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**Seventy-seventh session**

Item 99 (v) of the preliminary list\*

**General and complete disarmament****Disarmament and non-proliferation education****Report of the Secretary-General***Summary*

The present report is submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution [75/61](#), in which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to prepare a report reviewing the results of the implementation of the recommendations made in the United Nations study on disarmament and non-proliferation education and reviewing possible new opportunities for promoting disarmament and non-proliferation education. It contains information from Member States, international, regional and non-governmental organizations and academic institutions on the implementation of the 34 recommendations of the 2002 United Nations study ([A/57/124](#)).

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



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## I. Introduction

1. In paragraph 3 of its resolution [75/61](#), entitled “United Nations study on disarmament and non-proliferation education”, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to prepare a report reviewing the results of the implementation of the recommendations made in the study ([A/57/124](#)) and possible new opportunities for promoting disarmament and non-proliferation education, and to submit it to the Assembly at its seventy-seventh session. Recommendation 32 of the United Nations study encouraged the Secretary-General to prepare a biennial report along the same lines.

2. Recommendation 31 of the study encouraged Member States, inter alia, to inform the Office for Disarmament Affairs of steps taken to implement the recommendations contained in the study.

3. The present report contains information compiled by the Secretary-General on the implementation of the recommendations by Member States, the United Nations and other international, regional and non-governmental organizations and should be read in conjunction with the 34 recommendations of the study. Pursuant to United Nations guidelines on limiting documentation, the information contained in the present report, as well as additional material, is available at [www.un.org/disarmament/education](http://www.un.org/disarmament/education).

4. Pursuant to that request, a note verbale was sent to Member States on 25 January 2022 inviting them to provide information on the subject. The replies received are contained in section II below. Any replies received after 31 May 2022 will be posted on the website of the Office for Disarmament Affairs ([www.un.org/disarmament/](http://www.un.org/disarmament/)) in the original language received. No addenda will be issued.

## II. Implementation of the recommendations by Member States

### Burkina Faso

[Original: French]  
[31 May 2022]

Burkina Faso has been facing violent extremism and terrorist acts on its national territory for several years. Several administrative regions of the country have security issues. In point of fact, in addition to the small arms and light weapons that unidentified armed terrorist groups use against the defence and security forces and the peaceful population, improvised explosive devices are also used. This has led to the closure of several schools in these regions.

In an institutional response to this situation, the Ministry of Education has set up a Permanent Technical Secretariat on Education in Emergencies that works to minimize the negative impact of insecurity and terrorism on children living in areas facing serious security challenges. The National Arms Control Commission was also established, at the level of the Prime Minister’s Office, which works for disarmament and the non-proliferation of arms in general and, more specifically, in the field of disarmament and non-proliferation education.

The Technical Secretariat and the National Commission have set up programmes with other partners to train teachers who in turn pass on the training they receive to their peers so that the content can be disseminated to as many students as possible in areas or regions with security challenges. As a result, training and awareness-raising regarding the dangers of the proliferation and illicit circulation of small arms and light weapons and improvised explosive devices are reaching schoolchildren directly.

The security situation has driven nearly 2 million internally displaced persons into urban or peri-urban areas, where there is a minimal level of security but an environment of total chaos. The majority of these internally displaced persons are mothers, often of young children. General education and awareness-raising programmes have been set up for this vulnerable group and there are also specific programmes on small arms and light weapons and improvised explosive devices.

The National Commission, for its part, is conducting a disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme, while combating the proliferation of weapons through controls on transfers. However, this programme needs the support of external partners.

In conclusion, Burkina Faso is committed to the provision of disarmament and non-proliferation education. However, given the immensity of the challenges, this work requires a degree of support.

## India

[Original: English]  
[31 May 2022]

India attaches great importance to engaging and working with the younger generation to raise awareness of and find innovative solutions to issues of disarmament and arms control, and to make a lasting contribution to international peace and security.

India accords high priority to promoting arms control, disarmament and international security education.

In line with the emphasis that the tenth special session of the General Assembly placed on promoting expertise in disarmament and empowering our younger generations, India launched an Annual Disarmament and International Security Affairs Fellowship programme in 2019. The programme has been well received by various Member States, in particular the younger generation of diplomats.

## Mexico

[Original: Spanish]  
[31 May 2022]

Mexico is submitting this document in compliance with General Assembly resolution [75/61](#), entitled “United Nations study on disarmament and non-proliferation education”, in which the Secretary-General is requested to prepare a report reviewing the results of the implementation of the recommendations and possible new opportunities for promoting disarmament and non-proliferation education.

The concerns of the international community regarding the promotion of disarmament education are not new. Mexico recalls that, at the first special session of the General Assembly on disarmament, held in 1978, the urgency of promoting education for disarmament was noted, and both teaching and research were encouraged. Governments and civil society organizations were also urged to develop disarmament education and peace studies programmes at all levels.

Mexico also recalls that, during the fifty-seventh session of the General Assembly, in August 2002, the United Nations study on disarmament and non-proliferation education ([A/57/124](#)) was adopted, which was prepared by a Group

of Governmental Experts drawn from Egypt, Hungary, India, Japan, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Poland, Senegal and Sweden.

Twenty years after the adoption of the study, Mexico believes that its results and recommendations remain valid. Mexico believes that Governments must remain committed and work together with civil society and academic institutions to promote disarmament education, the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and a culture of peace.

For Mexico, education and promotion of the values, actions and objectives of disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation are vital for the achievement of a world free of nuclear weapons, and for the consolidation of a culture of peace and a safer world. In particular, it is very important for young people, the upcoming generations, to have the tools they need to achieve and maintain a peaceful and weapons-free world.

In line with the report on the United Nations study on disarmament and non-proliferation education, Mexico reiterates that new technologies offer a platform for Member States, international and regional organizations and civil society organizations to reach out more easily to young people and promote the understanding of disarmament and non-proliferation matters, as well as the culture of peace.

Consequently, over recent years, Mexico has promoted various education and outreach activities on disarmament, primarily nuclear disarmament, with the aim of broadening knowledge, strengthening debates on the subject and publicizing new initiatives to achieve a world free of nuclear weapons and prevent their catastrophic humanitarian consequences.

