

Disarmament

In the field of disarmament, 2015 saw a continuation of the mixed trends and developments that had characterized the work of the United Nations during the previous year—some progress as well as some setbacks. The adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in September was a milestone for the cause of disarmament because the Agenda linked, for the first time, sustainable development with disarmament. By specifically highlighting the devastating impact that the illicit and unregulated arms trade was having on lives and livelihoods, the Agenda gave impetus to tackling that threat to human security.

The debate over nuclear disarmament highlighted widening divisions, in particular between nuclear-weapon States and their allies on the one hand, and non-nuclear-weapon States on the other, over the humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons. The General Assembly adopted several resolutions reflecting those concerns. These included a resolution on disarmament commitments, which was prominently displayed at the Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

investigations involving toxic chemicals. In the wake of those revelations, the Security Council adopted Resolution 2235(2015), which called for the prohibition of nuclear weapons. The Security Council also established a Joint Investiga-

the Arms Trade Treaty in international law. The Treaty is a landmark in conventional arms control and security. As at the time of writing, 110 of 193 Member States had signed and 68 had ratified or

centres for peacekeeping work on capacity-building to curb the illicit trade in arms and ammunition while also assisting States in implementing the Arms Trade Treaty (2004) regarding the regulation of factors of weapons

memorate and promote the International Day for

its effectiveness would be judged on a single criterion: its ability to conclude disarmament treaties.

The Conference concluded its 2015 session without reaching consensus on a programme of work.

On 18 September, the Conference adopted its report [CD/2046] for transmission to the General Assembly.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 7 December [meeting 67], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the First Committee [A/70/462], adopted [resolution 70/67](#) ([Annex](#)) without vote [agenda item 99 (a)].

On the same day ([resolution 70/515](#)), the Assembly took note of the report of the First Committee [A/70/468] under the agenda item entitled “Revitalizing the work of the Conference on Disarmament and taking forward multilateral disarmament negotiations”.

Comprehensive programme of disarmament

The Conference on Disarmament [A/70/27] discussed agenda item 6, “Comprehensive Programme of Disarmament”, during the general debate. Delegations reaffirmed or further elaborated their respective positions on the agenda item.

Multilateral disarmament agreements

As at 31 December 2015, the number of States parties to the multilateral arms regulation and disarmament agreements listed below (in chronological order, with the years in which they were signed or opened for signature) was as follows:

Protocol for the Prohibition of the Use in War of Asphyxiating, Poisonous or Other Gases, and of

UN role in disarmament

Disarmament and development

• In response to General Assembly resolution 69/56 [YUN 2014, p. 613], the Secretary-General in July [A/70/163 & Add.1] reported on trends to frd otee Sne (e)-3.2 t(sp)-7.2 (n)6 .1 (d)6 (

Nuclear disarmament

In response to General Assembly resolutions 69/40 [YUN 2014, p. 616], 69/43 [ibid., p. 627] and 69/48 [ibid., p. 620]

the States members of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries) to his request for their views on achieving the objective of the total elimination of nuclear weapons, in particular on the elements of a comprehensive convention on nuclear weapons.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 7 December [meeting 67], on the recommendation of the First Committee [A/70/460], the General Assembly adopted resolution 70/34 (2013) by recorded vote (140-26-17) [agenda item 97 (a)].

Cessation of nuclear arms race, nuclear disarmament, prevention of nuclear war

The Conference on Disarmament [A/70/27] discussed the agenda items “Cessation of the nuclear arms race and nuclear disarmament” and “Prevention of nuclear war, including all related matters”. Before the Conference were 24 documents transmitted by Member States, including the statement [CD/2018] issued by the nuclear-weapon States, or P5, at the sixth P5 Conference (London, 4–5 February); the special declaration [CD/2016] on the urgent need of a world free of nuclear weapons adopted at the World Summit of Heads of State and Government Officials of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (Belén, Costa Rica, 28–29 January); and a letter of 22 June from the Secretary-General [CD/2023] transmitting the report of the Group of Governmental Experts established by resolution 67/53 to make recommendations on possible aspects that could contribute to a treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices (see below). Delegations reaffirmed or further elaborated their respective positions on those agenda items.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 7 December [meeting 67], the General Assembly, (T)-(J)11(I)-29

adopted by General Assembly resolution 50/245 [YUN 1996, p. 454]. Angola became a party during the year. In accordance with article XIV, would enter into force 180 days after the 44 States possessing nuclear reactors listed in Annex 2 of the Treaty had deposited their instruments of ratification. By year's end, 36 of those States had ratified the Treaty.

