



General Assembly

Distr.: General
16 June 2020
English
Original: English/Spanish

Seventy-fifth session

Item 103 (d) of the preliminary list*

General and complete disarmament

Relationship between disarmament and development

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report, submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution [74/57](#), pertains to the need for further strengthening of the relationship between disarmament and development within the United Nations and also contains information received from Member States on the subject.

* [A/75/50](#).



Contents

	<i>Page</i>
I. Introduction	3
II. Implementation of General Assembly resolution 74/57	3
III. Replies received from Governments	4
Albania	4
Colombia	6
Cuba	7
Ireland	9
Mexico	11
Ukraine	12
IV. Reply received from the European Union	13

I. Introduction

1. In paragraph 1 of its resolution [74/57](#), on the relationship between disarmament and development, the General Assembly stressed the central role of the United Nations in the relationship between disarmament and development and requested the Secretary-General to strengthen further the role of the Organization in that field.
2. In paragraph 2 of the resolution, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to continue to take action, through appropriate organs and within available resources, for the implementation of the action programme adopted on 11 September 1987 at the International Conference on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development (see [A/CONF.130/39](#)).
3. In paragraph 6 of the resolution, the General Assembly reiterated its invitation to Member States to provide the Secretary-General with information regarding measures and efforts to devote part of the resources made available by the implementation of disarmament and arms limitation agreements to economic and social development. Furthermore, in paragraph 7, the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to report to it at its seventy-fifth session on the implementation of the resolution. The present report is submitted pursuant to that request.
4. On 31 January 2020, the Secretariat sent a note verbale to Member States seeking their views on the issue. At the time of writing, replies have been received from Albania, Colombia, Cuba, Ireland, Mexico and Ukraine. The European Union also sent its views. The information is contained in sections III and IV below.
5. A revised note verbale was sent to Member States on 4 May 2020, extending the deadline for the submission of views until 31 May 2020. Any views received after that deadline will be posted on the website of the Office for Disarmament Affairs in the language of submission.¹ No addendum will be issued.

II. Implementation of General Assembly resolution [74/57](#)

6. During the reporting period, the role of the United Nations in the context of the relationship between disarmament and development underwent continuous strengthening. That included efforts towards achieving the relevant goals set in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, as well as inter-agency coordination on matters affecting peace, security and development, in particular through the Coordinating Action on Small Arms mechanism, which is chaired by the Office for Disarmament Affairs.
7. In full awareness of the interconnected nature of peace, security and development, the United Nations recognizes the critical link between arms regulation and economic and social development and that, accordingly, the enforcement of such regulation, as well as arms management is required to bring about sustainable development.
8. The linkage between preventing and reducing violence and making development possible is demonstrated in Sustainable Development Goal 16. The inclusion of target 16.4, in particular, on the need to significantly reduce illicit arms flows reflects the unequivocal recognition of that link. The United Nations endeavours to assist States in further strengthening their capacity in this regard. The Office for Disarmament Affairs and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) have continued to perform their roles as co-custodians of Sustainable Development Goal indicator

¹ www.un.org/disarmament.

16.4.2,² supporting States in the collection and management of data and information relating to illicit arms flows. Those efforts were facilitated by the illicit arms flows questionnaire and the national reports submitted by States on their implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects. During the reporting period, other United Nations agencies, particularly within the framework of the Coordinating Action on Small Arms mechanism, exchanged views and coordinated field actions in support of the implementation of activities under indicator 16.4.2. Furthermore, the United Nations Trust Facility Supporting Cooperation on Arms Regulation provided financial support to over a dozen implementing partners for the execution of a quick-impact project relating, in particular, to target 16.4.

9. In accordance with Article 26 of the Charter of the United Nations, all Member States have committed themselves to the least diversion for armaments of the world's human and economic resources. Since 1981, the Office for Disarmament Affairs has maintained the United Nations Report on Military Expenditures, a voluntary transparency instrument through which Member States report their levels of annual military spending. Both the reduction of military expenditure and the promotion of transparency and confidence among States with regard to the matter have long been on the agenda of the United Nations. The information provided by Member States through the Report may serve as a basis for determining trends in military spending and fostering discussions among Member States on appropriate levels of such spending. It may also help to set the conditions for development through disarmament. The information submitted by States is available in the online database maintained by the Office for Disarmament Affairs.³

III. Replies received from Governments

Albania

[Original: English]
[31 May 2020]

On many occasions, the Republic of Albania has highlighted the importance of achieving synergy and complementarity between areas relating to security and development, while effectively protecting human rights and providing humanitarian assistance. We believe that these are interlinked and interdependent elements that should guide the elaboration of effective strategies for peacekeeping and peacebuilding operations. All functions related to these operations must target a peace-consolidation scenario that, from our perspective, may pave the way for sustainable development through various means, such as capacity-building and institutional development.