These activities include the following:

(1) Each year since 2014, in coordination with the James Martin Center for Non-Proliferation Studies of the Middlebury Institute of International Studies and the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (OPANAL), Mexico has organized and sponsored a summer school on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, aimed at Latin American and Caribbean diplomats.

The summer school aims to provide a space for analysis, consideration and discussion of the importance of non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament. It contributes to the building of national capacity in Latin America and the Caribbean, through training for new staff specializing in nuclear disarmament. It is one of the activities undertaken by the Government of Mexico to promote disarmament and peace education, in line with the principles guiding Mexican foreign policy.

The sixth edition of the summer school, held remotely from 6 to 17 July 2020, brought together 63 representatives from 24 Latin American and Caribbean States. Thirty-three panellists spoke, including senior officials from international organizations, national and foreign experts, representatives of non-governmental organizations and experts from 13 States, representing 21 different institutions or organizations.

The seventh summer school was held remotely from 28 June to 9 July 2021 for thirty-seven participants from 17 States. In line with the feminist foreign policy of the Mexican Government, more than half of the participants were women.

Every two years in the United Nations General Assembly, Mexico submits the draft resolution entitled “United Nations study on disarmament and non-proliferation education” to the First Committee.

(2) During the seventy-sixth session of the General Assembly, on 7 December 2021, together with the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs, Mexico organized a webinar entitled “Disarmament and non-proliferation education: 20 years of the United Nations study and looking ahead”, to commemorate the twentieth anniversary of the resolution on the United Nations study on disarmament and non-proliferation education, as well as to encourage more delegations to contribute to the report of the Secretary-General on the study.

The event was attended by the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, Izumi Nakamitsu; the Director of the James Martin Center for Non-Proliferation Studies, William Potter; a lecturer in disarmament affairs at Pace University in New York, Matthew Bolton; a member of the Committee on Teaching About the United Nations, Rima Salah; and the co-director of the Program on Science and Global Security at Princeton University, Zia Mian. In their statements, the participants acknowledged the first 20 years of the resolution that led to the United Nations study on disarmament and non-proliferation education and they reiterated the importance of Member States’ contributions to the report of the Secretary General on the subject, appealing to them to make submissions. They recalled the contribution and initiative of the late Mexican ambassador Miguel Marín Bosch to the establishment of the group of experts that prepared the study in question.

The speakers also referred to the role of education in encouraging disarmament in the Agenda for Disarmament of the Secretary-General. They also stressed the importance of working in a coordinated manner on initiatives aimed at educating both the civilian population and educators about disarmament and non-proliferation, in order to help ensure that future generations continue to advocate for a world free of nuclear weapons.

In this regard, the role of young people as agents of change was highlighted and a number of academic initiatives were mentioned that address the subject, both in formal education (such as the programmes of Pace University and the James Martin Center for Non-Proliferation Studies), and in training for civil society activists.

The need to train cadres in Governments and in diplomatic corps was also recalled, as was the need for disarmament programmes to be long-term and to be adequately funded, since this ensures that curricula are not discontinued and maintains the interest of the students in question. In addition, the perspectives of Japan and the Republic of Korea on youth participation and preservation of the memory of the hibakusha were considered.

Also during the seventy-sixth session of the General Assembly, in the First Committee, Mexico sponsored the resolution on youth, disarmament and non-proliferation (submitted by the Republic of Korea and adopted as General Assembly resolution [76/45](#)), which contains major provisions on disarmament and peace education.

The Permanent Mission of Mexico to the United Nations has also maintained its youth delegate programme, in which youth delegates participate specifically in the consideration of disarmament and non-proliferation issues during the work of the First Committee of the General Assembly.

(3) At the regional level, Mexico worked together with OPANAL as part of the group on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation education responsible for designing an OPANAL course on the subject.

(4) Since 2004, Mexico has submitted an Organization of American States resolution that makes general reference to the importance of promoting in society a culture of non-violence and peace among States.

(5) At the national level, the Matías Romero Institute (the diplomatic academy of Mexico) offers training programmes on disarmament, non-proliferation and peace for Mexican diplomats and military and naval attachés, as well as for federal government officials affiliated with the Mexican Foreign Service who will be assigned to Mexican missions abroad.

(6) The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has participated in various round tables, forums and conferences on nuclear disarmament and the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons at institutions of higher education in Mexico and abroad.

In addition, each year the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, through its internship and professional social service programme, offers young graduates of higher education institutions the opportunity to gain professional experience related to the United Nations system, particularly in disarmament and non-proliferation affairs.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs also promotes training and specialized instruction in disarmament and non-proliferation for federal government officials by publicizing the training opportunities offered by international organizations.

(7) The Ministry of Public Security, through the secretariat of the Specialized High-level Committee on Disarmament, Terrorism and International Security, has organized training courses on disarmament, non-proliferation and strategic trade controls for the personnel of other federal agencies. The purpose of the abovementioned activities is to raise the awareness of officials of the importance of disarmament and non-proliferation, as well as to strengthen national capacities in this area.

(8) The curricula of the Ministry of Defence and the Ministry of the Navy include courses on disarmament and non-proliferation of weapons. Those courses are taught to sensitize students to the problems posed by the proliferation of weapons, mainly small arms and light weapons, for national and international security.

The Ministry of Defence is assisted by specialists from national and international civilian organizations such as the International Committee of the Red Cross, the National Human Rights Commission, the National Autonomous University of Mexico, the Attorney General's Office and the National Council for the Prevention of Discrimination in its seminars, courses, in-person lectures, videoconferences, workshops and diploma courses.

In particular, the Ministry of Defence carries out the following non-proliferation training and education activities:

- (a) Online courses on Arms Trade Treaty implementation;
- (b) Diploma courses for officers promoted to the rank of second lieutenant in the Military Justice Service;
- (c) Support for the National Customs Agency of Mexico (formerly the General Customs Service) to train its personnel in the following areas related to non-proliferation training: classification of weapons and physical identification; possession and carrying of weapons; weapons authorized for sport or hunting; Air Force weapons, ammunition and materiel; provisions applicable during the import and export of weapons, objects and materiel; sanctions; destination of unknown weapons; prohibited weapons and tariff classification of weapons.