The senior statesmen, politicians and experts who constituted the Group of Eminent Persons met in Seoul in June to rally support for the Treaty's entry into force and highlight the threat posed by nuclear weapons testing. During that meeting, the Group considered the status of the Treaty, identified ways to advance its entry into force, assessed developments on the Korean peninsula and their implications for regional peace and security and issued the Seoul Declaration, containing a call for the Treaty's entry into force. The Group also met in Hiroshima, Japan, in August and adopted the Hiroshima Declaration, which stated that the entry into force of the Treaty was one of the most essential practical measures for nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, also calling for a multilateral approach to engage the leadership of the remaining eight Annex 2 States and with the aim of facilitating their respective ratification processes.

In July [A/70/171], pursuant to General Assembly resolution 69/81 [YUN 2014, p. 626], the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Preparatory Commission for , reported on the efforts of States that had ratified the Treaty towards its universalization, and on possibilities for providing assistance on ratification procedures to States that requested it, covering the period from June 2014 to May 2015.

Conference on facilitating CTBT entry into force

The ninth biennial Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty (New York, 29 September) [CTBT-Art.XIV/2015/6] was attended by 91 States. Participants included delegates from five of the Annex 2 States (e.g. 7.5 (f) 1 () [TJ] pl n 314.5 (7) 15.4 (er) 80.8 (r) 11.4e) -10.6 (0) 6.4 (d) 817.7 (e) 8

sources in unauthorized or undeclared storage. One of the reports involved high enriched uranium.

The Agency continued to give priority to the development and implementation of integrated nuclear security support plans to assist States in applying a holistic approach to nuclear security capacity-building and enabling increased coordination between the Agency, the State concerned and potential donors. During the reporting period, 13 Member States approved their plans, bringing the number of approved plans to 67. An additional eight Member States and one non-Member State finalized new plans and were in the process of approving them, and 16 Member States with existing plans held joint review meetings with the Agency to update their plans.

The Agency also continued to develop the Nuclear Security Information Portal. As at 2015, the Portal had over 2500 registered users from 150 Member States and 19 organizations.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 7 December [meeting 67], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the First Committee [A/70/460], adopted **70/36** () without vote [agenda item 97 (d)].

Multilateralism in disarmament and non-proliferation

In response to General Assembly resolution 69/93n 6ratoc 0 TO Membibeon

programme was limited mainly to satellite imagery. Based on the available information, however, the nuclear programme remained a matter of serious concern and had undergone regrettable developments that constituted clear violations of relevant Security Council resolutions. The Director General called on the State to comply fully with its obligations under relevant Security Council resolutions, to cooperate promptly with the Agency in the full and effective implementation of its Safeguards Agreement and to resolve all outstanding issues, including those that had arisen during the absence of Agency inspectors.

Annex C. In a September resolution [GC(59)/RES/14], the Security Council General Conference condemned the three nuclear tests conducted by the State and called on the country to refrain from conducting any further tests. The Conference deplored all the State's ongoing nuclear activities, including the restart of the 5MW(e) graphite moderated reactor, the operation and extension of the uranium enrichment facility, and the construction activities at the light water reactor at Yongbyon, and urged it to halt such activities and any efforts to readjust or expand its nuclear facilities.

(For more information on UN concern with the nuclear programme and related sanctions, see p. 000.)

Iran

During the year, the Director General submitted four reports [GOV/2015/15, GOV/2015/34, GOV/2015/50, GOV/2015/65] to the Board of Governors on the implementation of Iran's safeguards agreements and relevant Security Council resolutions. The Director General reported that while the Agency cal4[(.2 (t)2.-0.018 3n o)3

Asia

South-East Asia

On 10 States parties to the Treaty on the South-East Asia Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone (Bangkok Treaty), which was opened for signature in 1995 [YUN 1995, p. 207] and entered into force in 1997 [YUN 1997, p. 495], continued to promote and strengthen implementation of the Treaty.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 7 December [meeting 67], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the First Committee [A/70/460], adopted resolution 70/60 (B, annex I) without vote [agenda item 97 (2)].