The Republic of Albania is continuously working towards the effective implementation of all its international obligations, including the implementation of provisions contained in international treaties and conventions.

The Albanian Armed Forces support the Albanian Government in international arms control negotiations and implement the international treaties and agreements to which Albania is a party.

Albania exchanges military information, defence planning information and all data concerning all arms control agreements with members of the Organization for

² Indicator 16.4.2: "Proportion of seized, found or surrendered arms whose illicit origin or context has been traced or established by a competent authority in line with international instruments".

³ www.unroca.org.

Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), demonstrating goodwill with regard to cooperation, transparency and openness among all OSCE countries.

Concerning the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and disarmament, Albania has continued to align its positions with those of the European Union, OSCE and other international organizations dealing with these issues.

Currently, the Albanian authorities remain committed to the sustained implementation of Security Council resolution 1540 (2004). The State Export Control Authority is responsible for managing the international transfer control of dual-use goods and military items. Albania does not produce, store or transport nuclear, biological or chemical weapons or similar devices. Albania has approved a national strategy to counter the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. Albania is a proactive contributor to regional security concerning weapons of mass destruction.

Albania has made substantial commitments towards responsible international arms transfer control. Albania regularly reports in conformity with its obligations as a State party to the United Nations conventions on disarmament issues and also in respect of its commitments regarding agreed confidence- and security-building measures as a member of OSCE.

The Armed Forces are organized and prepared and function according to the basic formation principles of military organizations in democratic societies. Despite their size, the Armed Forces are able to fulfil their mission.

The organizational structure of the Armed Forces has developed and has implemented the recommendations of the Strategic Defence Review, 2019, which defines how the Albanian Armed Forces will develop in the future, their size and number of personnel. The ambitions, expectations, requirements and operations of the Armed Forces require an effective organization management and operation, which is achieved through a functional and simple organizational structure.

The completed and planned improvements in resource management and the increase in budget allocation aim to ensure the resources needed to maintain the ongoing reform programmes. The 2019 defence budget was focused on improvements in the modernization of equipment, improvements in training infrastructure, increases in operational capability and support for training and exercises.

One of the most important processes in the planning, programming, budgeting and execution system is the organization and development of defence programmes, which represent the support with resources for all planned activities for a period of six years.

Defence resources programming ensures the development of the Albanian Armed Forces according to the priorities. Defence programme drafting is aimed at turning/changing the capabilities of objectives, priorities and tasks provisioned for in the main strategic planning documents into year-long programmes integrated in the context of the integrated planning process of the Albanian Government. In this context, the Ministry of Defence will operate with defence programmes that will be more flexible to conform to the development necessities of the Albanian Armed Forces, mainly with regard to modernization and infrastructure.

The development of Albanian Armed Forces capabilities is closely related to the effective management support and financial resources required. The financial support shall be referred to the macroeconomic data of the Ministry of Finance, with an increasing trend of development of the economy at a constant rate. Keeping a check on inflation at an average level will lead to an increase in the defence budget. The defence budget will be increased gradually in order to accelerate the development process of the future force.

The defence budget directs the allocation of resources to the important budget categories: personnel expenses, operational and maintenance expenses, modernization of infrastructure and research and development expenses.

Colombia

[Original: Spanish]
[14 May 2020]

The Republic of Colombia voluntarily submits this report pursuant to paragraph 6 of General Assembly resolution 74/57 on the relationship between disarmament and development, in which the General Assembly “reiterates its invitation to Member States to provide the Secretary-General with information regarding measures and efforts to devote part of the resources made available by the implementation of disarmament and arms limitation agreements to economic and social development, with a view to reducing the ever-widening gap between developed and developing countries”.

In this regard, it is important to emphasize that, in view of the importance that the Colombian State attaches to peace and security as tools for promoting sustainable development, efforts have been made to establish measures and public policies aimed at eliminating elements that could have a negative impact on the well-being, stability and economic growth of the country.

In line with the above, it is considered that the relationship between disarmament and development should not be conceived exclusively in terms of defence spending and resources released for the deployment of social programmes. On the contrary, this is an issue with various aspects, among which the present report wishes to highlight the impact of the use of anti-personnel mines, as a factor that is detrimental to the socioeconomic development of communities affected by this scourge, and the positive effect of international cooperation to mitigate and eradicate this problem.