(9) The Ministry of Education, through the Department of Basic Education, promotes measures designed to encourage "a culture of peace and the peaceful settlement of disputes".

(10) The National Autonomous University of Mexico continues to hold events to raise awareness of the importance of disarmament and non-proliferation among

students and the academic community. In addition, the National Autonomous University of Mexico and other institutions of higher education that offer courses in international relations include in their curricula subjects and seminars on conventional, chemical, biological and nuclear disarmament.

The Government of Mexico works in close collaboration with various civil society organizations and coalitions in affirming the centrality of peace and disarmament education for current and future generations. In this context, Mexico will continue to encourage all Governments to adopt measures aimed at promoting disarmament and non-proliferation education, in the belief that all States can and must contribute to this cause in order to safeguard our common future.

### **III. Implementation of the recommendations by the European Union**

[Original: English]  
[31 May 2022]

The European Union is convinced that promoting disarmament and non-proliferation education is of the essence with regard to achieving a world free of weapons of mass destruction. Education provides knowledge and skills to individuals to empower them to make contributions, as national and global citizens, to the achievement of concrete disarmament and non-proliferation objectives.

In the European Union Global Strategy on Foreign and Security Policy, adopted on 28 June 2016, it is stated that international security and societal links will be strengthened through enhanced mobility, cultural and educational exchanges, research cooperation and civil society platforms. The Strategy reflects the Sustainable Development Goals and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, with the European Union adopting a joined-up approach to its humanitarian, development, security, migration, economic, infrastructure, education, health and research policies. It therefore includes engagement efforts to nurture societal resilience, including by deepening work on education, culture and youth.

The contribution of the European Union to the objectives and recommendations set out in the United Nations study on disarmament and non-proliferation education is illustrated by the decision of the Council of the European Union regarding the activities of the European Union Non-Proliferation Consortium (decision 2018/299/CFSP, adopted on 28 February 2018). Initially launched in 2010, the Consortium has since set up the European network of independent non-proliferation and disarmament think tanks, which now consists of more than 100 research institutes based in European Union member States, as well as in associated countries (for further information, see [www.nonproliferation.eu](http://www.nonproliferation.eu)).

Over a four-year period, the Consortium has carried out the following eight activities which, in line with the Global Strategy, have a substantial focus on educational exchanges, research cooperation and civil society platforms. The activities are set out below.

- Organization of an annual major international conference on non-proliferation and disarmament to increase the awareness and knowledge of the institutions of the European Union, member States, civil society and third countries, about threats related to weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery, as well as the challenges related to conventional weapons, including countering the illicit trade and excessive accumulation of small arms and light weapons and their ammunition: the European Union Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Conference is held annually in Brussels over a period of one and a half days,



with the participation of approximately 200 experts, from think tanks, academia, United Nations organizations, and Governments from the member States and associated States and third countries, who specialize in non-proliferation, disarmament, arms control and conventional weapons issues, including those pertaining to small arms and light weapons. Held for the first time in 2012, the Conference has now become one of the key annual non-proliferation and disarmament meetings worldwide. In a spirit of dialogue with global partners, it has contributed to promoting strategic discussion on measures to combat the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and address challenges related to conventional weapons, with the general objective of strengthening the international non-proliferation and disarmament architecture. The above-mentioned Council decision foresees the development of “next generation” specialists, including from countries outside Europe, to be invited to an extra day before or after the Conference. The Conference is also preceded by a meeting of representatives from all the members of the European network of independent non-proliferation and disarmament think tanks, which the Consortium leads and supports.

- Organization of ad hoc seminars to exchange information and analysis among policy practitioners and academic experts from member States, as well as specialized staff from the European External Action Service and institutions of the European Union: up to nine ad hoc expert seminars of up to two days each are foreseen, with an average of 45 participants per seminar. The seminars cover a wide range of arms control topics within the mandate of the Consortium, ranging from various domains (including cyberspace and outer space) to new technological challenges, in order to encourage political and security-related dialogue among decisions makers and in conjunction with civil society partners. Between 2020 and 2021, two of these seminars have been specifically focused on the topic of strengthening disarmament and non-proliferation education in Europe and beyond.
- Production of publications that provide information and analysis on topics related to the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems, and conventional arms, including small arms and light weapons, as well as disarmament to feed a political and security-related dialogue on these issues, primarily among experts, researchers and academics: the budget provides for the preparation and publication of up to 20 policy papers, authored by experts from the European network of independent non-proliferation and disarmament think tanks. With regard to the selection of authors, there is an effort to ensure geographical and gender balance and to cover a diverse range of issues within the mandate of the Consortium. One of the policy papers, by Elisabeth I-Mi Suh, published by the Consortium in 2020, specifically covered the topic of disarmament education (Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Papers, No. 69, September 2020). All policy papers are available on the website of the Consortium (see [www.nonproliferation.eu/activities/online-publishing](http://www.nonproliferation.eu/activities/online-publishing)).
- An e-learning platform to build capacity in the next generation of scholars and practitioners in the field of non-proliferation and disarmament and to contribute to global initiatives aimed at advancing non-proliferation and disarmament education: the Consortium’s e-learning platform is aimed at providing a comprehensive knowledge package for practitioners and scholars interested in arms control, non-proliferation and disarmament, as well as European Union policies in these fields. All 15 learning units are being updated in order to provide students worldwide with the most up-to-date facts and figures. Outreach and support to educational institutions allows for the easy integration of the

e-learning platform into university master's degree programmes and other educational programmes, and encourages the worldwide usage of the e-learning platform. It also prioritizes enhanced user-friendliness, including for users with visual or hearing impairments. Up to five additional learning units have recently been developed and launched, including on such issues as gender, arms control history and arms control law and the United Nations disarmament machinery, as well as cyberconflict and cyberstrategy. All modules are available at <https://nonproliferation-elearning.eu/>.