Middle East

In response to General Assembly resolution 69/29 [YUN 2014, p. 655],

organizations, discussed strengthening cooperation

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 7 December [meeting 67], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the First Committee [A/70/460], adopted **70/41** (**C**) by recorded vote (174-0-4)

demned any use of any toxic chemical, such as chlorine, as a weapon in Syria. To identify the perpetrators of those crimes and bring them to justice, the Council in August passed **2235(2015)**, establishing the **United Nations Joint Investigative Mechanism**, which was mandated to identify individuals, entities, groups or Governments who were perpetrators, organizers, sponsors or otherwise involved in the use of chemicals as weapons in Syria. The Mechanism became operational in November.

Conventional weapons

Arms Trade Treaty

The historic adoption of the Arms Trade Treaty in 2013 via resolution 67/234 B [YUN 2013, p. 508] had marked a significant point in efforts to regulate the global trade in conventional arms and to promote peace and security. As at the time of the opening of the first Conference of States Parties to the Treaty, on 24 August 2015, 69 Member States had become parties. As at 31 December, the number of parties had increased to 79. The impact of the Treaty's entry into force began to be felt during the year, as the Treaty's obligations were cited in a range of calls made by civil society advocates and parliamentarians seeking to ensure accountability in cases of alleged irresponsible transfers involving States parties.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 7 December [meeting 67], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the First Committee [A/70/460], adopted **70/58** (**A**) by recorded vote (157-0-26) [agenda item 97 (j)].

Small arms

In response to Security Council resolution 2117(2013) [YUN 2013, p. 509], the Secretary-General in April submitted to the Council a biennial report [S/2015/289] on small arms and light weapons, including on the implementation of that resolution. The Secretary-General focused on small arms and light weapons, including their ammunition, but also reported on the increased diversion and misuse of heavy weapons, as had recently been observed with the diversion of weapons from Iraq and Libya to Syria, Ukraine and Yemen. In Section II of the report, the Secretary-General framed the issue of arms and ammunition, focusing not only on conflict and post-conflict situations, but also on situations of transnational organized crime and terrorism, and armed violence. In Section III, he examined ways of addressing the risk of the misuse, diversion and illicit

Amended Protocol II on Mines, Booby-traps and Other Devices

Meeting of experts

The Amended Protocol II Group of Experts meeting (Geneva, 9–10 April) [CCW/AP.II/CONF.17/3] continued discussions on the operation and status of Amended Protocol II, matters arising from the national reports, and the development of technologies to protect civilians against indiscriminate effects of mines, as requested by the Sixteenth Annual Conference of the High Contracting Parties to Amended Protocol II [YUN 2014, p. 671]. It made recommendations to the Seventeenth Annual Conference of High Contracting Parties to Amend Protocol II (see below).

Annual Conference of States Parties

The Seventeenth Annual Conference of the High Contracting parties to Amended Protocol II (Geneva, 11 November) [CCW/AP.II/CONF.17/6] issued an appeal to States that had not yet done so to accede to the Amended Protocol. The Conference took note of the report of the Group of Experts [CCW/AP.II/CONF.17/3] and decided that the Group should continue to review the operation and status of the Protocol, matters arising from reports by High Contracting Parties and the development of technologies to protect civilians against indiscriminate effects of mines. It also decided that the Group of Experts should analyse the implementation by the High Contracting Parties of their obligation to submit national annual reports and should study their content.

The Conference took note of the report by the Coordinator on Improvised Explosive Devices () [CCW/AP.II/CONF.17/2] and decided that the High Contracting Parties should request the Implementation Support Unit to or 6.7 (P.)d.6 (t t4-11.1 (a)-8.1c 0.052a6-102.Tw -2)

Improvised explosive devices

On 6 November, Afghanistan, also on behalf of Australia and France, introduced a draft resolution entitled “Countering the threat posed by improvised explosive devices” [A/C.1/70/L.36]. Subsequently, 26 countries joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 7 December [meeting 67], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the First Committee [A/70/460], adopted **70/46 (C.1.97)** without vote [agenda item 97].

Practical disarmament

The Disarmament Commission [A/70/42] included in its agenda the item “Practical confidence-building measures in the field of conventional weapons” and decided to allocate it to Working Group II. On 21 April, the Chair of the Working Group introduced a conference room paper [A/CN.10/2015/WG.II/CRP.1] and, on the same day, the Working Group completed its reading of the paper. On 22 April, the Working Group adopted its report on the agenda item and decided to make the conference room paper available to the Commission at its substantive session of 2016.