In the case of Colombia, the State has signed the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction, which has been in force in the country since 1 March 2001.

Since then there has been a progressive and constant strengthening of the Comprehensive Action against Anti-Personnel Mines programme. Significant efforts have been made to implement the programme in accordance with the domestic legislation in force in the areas of the country affected by anti-personnel mines, which are deployed in Colombia by illegal non-State actors called organized armed groups.

For the most part, the anti-personnel mines laid by these illegal groups are improvised in nature; that is, they are not industrially produced. In addition, various materials are used in their manufacture which are not always easily identifiable by the most common methods of location, thus making humanitarian demining operations and the restoration of the effective enjoyment of territory by affected communities more complex, among the other individual and collective rights that have been violated.

In addition to having made significant progress in humanitarian demining (as at January 2020 the national Government has handed over 391 municipalities free of suspected mines and 156 municipalities are involved in humanitarian demining operations; but 165 other municipalities do not have the security conditions for interventions and humanitarian demining work has yet to be assigned in the remaining three municipalities). Equally important have been the efforts made with regard to comprehensive care for victims and risk education.

Bearing in mind the importance of Comprehensive Action against Anti-Personnel Mines programme, the Government of President Iván Duque Márquez, as part of its National Development Plan for the period 2018–2022, entitled “Pact for Colombia, Pact for Equity”, established guidelines aimed at favouring those areas of the country that have been highly affected by poverty, the presence of illegal economies, institutional weakness and widespread violence, especially in the 170 municipalities¹ covered by the development programmes with a territorial focus,² so that actions can be taken to reduce disparities in terms of development between these regions and the rest of the country.

In order to be able to carry out actions to stabilize the territory, it is necessary to have safe environments, which can be provided through comprehensive action initiatives against anti-personnel mines, unexploded ordnance and/or improvised explosive devices, among other prevention actions.

The necessary conditions provided by humanitarian demining will make it possible to make progress in closing gaps, eliminating factors of violence and implementing social services for the social and productive inclusion of the population, and thus structurally transforming the living conditions of the communities in the rural areas most affected by the dynamics of conflict.

This is one way in which Colombia is demonstrating its commitment to disarmament, through the incorporation of measures and strategies necessary to make reasonable efforts to achieve a world free of anti-personnel mines, as a mechanism for eradicating poverty, promoting socioeconomic development and working towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

To address the latter aspect in Colombia, the Comprehensive Action against Anti-personnel Mines programme is directly committed to Goal 16 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which seeks to “promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels”. One of the targets of that Goal is to “significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere” and one of the Goal’s indicators is the “proportion of population that feel safe walking alone around the area they live”.

Cuba

[Original: Spanish]
[19 May 2020]

As we commemorate the seventy-fifth anniversary of the United Nations, including with the purpose of promoting the economic and social progress of all peoples, it is regrettable that scourges such as extreme poverty persist in the world and that its reduction has slowed down, jeopardizing the achievement of this goal by 2030.

The international community cannot be satisfied with the actions taken to promote development. Almost 20 years since the adoption of the Millennium Development Goals and five years since the establishment of the Sustainable

¹ Article 311 of the 1991 Political Constitution of Colombia defines a municipality as a “fundamental entity of the political administrative division of the State”.

² Development programmes with a territorial focus were created under the Final Agreement for Ending the Conflict and Building a Stable and Lasting Peace, signed in 2016 between the Government and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia. They are a special 15-year planning and management tool to accelerate, as a matter of priority, the development required by 170 of the country’s municipalities most affected by violence.

Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, a renewed commitment is required to ensure the achievement of these global goals.

The scenario is, however, daunting. According to *World Economic Situation and Prospects 2020*, a report produced by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, about 10 per cent of the world's population currently lives on less than \$1.90 a day.

According to the *Sustainable Development Goals Report 2019*, since 2014 famine has again been on the rise, as are indicators such as the proportion of undernourished people worldwide, the number of children suffering from stunting and the total number of children suffering from wasting (low weight for height).

In addition, there is an unfavourable trend towards a reduction in official development assistance, which in 2018 reached a total of \$149 billion, a reduction of 2.7 per cent in real terms compared to 2017; as well as the failure by some Member States that are able to pay their assessed contributions to meet their financial commitments and the choice to limit the capacity of certain international agencies to fulfil their mandates, particularly in the area of development.