- Internships to build capacity in the next generation of scholars and practitioners in non-proliferation policy and programming: the Council decision provides for non-proliferation and disarmament internships for up to 36 graduate students or young diplomats, each for a period of up to three months, to be hosted by one of the institutes that are members of the network or the Consortium.
- European Union study visit for the participants in the United Nations Disarmament Fellowship, Training and Advisory Services Programme to support United Nations efforts to enhance disarmament education and promote multilateralism: this annual two-to-three-day study visit to Brussels for the fellows of the United Nations Disarmament Fellowship Programme includes a seminar with speakers from European Union institutions and experts from the Consortium and the network, as well as a field trip to relevant locations. It is scheduled to fit into the European component of the Programme, typically in advance of the General Assembly.
- Organization of a proliferation awareness training which will support the raising of awareness, in the natural sciences and other relevant fields, of the risks of proliferation of weapons of mass destruction posed by certain materials, software and tangible and intangible technology, and the relevant international treaties and mechanisms: the first pilot course to raise awareness of proliferation risks for graduate and postgraduate students in the natural sciences and other relevant fields was held in February 2020. That first course and the third course (which was held in February 2022) were aimed at information technology and engineering students. The second course (which was held in February 2021) addressed students in the biological and chemical sciences.
- Management of an Internet platform aimed at increasing awareness and knowledge of the work carried out by the Consortium and the network on issues related to conventional weapons and weapons of mass destruction, as well as their means of delivery, among institutions of the European Union, its member States, civil society, third countries and the wider public: the maintenance of the Consortium website is supported by the use of social media technologies and platforms, which allow for a wider dissemination of the results and a higher level of visibility of the implementation of the activities described above, as well as an increased level of interaction, active online communication and information exchange, including in the form of a regular newsletter on analysis, news and events in the field of disarmament and non-proliferation.
- Young Women and Next Generation Initiative: in 2020, the Consortium launched the Young Women and Next Generation Initiative to encourage young women and the next generation to enter the non-proliferation, arms control and disarmament field. Inspired by the widely perceived age and gender imbalances among experts and practitioners in the field, the Initiative helps to address such imbalances by exposing college- and university-level students, especially women, to arms control issues, increasing their awareness of such issues and encouraging their participation in related events and workshops. The goal is to help students to understand how to pursue a career in the field, making the best

use of their own skills. The Initiative has organized outreach events, established a mentorship programme and convened workshops and meetings.

The European Union contribution to the objectives and recommendations set out in the United Nations study on disarmament and non-proliferation education is further highlighted by its cooperation with the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR), which it recognizes as an international policy institute providing independent analysis on non-proliferation and disarmament, and whose experts it therefore regularly invites to working groups of the Council of the European Union for exchanges of views and joint assessments. In the light of this expertise, UNIDIR is an implementation partner with regard to Council decisions in the field of non-proliferation.

The European Union and its member States support and participate in training programmes on non-proliferation and disarmament carried out in cooperation with civil society, Governments and international organizations. It does so in the framework of the European Union Common Security and Defence Policy missions and operations. The member States also foster cooperation within the Union through courses, such as the international course for middle management civilian and military professionals offered by the Netherlands and Spain in June 2019, which was focused on a comprehensive approach to gender in operations and included training on demining operations. The support and participation of the European Union and its member States is also evident in the short course on non-proliferation and disarmament for young women diplomats, organized by the Vienna Center for Disarmament and Non-Proliferation, and in the research activities of such organizations as the Ammunition Management Advisory Team, the Geneva Centre for Security Policy, the Verification Research, Training and Information Centre and the Institute for Security Studies.

Exhibitions, workshops, side events and seminars are carried out in order to raise awareness, spread knowledge and expertise. Emphasis is also placed on science applied to non-proliferation and disarmament, the humanitarian impact of weapons of mass destruction, and the link between gender and disarmament. Prime examples of that emphasis may be found in Council decisions adopted in support of organizations working in the non-proliferation and disarmament domain that often include education and training among their goals, such as in support of the implementation of Security Council resolution 1540 (2004), the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction, the Arms Trade Treaty and the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction, as well as support for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization and the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons.

Young people are the key beneficiaries of education initiatives supported by the European Union in third countries. The European Union has supported the implementation of the youth, peace and security agenda in the Youth for Peace Africa Programme of the African Union. European Union member States supported a high-level event to discuss the progress and remaining challenges in promoting, implementing and expanding disarmament and non-proliferation education, entitled “Boosting disarmament and non-proliferation education”, held by Austria, Japan and Mexico in 2014 on the margins of the First Committee of the General Assembly.

Lastly, the European Union puts a major emphasis on the objective of raising awareness and enhancing the security of dual-use chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear materials at the global level whose malevolent use poses a risk to international development. With a budget of 155 million euros for the period

2014-2020, the European Union Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Risk Mitigation Centres of Excellence Initiative provides a platform for voluntary regional cooperation with 61 partner countries on all chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear hazards.

## **IV. Implementation of the recommendations by the United Nations and other international and regional organizations**

### **A. Office for Disarmament Affairs**

[Original: English]

5. The Office for Disarmament Affairs continued to build upon its work to promote disarmament and non-proliferation education, focusing on further implementing the recommendations contained in the 2002 United Nations study on the matter.

6. For the second year in a row, the United Nations Disarmament Yearbook (vol. 45: 2020) was made available on an interactive website ([yearbook.unoda.org](http://yearbook.unoda.org)), allowing diplomats, technical experts, journalists and other readers to effortlessly navigate through a comprehensive overview of key developments and trends from the previous year in the area of multilateral disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control. Meanwhile, the Office for Disarmament Affairs continued to make the most use of its websites as a key means of communication to engage with delegates, civil society stakeholders, staff members and the public at large. In order to improve the speed and reliability of its main website, the Office invested considerable resources in transferring all the existing content to the most efficient available software to support the collection, management and sharing of information. The website was scheduled to be launched on a more robust content management platform in 2022.

7. The Office worked to address the paucity, highlighted by educators, of introductory materials for disarmament and non-proliferation education with the production of a series of “disarmament explainer” infographics and videos. Designed to engage new and non-traditional audiences both over social media and in classroom settings, the videos have already been viewed over 15,000 times. All materials are hosted on the Office’s disarmament education website and shared directly with educators.

