resolution, the Conference placed particular emphasis on the role of women in arms control and encouraged the mainstreaming of gender and age perspectives in firearms policies and programmes and the collection of gender- and age-disaggregated data on illicit trafficking in firearms to better understand the gender-specific impacts of that illicit trafficking and therefore improve national policies and programmes. Furthermore, recognizing that combating illicit trafficking in firearms is crucial to eliminating gender-based violence, the Conference encouraged stakeholders to address armed violence against women and hate crimes related to the illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms, their parts and components and ammunition.

Global Firearms Programme

UNODC, through its Global Firearms Programme, is committed to preventing and countering firearms trafficking and related criminality, including illicit possession and misuse, in a gender-responsive manner by promoting gender mainstreaming and the equal representation and participation of women in criminal justice authorities.

Gender mainstreaming is a cross-cutting priority in the Programme’s five pillars: (a) legislative and policy development on firearms issues; (b) implementation of preventive, security and regulatory measures to impede the diversion and misuse of legal weapons for illicit purposes; (c) strengthening of criminal justice responses to illicit firearms trafficking and related crimes; (d) international cooperation and information exchange for more effective and systematic tracing of illicit firearms; and (e) identification and monitoring of illicit firearms flows to develop an evidence base for policy and operational decision-making.

The Programme’s efforts include research on the gender dimension of firearms-related criminality⁸ and the development of a training module to promote gender perspectives in all activities. Moreover, a strategy for gender-responsive programming to address the gender dimension of firearms-related crime from the perspective of women not only as victims but also as offenders is being developed.

Concrete measures taken by UNODC to make arms control and firearms-related crime prevention and criminal justice efforts more gender-responsive include:

- Facilitating the representation of women experts and civil society organizations when providing legislative drafting support on the incorporation into national law of the Firearms Protocol, to ensure that firearms-relevant laws are gender-sensitive. This includes promoting the prohibition of possession of firearms for persons who have been convicted of crimes related to sexual violence, intimate partner violence or bodily harm. Furthermore, UNODC has started to incorporate gender analysis into legislative reviews and drafting support.
- Promoting the participation of, and contribution by, female practitioners in crime prevention and criminal justice activities, including training sessions, and the role of women in law enforcement and the judiciary to fight trafficking.

⁸ Namely, the prevention of violence against women and girls through firearms control, the incidence of firearms in gender-based and domestic violence, the role of women as agents of change against the illicit proliferation of firearms, and the role of women in firearms-related organized crime.

- Collecting gender-disaggregated data on issues such as the demographics related to the use of firearms in violent crime, as well as on individuals arrested, prosecuted or convicted for illicit firearms trafficking,⁹ to understand the gender dimension of such trafficking on the perpetrator side.
- Raising awareness among authorities and educators on the gender dimension of armed violence, particularly homicide, through the UNODC Education for Justice initiative.¹⁰

In July 2021, UNODC published the midterm independent in-depth evaluation of the Programme,¹¹ in which it recognized the improved, gender-balanced composition of speakers and trainers yet noted imbalances between countries in the proportion of women in law enforcement and the judiciary, including at the senior level.

IV. Replies received from other international organizations

European Union

[Original: English]

[31 May 2022]

The women and peace and security agenda constitutes an essential framework for policy and implementation, achieving greater societal resilience, more peaceful societies and women and girls' rights when implemented. It is therefore critical that current and future prevention, response and recovery meet the rights, needs and experiences of women and girls in all their diversity.

The European Union has been a staunch proponent of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) and its follow-up resolutions composing the women and peace and security agenda. They are the compass pointing towards gender equality with peace and security. The promotion of gender equality and awareness of gender issues and the empowerment of women are important cross-cutting priorities for the European Union. The European Union is fully committed to mainstreaming gender into all non-proliferation, disarmament and arms control work, and it reiterated this commitment at the First Committee in 2021.

The European Union believes that the active participation and leadership of women at all levels in peace and security decision-making and action is crucial to achieving peace, security and sustainable development. While some progress has been made in recent years, research shows that significant work remains to be done to achieve gender equality in disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control. In this regard, in early 2020 the European Union decided to become a supporter of actions 36 and 37 of the Agenda for Disarmament towards the full and equal participation of women in decision-making processes.

In November 2018, the Council of the European Union adopted a new strategy against illicit small arms and light weapons. As part of the strategy, the European Union commits to mainstreaming gender considerations in the design of new projects relating to the fight against gun violence and small arms control in general, and the

⁹ In the framework of the UNODC Monitoring Illicit Arms Flows initiative.

¹⁰ See UNODC, "Indirect impacts of firearms on states or communities", available at www.unodc.org/e4j/en/firearms/module-1/key-issues/indirect-impacts-of-firearms-on-states-or-communities.html.