The efforts of the United Nations and its Member States are also threatened by drought, rising temperatures, higher sea levels and other phenomena associated with the negative impacts of climate change. In the context of disaster-related economic losses totalling \$300 billion, the Declaration on the Right to Development becomes even more critical. Adopted by the General Assembly on 4 December 1986, this document establishes that resources derived from disarmament measures should be redirected to development efforts.

Conflicts and the arms race undermine international efforts to promote progress. In 2018, the number of people fleeing war, persecution and conflict exceeded 70 million, the highest level in almost 70 years, while military spending continued to rise.

In 2019, global military expenditure rose to \$1.917 trillion, an increase of 3.6 per cent from 2018 and the largest global increase since 2010, representing 2.2 per cent of global gross domestic product, according to statistics from the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute.

These figures confirm the need for a United Nations-supervised international fund, to which half of current military expenditures are allocated, in order to help the least developed countries achieve sustainable economic development.

It is necessary for the United Nations to play a central role in the interrelationship between disarmament and development, in particular through the implementation of the provisions on the relationship between disarmament and development of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly and the 1987 action programme of the International Conference on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development, a conference at which Cuba had the high honour of being one of the Vice-Chairs. The action programme provides for the adoption of measures to reduce the level and magnitude of military expenditures and reallocate those resources to social and economic development, particularly in developing countries.

The commitment and political will of the Cuban Government can be seen through various examples, including the contribution to the country's economic, social and environmental development by the Youth Labour Armies, which are part of the Revolutionary Armed Forces. The members of the Youth Labour Armies are involved in agricultural and industrial production, in construction and in evacuation, search and rescue of the population during natural and climatic disasters.

Our historic leader, Commander-in-Chief Fidel Castro Ruz, in his speech to the officers of the armed forces on 4 November 1969, said “It is a highly revolutionary event that in a underdeveloped country such as ours, in a country that must confront hard work, our armed forces do not constitute a privileged sector of the population, as is the case in almost all of the countries of Latin America. They do not constitute an unproductive sector of the country; rather, the armed forces constitute fundamental factors in the development and the work of the country.”

Cuba devotes the majority of its public resources to spheres that contribute directly to sustainable development. Under to the 2020 State Budget Act, Cuba will devote 23.7 per cent of its expenditures to education; 27.4 per cent to public health and social assistance; 16.3 per cent to social security and 4.6 per cent to culture and sports.

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

General and complete disarmament, in particular nuclear disarmament, under effective international control, remains an urgent and imperative task for humankind. Member States must respect and strictly comply with their obligations under international agreements on disarmament and arms control. The arms race must be stopped and those substantial resources reallocated to ensure a dignified life for all human beings on the planet and to achieve sustainable development that contributes to the well-being of future generations.

Ireland

[Original: English]
[29 May 2020]

In accordance with paragraph 6 of General Assembly resolution [74/57](#), Ireland submits its views to the Secretary-General on information regarding measures and efforts to devote part of the resources made available by the implementation of disarmament and arms limitation agreements to economic and social development, with a view to reducing the ever-widening gap between developed and developing countries.

Ireland welcomes the fact that, in the resolution, the General Assembly stresses the importance of the symbiotic relationship between disarmament and development, and shares the concern noted at the increasing global military expenditure, which could otherwise be spent on development needs. Ireland further welcomes that the Assembly urges the international community to devote part of its resources made available by the implementation of arms limitation agreements to economic and social development and encourages the international community to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

Ireland believes that development, peace and security are mutually reinforcing, and our efforts in these areas recognize the interconnections between the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Secretary-General’s Agenda for Disarmament, as well as the youth and peace and security agenda and the women and peace and security agenda. These connections are embodied in our work on disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control. Ireland remains a committed champion of the Secretary-General’s Agenda for Disarmament, in particular action 1 on dialogue for nuclear disarmament, action 14 on the use of explosive weapons in populated areas and action 21 on building understanding on the impact of arms on conflict management. In particular, Ireland recognizes the negative impact that the use of explosive weapons in populated areas can have on sustainable development and we

remain committed to the process towards agreeing on a political declaration to address this issue.

In *A Better World*,¹ Ireland's policy for its overseas development programme, Ireland sets out our approach for a more comprehensive response to peace and security challenges, which demonstrates our collective commitment to peace and disarmament as essential to building a secure, stable world where people can live in dignity without fear. In the implementation of our development policy, Ireland engages across the entire spectrum of conflict prevention and resolution, thereby reaching the furthest behind first. Particular areas of alignment between our disarmament and development priorities are gender equality, reducing humanitarian need and strengthening governance. The review in 2020 by the Development Assistance Committee of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development of Ireland's development programme found that Ireland's efforts to support global sustainable development are underpinned by our advocacy on broader foreign policy priorities. The report noted in this regard Ireland's successful advocacy for the reflection of gender equality in the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons and Ireland's efforts as one of the Co-Chairs of the International Gender Champions Disarmament Impact Group. Ireland has also provided core and project funding to the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research as part of our support for Sustainable Development Goal 16 (peace, justice and strong institutions) and efforts to expand existing coordination and learning across human rights, gender equality, conflict resolution, peace, humanitarian and development work.