8. As part of its responsible innovation efforts, the Office continued its outreach to students and young practitioners in science, technology, engineering and mathematics – an audience not traditionally engaged in disarmament and non-proliferation education. It partnered with leading universities, regional organizations, industry actors and civil society organizations to carry out capacity-building workshops, seminars, dialogues, pitch events and team challenges for over 400 young participants in 2021. In addition, in December 2021, the Office partnered with the Permanent Mission of Mexico to the United Nations in New York to host a joint side event for Member States, educators, students and civil society during which participants looked back over the more than 20 years that had passed since the General Assembly mandated the first study on disarmament and non-proliferation.

9. The Office also worked to support disarmament and non-proliferation education more broadly, participating in activities led by Model United Nations groups, the World Federation of United Nations Associations, civil society, universities and high schools around the world, and offered guest lectures, seminars, presentations and workshops to motivated young audiences.

10. The Office implemented an adjusted and abridged Disarmament Fellowship Programme in 2021, on the basis of an assessment that the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) environment was somewhat more permissive than in 2020, when the Programme had been cancelled for the first time in its 40-year history. In accordance with established practice, the 2021 Fellowship Programme comprised a variety of theoretical activities and practical exercises, including lectures and roundtable debates on current disarmament topics with senior diplomats and representatives of international, regional, bilateral and civil society organizations and academia; an ambassadorial-level panel discussion on nuclear disarmament; a simulated session on a draft resolution on lethal autonomous weapon systems; and case studies on conventional weapons. However, most of the traditional field visits had to be cancelled or replaced by virtual or other similar alternatives. The 2022 Fellowship Programme will generally follow the pre-COVID-19 syllabus, with updates to reflect recent developments in the field of disarmament and non-proliferation, and will retain most of the study visits.

11. The Geneva branch of the Office for Disarmament Affairs held its annual disarmament orientation course for the fourth consecutive year, in partnership with UNIDIR. Over a period of three weeks, the course provided 41 newly arrived diplomats and officials, whose responsibilities included disarmament and arms control matters, with hands-on knowledge relevant to Geneva-based disarmament processes and cross-cutting issues. A collection of introductory video courses and reading materials was complemented by six interactive sessions, which sought to improve the understanding of relevant issues and mechanisms, enhance levels of participation in multilateral processes and allow for direct interaction between colleagues and experts. As in previous years, equitable geographical distribution and gender parity were largely reflected among the course's participants and presenters.

12. The Office continued offering opportunities, through the United Nations Junior Professional Officer Programme for young university graduates to build professional experience. In addition, the Office trained graduate students in New York, Geneva and Vienna through the United Nations internship programme in 2021–2022 while also continuing to offer virtual internships, which were introduced during the COVID-19 pandemic.

13. The Office continued to make significant inroads in engaging, educating and empowering young people through its #Youth4Disarmament outreach initiative. Despite the ongoing constraints of the global pandemic, the Office provided an array of activities that used art, writing and physical activity as expressive mediums to engage young people of all interests, backgrounds and experience levels to participate in disarmament efforts.

14. The year 2022 marks the tenth anniversary of the Vienna office of the Office for Disarmament Affairs. During the reporting period, the Vienna office continued to expand its engagement in awareness-raising and education related to disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control, and organized a range of outreach activities and capacity-building programmes for young professionals, in particular women. Moreover, the Vienna office continued to expand the self-paced online courses available on the Disarmament Education Dashboard, its e-learning platform. The collection of short and introductory courses was enriched by enlarging the range of key disarmament and non-proliferation issues covered and by making the materials more interactive and engaging for target audiences. The system's functionality and earlier substantive content were constantly updated and upgraded. With the expansion of courses offered in 2021 and 2022, the Dashboard's reach grew significantly, currently counting more than 11,000 members in its community.

15. The Vienna office, in a joint project with the Regional Disarmament, Information and Outreach Branch and United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific, also worked directly with educators in Asia and the Pacific to build capacities for disarmament and non-proliferation education. In 2021, educators participated in a tailored online course hosted on the Dashboard. Throughout the moderated eight-week programme, educators completed coursework and interacted with experts on a variety of matters related to disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control.

16. The Vienna office continued its engagement with Vienna-based organizations and entities in the areas of disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control, supporting a range of outreach and education activities, in particular for young professionals in the field. It continued its partnership with the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe to train young professionals in the region through the scholarship training programme for peace and security, awarding 150 scholarships to young professionals, with an emphasis on women candidates. The in-person component of the training programme could not be implemented in 2021 owing to the COVID-19 pandemic, but it is scheduled to proceed with the 2022 cohort of trainees.

17. The United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean conducted some 20 public national, subregional and regional webinars and round-table discussions on various disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control topics, such as international disarmament regimes and instruments, illicit firearms trafficking, gender mainstreaming in small arms control, and armed violence prevention and reduction frameworks. Representatives from public sector institutions and civil society organizations from Latin American and Caribbean States took part in the events. The virtual activities enhanced awareness and knowledge on disarmament and arms control and contributed to translating global commitments into laws, policies and programmes at the regional and national levels.

18. The United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific continued to actively collaborate with the Hiroshima, Japan, office of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) in Japan in implementing the Nuclear Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Training Programme. Launched in 2015 for diplomatic representatives of States in Asia, the training is intended to increase the understanding of the current state of the nuclear disarmament debate; equip participants with insight into their own communication practices, as well as the structure and practice of negotiation at relevant events; and contribute to the development of a network of like-minded professionals.

19. The Asia-Pacific Regional Centre also furthered its engagement with young people in the region by organizing several initiatives in partnership with academia and civil society organizations to explain the linkages between disarmament and the 2030 Agenda, as well as the importance of gender considerations and inclusivity in security policymaking. In total, these events reached more than 700 students through a combination of virtual and in-person activities.

20. The United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa continued to distribute its electronic newsletter to approximately 8,000 global subscribers, providing information about not only its mandate and activities but also current trends and future directions in the disarmament community. The Regional Centre also carried out various training workshops with policymakers and contributed to the development of practical guidance for disarmament and arms control practitioners and policymakers, in cooperation with diverse partners, including national authorities, regional and subregional entities and members of the research community.