¹¹ UNODC, Independent Evaluation Section, *Midterm Independent In-Depth Evaluation: Global Firearms Programme: Countering Illicit Arms Trafficking and Its Links to Transnational Organized Crime and Terrorism* (Vienna, 2021).

sharing of good practices in this regard. Since the adoption of the new strategy, all new assistance projects systematically integrate gender perspectives through the provision of technical advice and expertise, the development of knowledge products, and/or training.

The European Union is supporting the universalization and implementation of non-proliferation, disarmament and arms control conventions by means of dedicated projects (Council decisions) that systematically consider the gender dimension. Council Decision (CFSP) 2019/97 in support of the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention provides that seminars will bring together youth from the global South. Particular emphasis will be placed on encouraging the participation of young women from the global South. Council Decision (CFSP) 2019/538 in support of activities of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons pursues forums for women on the peaceful uses of chemistry and a basic analytical skills development course for women.

In addition to projects with a specific geographical focus, the European Union is also supporting a global approach to increase knowledge and build capacity on the nexus between gender and small arms and light weapons. The Office for Disarmament Affairs started with the implementation of Council Decision (CFSP) 2018/2011 in support of gender-mainstreamed policies, programmes and actions in the fight against small arms trafficking and misuse, in line with the women and peace and security agenda. The project has funded activities such as online-based training on mainstreaming gender in small arms control for United Nations staff and wider communities of practitioners.

The European Union commends the United Nations entities, in particular the Office for Disarmament Affairs and the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research, as well as the International Committee of the Red Cross and civil society, for their efforts to inform discussions within the disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control machinery on gender equality, women's empowerment and the gendered impacts of certain weapons.

The European Union promotes the implementation of the Arms Trade Treaty, with particular attention paid to article 7, requiring States to take into account the risk of arms or other items being used to commit or facilitate serious acts of gender-based violence. Effective implementation of the Arms Trade Treaty can contribute to eliminating violence against women and girls, as set out in target 5.2 of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Women, girls, boys and men may be affected in both similar and different ways by mines and explosive remnants of war. In its conclusions of 25 June 2019 on a European Union position on strengthening the ban against anti-personnel mines in the light of the Fourth Review Conference of the States Parties to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention, held from 25 to 29 November 2019 in Oslo, the Council committed to pursuing a strong gender dimension in the outcome document of the Review Conference and to considering gender in delivering on all aspects of mine action.

Southern African Development Community

[Original: English]
[25 May 2022]

General Assembly resolution [75/48](#), entitled "Women, disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control", is part of a comprehensive framework that includes international humanitarian law in conjunction with the Beijing Declaration

and Platform for Action, the Sustainable Development Goals and the Agenda for Disarmament.

Resolution 75/48, in summary form, reiterates and acknowledges the commitments previously made regarding the role and engagement of women in the disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control process. In that resolution, Member States are urged to:

- Take practical and effective institutional measures to ensure the protection of women and girls
- Promote women's participation in the peace process, as women can make a significant contribution to the maintenance and promotion of peace and security
- Make women relevant, from a gender perspective, to negotiating peace agreements, peacekeeping operations and reconstruction efforts in conflict-torn societies
- Make the pursuit of gender equality relevant to all Security Council actions, covering a range of activities such as security sector reform
- Recognize the role of civil society and emphasize the participation of women at all levels and in all spheres of prevention, management and peacebuilding processes

Through their national defence forces, States members of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) have been participating in peacekeeping operations under the umbrella of the United Nations in different parts of Africa. One of the responsibilities of the national defence forces is to work with other peacekeeping missions in carrying out the task of collecting and controlling the disposal of weapons.

Each peacekeeping group is made up of male and female officers/soldiers, and they are responsible for communicating with civilians and the rebels themselves in order to control the chaos and control the weapons. In order to empower women and encourage them to participate in disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control, SADC advises the following:

- Women soldiers should be given positions in various international colleges that provide training and techniques for collecting and controlling weapons.
- Women soldiers should be given opportunities to attend and participate in international seminars and conferences on issues regarding disarmament and arms control in general.
- Women soldiers should be provided with a special desk or form a committee at the United Nations security organ dealing with global arms control.
- Participation and efficiency should be increased when carrying out the responsibilities of collecting and controlling the distribution of weapons to women.

As observed, the assumptions in the aforementioned resolutions highlight the centrality of the role of women in processes related to the implementation of disarmament-related policies, in the sense that women, besides representing the majority of the global population in the specific case of the SADC member States, also influence the education of society.

In this regard, considering that disarmament is an essential tool for achieving stable peace, it is justifiable and pertinent that SADC act in a pragmatic way, engaging, in the first place, female soldiers in the main training programmes on this type of subjects, which are or will be provided by the United Nations system.

Secondly, women should be engaged in the delivery of multisectoral capacity-building programmes on these issues, which aim to build a concerted national approach between defence and security institutions, social justice and society as a whole.

In the light of the above, SADC supports the adoption of resolution [75/48](#) on women, disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control, as it is in line with the Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan.