Humanitarian mine action helps to save lives, protect people from life-changing injuries and give communities access to reclaimed land. Humanitarian mine action directly contributes to reducing global hunger and building resilience. Such action contributes significantly towards achieving *A Better World's* priority policy of reducing humanitarian need. Ireland has been a supporter of humanitarian mine action since the early 1990s and has provided almost €45 million in funding since 2006. In 2019, as part of our ongoing humanitarian mine action support, Ireland provided over €3 million in support of mine action programmes in Afghanistan, Cambodia, Colombia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar, Somalia, South Sudan, Viet Nam and Zimbabwe. In August 2019, an Irish Aid monitoring team found that the Irish Aid-funded HALO Trust programmes were delivering real and lasting benefits to the communities in which they operate. The greatest impact was the potential for accessible border land to be opened to the community, allowing cross-border trading routes to operate in the area for the first time in over 30 years. In addition to land cleared, support for mine action provides broader socioeconomic benefits for mine action operators and local communities.

Ireland is also a consistent supporter of efforts to realize the goals of the international conventions in this area. We have been a long-term supporter of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention Implementation Support Unit and the Convention on Cluster Munitions Implementation Support Unit, whose effective functioning are crucial to the implementation of the respective conventions. Ireland also supports research on the disarmament-development nexus. In 2018, we funded the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining to undertake a project that examined the socioeconomic impact of anti-vehicle mines. The project provided a case study that demonstrated a methodology for assessing the impact of mine action on sustainable development in the medium and long term, using the Sustainable Development Goals as an analytical framework. Ireland considers that such efforts, which create the links between disarmament and development, are crucial to

¹ Available at www.irishaid.ie/media/irishaid/aboutus/abetterworldirelandspolicyforinternationaldevelopment/A-Better-World-Irelands-Policy-for-International-Development.pdf.

furthering the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and can be applied in a range of contexts to enable progress towards the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals.

The illicit trade in small arms and light weapons forms a persistent barrier to a more secure, stable world in which economic and social development can prosper. The 17 Sustainable Development Goals are closely interlinked. While combating the illicit trade in weapons is linked to the achievement of target 16.4, it also contributes to the successful implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as a whole. Armed violence is the leading cause of forced migration and displacement in the world, as well as the leading cause of hunger. Insecurity affects access to food, water and shelter and impedes humanitarian assistance efforts. The illicit trade in small arms and light weapons also impacts development outside conflict zones. Violent crime impacts societies and economies by rendering cities unsafe to live and work in, expending resources that could otherwise be spent on socioeconomic development.

Ireland attaches great importance to the Arms Trade Treaty as a major step forward in the international community's efforts to regulate the international trade in conventional weapons and to prevent the conflict, human rights abuses and economic instability that arise from the illegal and unregulated flow of small arms and light weapons. Ireland is a consistent supporter of the Arms Trade Treaty and its voluntary trust fund and sponsorship programme. Ireland's support for the Arms Trade Treaty also aligns with *A Better World's* priority policies of gender equality and reducing humanitarian need, aiming to reduce armed gender-based violence and to prevent armed conflict.

Ireland has also been a consistent supporter of the technical cooperation programme of the International Atomic Energy Agency, which, through its projects, aims to address key development priorities in areas such as health and nutrition, food security and agriculture, and climate action. These efforts make an important contribution to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and demonstrate the contribution that peaceful uses of nuclear energy can make to sustainable development.

Ireland is conscious of the high human, social and economic cost that would result from the use of chemical or biological weapons. We are a consistent advocate of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction and the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction, and continue to provide funding to the Biological Weapons Convention Implementation Support Unit and the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons. Ireland is furthermore a member of the Australia Group, a multilateral export control regime and information-sharing forum that helps Member States to identify which exports should be controlled so as to not contribute to the spread of chemical and biological weapons.

Mexico

[Original: Spanish]
[26 May 2020]

Global military spending in 2019 rose by 3.6 per cent to reach \$1.92 trillion, the largest year-on-year increase since 2010. That figure is 2.2 per cent of global gross domestic product and an average expenditure of \$249 per person. This consolidates an upward trend in global military spending, observed since 2015, after a fall in such spending between 2011 and 2014 due to the financial crisis.