## B. Department of Global Communications

[Original: English]

21. The Department of Global Communications continued to raise awareness and engage the public in the areas of disarmament, arms control, non-proliferation and related fields by covering and promoting the work of the United Nations, including meetings, events and observances, both at the global and local levels, through the Department's 59 United Nations information centres.

22. Information centres in Beirut; Brussels; Moscow; Rio de Janeiro, Brazil; Tehran and Tokyo translated an article by the Secretary-General on the seventy-fifth anniversary of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombings into local languages, featured it on their digital platforms and placed it in more than 10 newspapers.

23. The information centre in Tokyo also created a video on the project of a university student, who used artificial intelligence technology and exchanges with *hibakusha* (atomic bomb survivors), to highlight the ordinary lives destroyed by the atomic bomb.

24. The United Nations Information Service in Geneva produced six print and audio stories in English and French for United Nations News, including on nuclear disarmament verification, the use of anti-personnel landmines, and concerns about intelligent drone-strike technology. It also produced a podcast interview on the Conference on Disarmament.

25. The Department also created and maintained the multilingual, branded and fully accessible websites of the 2020 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons; the Secretary-General's call for a global ceasefire; and of relevant International Days.

26. The United Nations social media accounts featured disarmament activities in the six official languages, as well as in Hindi, Kiswahili and Portuguese. The Department advised the United Nations system on how to create impactful social media messaging and worked to foster greater understanding of the importance of disarmament.

27. United Nations News produced some 230 multimedia stories and features on disarmament and related issues in nine languages. It also provided comprehensive coverage of the briefings to the Security Council by the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs and the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) on the threats of a possible nuclear accident or biological weapons catastrophe in the context of the war in Ukraine.

28. In April 2022, for the International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action, a video was released featuring a Quality Assurance Officer from the Mine Action Service that supports engineering units of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon carrying out demining.

29. Moreover, the Department educates civil society, academia, youth groups and visitors to Headquarters through its outreach programmes. In March 2022, the Civil Society Unit organized a youth-led virtual briefing, together with the NGO Pathways to Peace on the margins of the sixty-sixth session of the Commission on the Status of Women. The briefing illustrated the importance of involving women, girls and young people in nuclear disarmament and the value of incorporating a gender perspective into peacebuilding and climate activities. Speakers included representatives from the Permanent Mission of Albania to the United Nations, the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons and the International Committee of the Red Cross.

30. United Nations Academic Impact hosted a webinar in August 2020 entitled “75 minutes of conversation: rethinking disarmament”, with over 200 participants from 45 countries, including the President of the seventy-third session of the General Assembly, the then-Executive Secretary of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization, executives from universities and young people.

31. To mark the first anniversary of the Secretary-General’s call for a global ceasefire in March 2021, the Office of the Secretary-General’s Envoy on Youth collaborated with the Office for Disarmament Affairs to organize a workshop on disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control and the Sustainable Development Goals. The workshop brought together 30 members of the United Network of Young Peacebuilders and Young Leaders for the Sustainable Development Goals.

32. The Secretary-General’s Envoy on Youth participated in events hosted by the Office to promote youth engagement, capacity-building, and empowerment in disarmament issues, including at the youth plenary of the Conference on Disarmament in August 2021. The Envoy on Youth called upon all Member States to create enabling and safe platforms and spaces that provide equal opportunities for all young people to participate in shaping the common future.

33. Since the start of the pandemic, the Visitors’ Services Section raised the awareness of the approximately 30,000 visitors who took the United Nations virtual tour on the issue of disarmament. Among others, the Visitors Service in Vienna organized 10 in-person and 9 virtual lecture programmes in cooperation with IAEA and the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization, catering to a total of 466 participants, including university students and military and diplomatic personnel from 10 countries.

34. In connection with the International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action, the Exhibits Unit in New York launched an online exhibition in 2021, entitled “Perseverance, partnership, progress”, highlighting the stories of survivors of explosive ordnance accidents, beneficiaries and partners working in mine action. For the 2022 International Day, the Unit facilitated the display of an exhibit entitled “Safe ground. Safe steps. Safe home”. The exhibit highlighted the impressive achievements of the mine action community and the work still to be done.

### **C. International Atomic Energy Agency**

[Original: English]

35. The outreach and training courses of the International Atomic Energy Agency are conducted to promote the conclusion and support the implementation of the comprehensive safeguards agreements and additional protocols through seminars, briefings, training and publications. Between 2020 and 2021, IAEA organized virtual national workshops for the Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and Solomon Islands. In addition, it held consultations with representatives of a number of Member and non-member States in Geneva, New York and Vienna.

### **D. Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization**

[Original: English]

36. Developing capacity and exchanging knowledge on issues related to the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty is essential for advancing its entry into force and universalization, strengthening its verification regime and reinforcing the



international norm against nuclear testing. To achieve these goals, the Preparatory Commission pursues education and outreach activities aimed at enhancing the awareness and understanding of the political, legal, scientific and technical aspects of the Treaty and its verification regime.

37. Throughout the reporting period, the Preparatory Commission promoted its knowledge and training portal, an e-learning platform serving the online training, education and outreach needs of the global disarmament and non-proliferation community. The portal provides access to educational modules covering scientific, technical and policy issues related to the Treaty and supports live courses, workshops, trainings and exercises held in Vienna and online.

38. The Preparatory Commission also supported the participation of technical experts from developing countries in its official technical meetings. Since its inception, the project has supported 66 experts, 20 of whom were women, from 46 States.

39. The eighth Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Science and Technology Conference was held in Vienna from 28 June to 2 July 2021 to broaden the community engaged in test-ban monitoring and promote the wider civil and scientific applications of the verification regime. The conference brought together scientists, academics and high-level officials in a hybrid format to review the performance of the verification regime and explore scientific and technological advances in nuclear test monitoring.

40. As part of its long-standing collaboration with the Office for Disarmament Affairs, the Preparatory Commission welcomed fellows from the United Nations Disarmament Fellowship Programme in 2021. During the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization segment, the fellows engaged on issues related to the work of the Preparatory Commission, the Treaty's entry into force and universalization, and other disarmament and non-proliferation challenges. The fellows also visited technical facilities and participated in exercises involving on-site inspection procedures.