Transparency

The Conference on Disarmament [A/70/27] discussed the agenda item “Transparency in armaments” during the general debate. Delegations reaffirmed or further elaborated their respective positions on the agenda item.

UN Register of Conventional Arms

In reports submitted in July [A/70/168] and September [A/70/168/Add.1], the Secretary-General, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 68/43 [YUN 2013, p. 521], reported that he had received information from 47 States on the export and import of conventional arms covered by the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms, established in 1992 [YUN 1992, p. 75] to enhance transparency on arms transfer.

It also included “nil reports”, as well as additional background information on military holdings, procurement through national production and international trade.

In a February note [A/AC.105/1080 & Add.1,2], the Secretary-General transmitted to the General Assembly the replies from four countries (Germany, Italy, Russian Federation, United States) to his request for their opinions on the modalities of making practical use of the recommendations contained in the report [YUN 2013, p. 527] of the Group of Governmental Experts on Transparency and Confidence-Building Measures in Outer Space Activities, with a view to identifying those recommendations that could be adapted to and instrumental for ensuring the safety of space operations and the long-term sustainability of outer space activities.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 7 December [meeting 67], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the First Committee [A/70/460], adopted **70/53** () without vote [agenda item 97 (i)].

Placement of weapons in outer space

[A/70/462], adopted **70/69** () without vote [agenda item 99].

Disarmament fellowships, training and advisory services

Twenty-five fellows participated in the 2015



Conventional arms control at regional and subregional levels

In response to General Assembly resolution 69/47 [YUN 2014, p. 688] on conventional arms control at the regional and subregional levels, the Secretary-General in July and September reported [A/70/164 & Add.1] on the views of nine Member States (Argentina, Cuba, Czech Republic, El Salvador, Germany, Lebanon, Russian Federation, Spain, Ukraine) as well as the on the issue.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 7 December [meeting 67], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the First Committee [A/70/460], adopted [resolution 70/44 \(C\)](#) by recorded vote (182-1-2) [agenda item 97 (g)].

Regional confidence-building measures

In July, the Secretary-General, in response to General Assembly resolution 69/46 [YUN 2014, p. 689] on confidence-building measures in the regional and subregional context, submitted a report [A/70/170 & Add.1] containing the views of nine Member States (Chile, Cuba, Germany, Latvia, Lebanon, Peru, Portugal, Spain, Ukraine) and the on the issue.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 7 December

forces and UN peacekeeping mission personnel in the area of combating illicit small arms and light weapons. The Centre also partnered with States and civil society organizations to promote the Arms Trade Treaty.

The Centre provided technical assistance to Member States in implementing instruments relating to weapons of mass destruction, especially the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 7 December [meeting 67], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the First Committee [A/70/461], adopted *Resolution 70/65* (Annex I, paras. 1–5) without vote [agenda item 98 (d)].

Latin America and the Caribbean

As requested in General Assembly resolution 69/72 [YUN 2014, p. 696], the Secretary-General reported in July [A/70/138] on the activities of the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean (Lima, Peru) from July 2014 to June 2015. The Centre focused its assistance to Member States in the region on issues related to small arms and light weapons, other conventional arms and weapons of mass destruction. It engaged in more than 50 technical, legal and policy assistance activities for the implementation of disarmament and non-proliferation instruments, including the Arms Trade Treaty, the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, Security Council resolution 1540(2004) and General Assembly resolution

65/69 [YUN 2010, p. 513] on women, disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control. The Centre provided training for more than 500 security sector personnel on small arms and light weapons control, including on marking, record-keeping, tracing and stockpile management, as well as conventional arms control. It also held a training course exclusively for female officials to promote the participation of women in disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control processes. The Centre trained more than 100 national authorities using its Arms Trade Treaty implementation course, provided capacity-building assistance to several Caribbean States in their implementation of resolution 1540(2004) and assisted Caribbean States in developing voluntary national action plans for the implementation of that resolution.

As at 31 December 2014, the reserves and fund balances of the Centre's trust fund stood at \$2,191,478.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 7 December [meeting 67], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the First Committee [A/70/461], adopted *Resolution 70/63* (Annex I, paras. 1–5) without vote [agenda item 98 (d)].