Mexico believes that there should be a balance between the resources allocated to military spending and those allocated to development. For the well-being of the people, social assistance programmes in Mexico therefore primarily target families living in predominantly indigenous areas, high poverty areas or high violence areas, with a view to addressing the structural causes that affect development. In this context, the welfare policy of the Government of Mexico ensures full enjoyment of rights without exclusion or discrimination. Its approach is based on the universal nature of human and social rights, the human life cycle, social and community participation, the territorial perspective, transparency and honesty.

In Mexico, the Federal Government prioritizes budgetary allocations for social development over the allocation of resources to other sectors. Thus, in accordance with the General Social Development Act, “the federal budget for social spending may not be less, in real terms, than that of the previous fiscal year. This spending shall be increased at least in the same proportion as the expected growth in gross domestic product.”

The social programmes for development implemented in Mexico amount to more than 172 billion pesos and represent 94.8 per cent of the total budget of the Ministry of Welfare, which, in 2020, totals 181.457 billion pesos.

In this context, Mexico has focused its international and national commitment to disarmament and development on the generation of strategic documents, visions and analyses, which has given it a comprehensive and specific view of the problems related to arms trafficking.

In addition to the above, the following measures have been taken:

(a) The campaign “Yes to Disarmament, Yes to Peace” was implemented in 2019. It seeks to contribute to the reduction of the high rates of violence by raising awareness among the population about the risks of having firearms and ammunition. The campaign consists of the voluntary surrender of weapons held by civilians in exchange for rewards to their families (economic resources, basic necessities or household appliances). Accordingly, during the period from 1 January 2019 to 13 March 2020, 5,236 firearms and 964,484 cartridges were recovered and destroyed.

(b) Mexico participates both in international meetings aimed at reducing the impact of conventional weapons and in multilateral forums geared towards achieving nuclear disarmament and reducing military expenditure on armaments. These promote the allocation of more resources for development, in compliance with the Sustainable Development Goals.

(c) In strict compliance with the resolutions of the United Nations and the Organization of American States, Mexico promotes cooperation in activities related to disarmament, transparency in military expenditures and increasing confidence-building measures.

Ukraine

[Original: English]
[11 May 2020]

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

However, since 2014, Ukraine has been facing severe military aggression from Russia. The Russian terrorist forces continue to conduct offensives in the east of

Ukraine. The aggressor State builds up its military capacities in the occupied territory of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol, which impede security not only in the Black Sea area but also in the whole south of Europe, as well as in the Middle East.

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

Therefore, only the full compliance by all Member States, primarily by Russia, with the Charter of the United Nations with regard to Ukraine, could create the indispensable preconditions for achieving economic and social development in the sense of General Assembly resolution [74/57](#) on the relationship between disarmament and development.

IV. Reply received from the European Union

[Original: English]

[20 May 2020]

Article 26 of the Charter of the United Nations set the goal to “promote the establishment and maintenance of international peace and security with the least diversion for armaments of the world’s human and economic resources”. The report of the 1987 International Conference on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development drew attention to the close relationship between peace and development, against a background of growing military expenditure and sombre prospects for the world economy.

The European Union acknowledges that there can be no peace and security without development and no development without peace and security. The European Union works to promote the establishment and maintenance of international peace and security with the least diversion for armaments of the world’s human and economic resources, in line with the Charter of the United Nations. The Council conclusions on the comprehensive approach of the European Union, adopted by the Foreign Affairs Council on 12 May 2014, define such principles as follows: “The European Union and its Member States can bring to the international stage the unique ability to combine, in a coherent and consistent manner, policies and tools ranging from diplomacy, security and defence to finance, trade, development and human rights”. The 2016 European Union Global Strategy requires an integrated approach across external policies, between Member States and European Union institutions and between the internal and external policy dimensions. The Council conclusions of 19 May 2017 on operationalizing the humanitarian-development nexus state that poverty, conflict, fragility and forced displacement are deeply interlinked and must be addressed in a coherent and comprehensive way, also as part of the humanitarian-development nexus. The European Union recognizes the linkages between sustainable development, humanitarian action, and conflict prevention and peacebuilding, as well as the importance of diplomatic and political solutions to support peace and security, in line with the European Union Global Strategy and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Council stresses the importance of investing in prevention and addressing the underlying root causes of vulnerability, fragility and conflict while simultaneously meeting humanitarian needs and strengthening resilience, thus reducing risks. The multilateral and international cooperation efforts of the European Union on disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control take into account the

interrelationship between disarmament and development, with a view to realizing the Sustainable Development Goals.