41. The Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization Youth Group, with over 1,150 members from 122 States, undertook an array of projects, which included organizing conferences and events, publishing articles and developing strategies to promote the Treaty's entry into force and universalization.

42. The Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Young Professionals Network, established in 2018 as a joint initiative of the Preparatory Commission and Norway, is a community of young scientists and technical professionals working on the monitoring and verification of the Treaty. The Network continued its work to pass on knowledge and expertise on nuclear-test-ban verification technologies to the new generation of experts.

43. The Preparatory Commission continued to develop partnerships with institutions to ensure inclusive engagement and enable all relevant stakeholders to contribute to the international norm against nuclear testing and the sustainment of the verification regime.

## **V. Implementation of the recommendations by civil society and non-governmental organizations**

### **A. California Polytechnic State University Ethics + Emerging Sciences Group**

44. In the past two years, the Ethics + Emerging Sciences Group – based at California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo, United States of America – has continued to study new ethical, legal and policy issues arising from emerging technologies, notably in security, defence and intelligence, including artificial intelligence, robotics, cybersecurity, human enhancements, Internet of things, non-lethal weapons, pandemic surveillance and more.

45. Of particular interest, we are studying the role of emerging technologies on frontiers, such as the Arctic and outer space, including the conflicts they may create given the lack of governance inherent to frontiers. Outer space cybersecurity is especially concerning, given the strategic importance of the domain; we have a new funded project in this area.

46. More than academics, we advise industry, governmental agencies and NGOs in technology ethics, including UNIDIR and other defence organizations.

### **B. Future of Life Institute**

47. The Future of Life Institute is a non-profit organization working to mitigate the risks of emerging technologies. As a co-champion of recommendation 3C on artificial intelligence in the report of the Secretary-General containing his Roadmap for Digital Cooperation ([A/74/821](#)), our organization hosted a multi-stakeholder consultation on artificial intelligence and the promotion of peace in September 2020. The consultation highlighted what needs to be done to better link artificial intelligence and disarmament issues, including more inclusivity, improved engagement of the private sector and the need to move beyond guiding principles. The Institute has been active throughout the period 2020–2022 in the education of policymakers and the general public on the topic of lethal autonomous weapons. At the invitation of the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Austria, we addressed an intergovernmental conference on safeguarding human control. The Institute also participated in the 2021 sessions of the Group of Governmental Experts on lethal autonomous weapons systems, as well as the Sixth Review Conference of the High Contracting Parties to 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.

### **C. Geneva Centre for Security Policy**

48. The Geneva Centre for Security Policy, an international non-profit foundation that was established in 1995 on the initiative of Switzerland and now has 54 member States, provides executive education on a wide range of security-related issues, including disarmament and non-proliferation, to hundreds of representatives of Governments, international organizations, civil society and the private sector from all over the world. Specific executive courses on those topics in the period 2020–2022 covered the Arms Trade Treaty, as well as arms control in the Middle East and North Africa and international disarmament law. Public events also addressed issues including biological weapons, the Islamic Republic of Iran nuclear deal and the verification of nuclear disarmament. Modules on disarmament and arms proliferation

were included in most other advanced courses. The Centre's website is available at [www.gcsp.ch](http://www.gcsp.ch).

#### **D. International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War**

49. International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War has been the leading medical voice for over 40 years, educating health professionals, policymakers and the public on the fact that the elimination of nuclear weapons is an urgent health and humanitarian imperative. We have also educated widely on the fact that armed violence can be prevented using a public health approach. During the period 2020–2022, we have continued our global leadership on these issues in a variety of key ways, including: organizing other international and national medical and health organizations to join us in educating stakeholders on the humanitarian and environmental impacts of nuclear weapons at a number of virtual meetings; recruiting and organizing medical students and young doctors to participate in educational and advocacy activities about the health consequences of nuclear weapons and the public health effects of armed violence; and publishing and educating extensively on our key topics through traditional and social media and social.

#### **E. James Martin Center for Nonproliferation Studies, Middlebury Institute of International Studies at Monterey**

50. Since its founding in 1989, the Center for Nonproliferation Studies has sought to combat the spread of weapons of mass destruction by training the next generation of nonproliferation specialists and raising public awareness on issues related to such weapons. Graduate students in the Master of Arts in Nonproliferation and Terrorism Studies programme pursue a two-year degree that combines formal course work at the Middlebury Institute of International Studies with on-the-job training at the Center and internships at international organizations. The Center's experts offer a variety of trainings in several formats. The Centre has increasingly made use of various forms of online learning tools and new technologies to reach out to more diverse communities, including a training programme using open source technologies to enhance nonproliferation verification, and an outreach initiative targeted at young women to encourage them to study and work in the field. More information can be found on our website, at <https://nonproliferation.org>.

#### **F. Mayors for Peace**

51. As part of its efforts to foster and increase international public support for a world without nuclear weapons, Mayors for Peace runs the following peace education initiatives to encourage younger generations to get involved in peace activities:

- (a) Peace education webinars, where young people give presentations about their peace activities and have a discussion;
- (b) Hiroshima peace workshop for young local government officials: young officials from Japanese member cities are invited to Hiroshima to join a training programme which includes learning about the realities of the atomic bombing and the city's peace programmes;
- (c) Children's art competition on the theme of "peaceful towns";
- (d) Promotion of peace and disarmament education.

52. The internship which was originally planned to host young officials from international member cities in Hiroshima, and the plans to send Japanese high school students to the Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, were cancelled owing to the evolving situation regarding the COVID-19 pandemic.

## **G. Middle East Treaty Organization**

53. The educational work of the Middle East Treaty Organization provides deep insight into disarmament and geopolitics to tertiary students and professionals across the region. Our summer course on disarmament and security related to weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East was held from 10 August to 7 September 2021. The course included nine sessions with students from 23 countries and achieved gender balance. Through class discussion and guest speakers from academia and practitioners in the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, our course provides students with the ability to analyse challenges and revisit past efforts to achieve a zone free of weapons of such weapons and ways to strengthen international non-proliferation regimes. Students also identify future scenarios to rid the region of all weapons of mass destruction through a negotiation simulation. The best papers produced by our students as part of the final assessment are published in our student journal. Our next summer course will commence in early July 2022. Further information is available at [www.wmd-free.me/menu/education](http://www.wmd-free.me/menu/education).