All European Union member States are parties to the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, 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, the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction, the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction, the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction and the Arms Trade Treaty. Since 2004, the European Council has committed more than €285 million to the implementation and universalization of disarmament, non-proliferation and arms export control treaties and conventions. The European Union is also supporting capacity to prevent and combat illicit small arms and light weapons and projects addressing the threats of anti-personnel landmines and explosive remnants of war with the aim of enhancing socioeconomic development in certain affected States.

In his 2018 agenda *Securing our Common Future: An Agenda for Disarmament*, the Secretary-General highlights disarmament as a means of promoting sustainable development. The European Union is an official supporter of the following actions of the Agenda:

- Action 8: Develop nuclear disarmament verification
- Action 10: Readiness to investigate alleged use of biological weapons
- Action 34: Ensure the financial stability of treaty support mechanisms
- Action 35: Increase engagement with regional organizations
- Actions 36–37: Full and equal participation of women in decision-making processes

The link between disarmament and development with regard to several weapon categories

Chemical and biological weapons

Council Decision (CFSP) 2019/538 was adopted in support of activities of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) in the framework of the implementation of the European Union Strategy against Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction. It funded training for chemists, chemical engineers and other professionals who assume managerial responsibilities in OPCW member States with developing and transition economies.

The European Union funded projects to support the Secretary-General's Mechanism for Investigation of Alleged Use of Chemical and Biological Weapons in recognition of the high human, social and economic cost of the use of chemical or biological weapons. A development approach was introduced by encouraging nominations of experts and laboratories from the global South and of female experts to the roster, besides enhanced participation of laboratories from developing countries.

The European Union has supported projects to strengthen health security at ports, airports and ground crossings in cooperation with the World Health Organization by providing technical guidance and tools, information and knowledge-sharing.

Anti-personnel landmines and explosive remnants of war

The European Union is committed to mine action that addresses the socioeconomic impact on civilian populations of anti-personnel landmines, cluster munitions, anti-vehicles mines and other explosive remnants of war.

Council Decision (CFSP) 2017/1428 was adopted in support of the implementation of the Maputo Action Plan for the implementation of the 1997 Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction. It includes a comprehensive approach to implementation, ranging from mine clearance to victim assistance.

On 25 June 2019, Council conclusions were adopted on a European Union position on strengthening the ban against anti-personnel mines in light of the fourth Review Conference of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention from 25 to 29 November 2019 in Oslo. That position was grounded on the fact that anti-personnel landmines and explosive remnants of war thwart the personal and economic development of individuals, families, communities, regions and States. Explosive contamination blocks access to agricultural land, hinders tourism and increases the cost of investment in infrastructure and industrial development. Mines can strip entire regions of a fair chance of economic development. During the Review Conference, the European Commission delivered a statement highlighting the role of mine action in the long-term development of post-conflict regions and countries as critical for fostering a conducive environment for the normalization of life and livelihoods for civilians, opportunities for income generation and the reintegration of both former combatants and civilians.

The European Union and its member States are major donors for mine action assistance worldwide, supporting mine clearance, risk education, victim assistance, stockpile destruction, capacity-building and research and development in technology for mine detection and clearance. Since 2014, the European Union and its member States have committed more than €500 million for mine action assistance.

Small arms and light weapons

In *Securing our Common Future: An Agenda for Disarmament*, which was launched on 24 May 2018, the Secretary-General called for an inclusive, integrated and participatory approach to small arms control at the country level and, in some situations, at the subregional level. The European Union engages in support of these aims, including through the frameworks of the Arms Trade Treaty and the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects. As already recognized in 2001 in the Programme of Action, the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons has a wide range of humanitarian and socioeconomic consequences and causes a serious threat to peace, reconciliation, safety, security, stability and sustainable development at the individual, local, national, regional and international levels. The links between armed violence, conflict and poor development are well established. Under target 16.4 of the Sustainable Development Goals, States have committed, by 2030, to significantly reduce illicit financial and arms flows, strengthen the recovery and return of stolen assets and combat all forms of organized crime. Therefore, alongside addressing security goals, the supporting actions should aim to mitigate and prevent negative effects on sustainable development from the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons and their ammunition.

The European Union strategy against illicit firearms, small arms and light weapons and their ammunition, adopted by the Council of the European Union on 19 November 2018, set the guidelines for Union action in the field of small arms and

light weapons. The strategy takes into account the guiding principles of the 2016 European Union Global Strategy, which requires an integrated approach across external policies.

It also takes into account the outcome of the third United Nations Conference to Review Progress Made in the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, held in June 2018, at which States Members of the United Nations undertook to strengthen, as appropriate, partnerships and cooperation at all levels in preventing and combating the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons, in particular on border control; stockpile management and security; destruction and disposal; marking, record-keeping and tracing; and illicit brokering. They also undertook to strengthen cooperation with relevant subregional and regional organizations.

In a concrete follow-up to the strategy, the European Union provides considerable assistance through a number of projects to various countries and regional organizations to strengthen the action against illicit small arms and light weapons. Since 2004 more than €100 million has been allocated to projects for the control of small arms and light weapons. The priorities include stockpile management, the destruction of surplus and confiscated small arms and light weapons, capacity-building for marking, record-keeping and tracing of small arms and light weapons, support for law enforcement capacities in countering arms trafficking and tracking the sources of illicit weapons and ammunition in conflict-affected areas. The European Union is also assisting countries in enhancing their national arms transfer control systems to prevent weapons from falling into unauthorized hands. In addition, the European Union financially supports activities of the Office for Disarmament Affairs 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 and Sustainable Development Goal 5.

Council Decision (CFSP) 2019/2191, adopted in support of a global reporting mechanism on illicit conventional arms and their ammunition to reduce the risk of their diversion and illicit transfer (“iTrace IV”), sought to enhance frequency and duration of in-field research into conventional arms and their ammunition, illegally circulating in conflict-affected areas.

Development is also fostered by specifically targeting vulnerability. The European Union supports the inclusion of gender perspectives in national legislation and policies on disarmament and arms control. This encompasses consideration of the gendered aspects of the ownership and of the use and misuse of arms, the differentiated impacts of weapons on women and men, the ways in which gender roles can shape arms control and disarmament policies and practices, and the full and equal participation of women in all decision-making processes related to disarmament and international security. An example is Council Decision (CFSP) 2018/2011, adopted 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.

Promoting development and disarmament at a regional level is a priority. Council Decision (CFSP) 2018/2010 was adopted in support of countering illicit proliferation and trafficking of small arms and light weapons and ammunition and their impact in Latin America and the Caribbean. Projects assessed armed violence patterns and issues in three member States of the Organization of American States to identify populations suffering a high index of crime using small arms and light weapons and State and civil society services available to assist victims.

Strategic export control

Criterion Eight of Common Position 2008/944/CFSP defining common rules governing control of exports of military technology and equipment requires European Union member States to consider the compatibility of the exports of the military technology or equipment with the technical and economic capacity of the recipient country, taking into account the desirability that States should meet their legitimate security and defence needs with the least diversion of human and economic resources for armaments. The Common Position further states that: “Member States shall take into account, in the light of information from relevant sources such as United Nations Development Programme, World Bank, International Monetary Fund and Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development reports, whether the proposed export would seriously hamper the sustainable development of the recipient country. They shall consider in this context the recipient country’s relative levels of military and social expenditure, taking into account also any European Union or bilateral aid.”

The European Union and its member States also support the export control regimes on chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear dual-use goods and missile technology. The European Union puts a major emphasis on globally enhancing the security of dual-use chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear materials, whose malevolent use poses a risk for international development. With a budget of €155 million for the period 2014–2020, the Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Risk Mitigation Centres of Excellence Initiative provides a platform for voluntary regionalized cooperation with 61 partner countries on all chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear material-related hazards. Special attention is thereby given to terrorism-related threats.

The European Union partner-to-partner export control programme to enhance the effectiveness of export control systems of dual-use items and related materials, equipment and technologies currently covers 36 countries. In 2017 it was extended to Lebanon. Two new regional initiatives, the export control targeted initiatives, were launched in 2017 and 2018 with Ukraine and Kazakhstan.

Disarmament, demobilization and reintegration and security sector reform

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

The Council adopted Decision (CFSP) 2018/1789 in support of combating the illicit trade in and proliferation of small arms and light weapons in the member States of the League of Arab States to sustainably build national capacity to combat the illicit proliferation of small arms and light weapons, combat terrorism and enhance security in post-conflict situations, while fully respecting human rights standards and disarmament, demobilization and reintegration.

The European Union Advisory Mission for civilian security sector reform in Ukraine pursues engagement with Ukraine and the region and systematically integrates the fight against illicit small arms and light weapons into any dialogue on security matters with partner countries in the neighbourhood.