## **H. Peace Movement Aotearoa**

54. Peace Movement Aotearoa is New Zealand's national networking peace organization. Our core disarmament activities comprise: networking, outreach and disarmament education; national coordination of humanitarian disarmament and related campaigns; and "yDISARM" (our youth disarmament engagement project). Among other things, we coordinate at the national level five global humanitarian disarmament campaigns, namely on nuclear weapons, military spending, killer robots, cluster munitions and landmines; we coordinate a range of other national peace and disarmament projects; and we are the New Zealand point of contact for the global campaigns against the use of explosive weapons in populated areas and child soldiers. The other main focus of our work is peace and human rights, and we regularly include disarmament issues in our reports to United Nations human rights treaty monitoring bodies and related publicly available resources. Peace Movement Aotearoa's website is the most comprehensive New Zealand peace and disarmament site, providing public information and resources on a wide range of topics.

## **I. Senzatmica**

55. Promoted by Soka Gakkai Italy, Senzatmica is the Italian campaign led by young people that promotes nuclear disarmament, peace and disarmament education, and a partner in the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons. Our campaign is addressed to all people with the aim of raising public awareness about the nuclear threat, rejecting the idea of security based upon nuclear weapons, and underscoring the crucial importance of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons for their definitive elimination. Since 2011, Senzatmica has carried out an exhibition entitled "Senzatmica: transforming the human spirit for a nuclear weapons free world", reaching 80 Italian cities and over 365,000 visitors, of whom 40 per cent were students. A renewed version of the exhibition, to be launched in Rome in the autumn of 2022, has the Treaty as the guiding thread of the whole

itinerary. Senzatonica promotes many advocacy activities with Members of Parliament and local authorities' representatives, which led to the approval, by the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Italian Chamber of Deputies, of a resolution in support of the Treaty and the first meeting of States parties.

## **J. Soka Gakkai International**

56. Between June 2020 and May 2022, Soka Gakkai International conducted a wide range of disarmament education activities, despite the COVID-19 pandemic, as a partner organization of the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons. The activities focused in particular on raising public awareness of the dangers of nuclear weapons and the significance of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, including through online events, exhibitions, film screenings and the development of educational tools. Soka Gakkai International worked to promote the importance of disarmament education in United Nations forums through its public statements and presentations. It worked with the Stop Killer Robots coalition to raise awareness about the threats of autonomous weapons systems, supporting its new documentary and other activities. In addition, it worked to reach out to those outside the disarmament community to raise awareness, through linkages with the Sustainable Development Goals, non-violence, gender equality, anti-racism and other social justice issues.

## **K. The Simons Foundation Canada**

57. The Simons Foundation Canada, in partnership with Global Affairs Canada, provided graduate research awards for disarmament, arms control and non-proliferation research again in 2021 and 2022; produced briefing papers on Arctic Security and Canadian Defence Policy; convened a conference on Canada and the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, is producing a report on the Ottawa Declaration; and continues to fund disarmament education at post-secondary institutions, including the Programme on Science and Global Security at Princeton University, Simon Fraser University, and the Simons Chair in Disarmament, Global and Human Security and the Simons Award in Nuclear Disarmament and Global Security at the University of British Columbia. As Global Zero's principal sponsor, we also continue to support their disarmament education and outreach activities.

## **L. Verification Research, Training and Information Centre**

58. The Verification Research, Training and Information Centre is a non-profit organization devoted exclusively to verification, implementation and compliance with regard to international agreements, with a primary focus on agreements concerning non-proliferation and disarmament of nuclear, biological and chemical weapons and the security of related materials. The Centre provides impartial research and analysis, expert advice and capacity-building, training and legislative assistance on the implementation of such agreements. The Centre has long-standing activities in support of disarmament and non-proliferation education and training. Those include sharing information and raising awareness through in-person and online workshops and other meetings, as well as through the development of educational tools and courses or lectures. In addition, the Centre works with relevant national stakeholders from various countries to help to build capacity and expertise in disarmament and non-proliferation. Further information and materials are available on the Centre's website, YouTube channel and Twitter account.

## **M. Vienna Center for Disarmament and Non-Proliferation**

59. The Vienna Center for Disarmament and Non-Proliferation was established in 2010 at the initiative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Austria as an international non-governmental organization. The Center serves as a dedicated non-governmental platform for independent debate, research, outreach, and education and training. Among the Center's feature programmes are its short intensive courses on non-proliferation and disarmament for diplomats, practitioners and students. Since the COVID-19 pandemic, the Center has shifted its training courses to an online format (10 courses in total) and has also expanded its programmes to reach new audiences by offering webinars and posting the recorded webinars, making its course online module publicly available, producing an online module on gender and disarmament and starting a videocast and podcast series. The Center has also increased its outreach to young people, in particular women, through a formal mentorship programme and outreach workshops and webinars. More information on the Center's activities is available at <http://vcdnp.org>.

## **VI. Conclusions**

60. Disarmament and non-proliferation education gained new momentum within the reporting period and represent a critical way to bring awareness and critical discussion of these issues to the general public and educational institutions. The provision of factual, timely and engaging information can be seen as an important foundation for effective and inclusive decision-making on disarmament matters. It serves as a key vehicle to empower young people to become agents of peace by helping them to mobilize, act and promote the importance of disarmament and non-proliferation.

61. The reporting period was dominated by continued restrictions on travel and in-person meetings due to the COVID-19 pandemic, resulting in the increased use of digital and online means of learning and education by Governments, international organizations and civil society groups. Entities have sought to make use of new technologies, such as social media tools, to disseminate information and reach a wider audience and to develop and increase the utilization of platforms and online tools to facilitate virtual meetings and learning. The longer-term positive and negative implications of this shift and diversification of learning methods and means will require further study and analysis.

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