

Forum: General Assembly I

Issue: Addressing Disarmament Efforts in Areas Affected by Armed Conflict, Including the Collection, Control, and Destruction of Weapons to Promote Peace-Building and Stability

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Introduction

As armed conflicts grow more deadly and widespread, disarmament efforts in these areas are necessary to promote peacebuilding and stability. These disarmament efforts include the collection, control, and destruction of weapons to facilitate sustainable peace in areas affected by armed conflict. In fact, the number of violent conflicts globally has enormously risen since 2001. Nearly half of all conflicts that we thought had been peacefully settled in the previous 30 years reoccurred, with almost 20% recurring 2 or 3 more times. The Disarmament, Demobilization, and Reintegration Section (DDRS) took part in a side event organized by the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) during the UN Programme of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons (UNPoA) Review Conference on June 19, 2024. This gathering explored ongoing efforts to combine arms control and disarmament programmes into larger peace-building plans. The involvement of the United Nations Specialized Research Institute (UNIDIR) showcased evidence-based approaches to advance disarmament efforts.

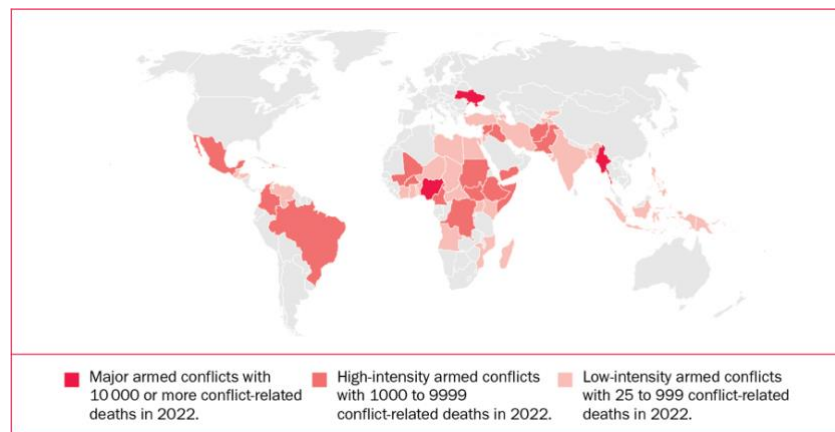


Figure #1: Armed conflicts by number of estimated conflict-related deaths, 2022

This report will scrutinize the history and the root causes of armed conflicts. Additionally, this report will discuss potential solutions which could be recognized and further implemented.

Key Terminology

Armed conflicts

Armed conflicts refer to a situation of violence between two or more organized parties, typically involving the use of armed force.

Disarmament

Disarmament refers to the reduction, elimination, or abolition of a variety of armaments and weaponry. It may refer either to reducing the number of arms or to eliminating entire categories of weapons.

Peacebuilding

Peacebuilding refers to the implementation of measures purposed to create or sustain peace, especially in an area affected by conflict.

Demobilization

Demobilization is the action or process of releasing troops from active service, typically at the end of a war.

Reintegration

Reintegration is the process of restoring or returning something or someone to a unified or integrated state.

Background

Significance of disarmament

Disarmaments intend to decrease weapons, while arms control concentrates on regulating armaments. The main idea of arms control was established from the US-USSR nuclear arms control negotiations held in the 1970s, initially meant to control nuclear weapons. Arms control, disarmament, and non-proliferation, which target armaments, aim to develop certain international rules and enhance the security environment through regulation, control,

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restriction, and reduction of armaments. The idea regarding disarmament policy comes from an initiative to promote peacebuilding and stability.

The end of Cold War and new direction towards disarmament

Post-Cold War disarmament efforts prioritized conflict-affected areas. The destruction of weapons such as landmines and guns has majorly helped the betterment of society. When the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction (the Ottawa Convention) entered into force in 1999, the utilization, development, production, and possession of anti-personnel landmines were prohibited. This was an epoch-making treaty as it was the first-ever convention to entirely prohibit a certain category of conventional weapons.



Figure #3: End of Cold War

Movements in the 1990s

The end of the Cold War during the 1990s led to a downfall in nuclear weapons throughout the world when the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty I (START) entered into force. However, it immensely increased the participation in the NonProliferation Treaty. In 1992, several states including France and China became state parties to the NPT. Iraq and North Korea, both state parties to the NPT, were suspected of developing nuclear programs in the early 1990s. Although a comprehensive safeguards agreement with the IAEA was applied to Iraq and UN Security Resolution 687 invited Iraq to reaffirm unconditionally its obligations under the NPT, it was revealed after the Gulf War that Iraq had been surreptitiously working on

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a nuclear-weapon program. These events caused a lot of complications thus, efforts to further enhance the effectiveness of the regime have been made.

Movements after 2000

After the year 2000, there was a new movement to foster disarmament and non-proliferation. In 2000, nuclear-weapon states agreed to take 13 practical and logical steps to achieve complete disarmament. In December 2001, the governments of the US and Russia officially declared the end of their obligations regarding the START I treaty, and they also ended the ABM in June 2002, which had been one of the most important agreements about having nuclear weapons as a threat. Furthermore, the Moscow Treaty was entered into force in June 2003, which was supposed to reduce the nuclear weapons of the US and Russia to about one-third. A new agreement was launched in 2002, called the Hague Code of Conduct Against Ballistic Missile Proliferation (HCOB) in order to stop the expansion of ballistic missiles. At the Summit in Kananaskis in 2002, “G8 Global Partnership Against the Spread of Weapons and Materials of Mass Destruction” was agreed upon. G8 countries would work together in Russia to address non-proliferation, disarmament, counterterrorism, and nuclear safety including the environment.



Figure #3: Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi, at the G8 Kananaskis Summit, June 2002

Major Parties Involved

United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA)

The Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) supports efforts specifically for achieving complete disarmament under strict and effective international control. Hence, it is mainly responsible for facilitating disarmament and non-proliferation efforts worldwide. The organization is involved through the Secretary General's Disarmament agenda which seeks to minimize potential risks from weapons. The Office for Disarmament Affairs will prioritize its partnerships with the civil society organisations, and member states to foster disarmament plans. Additionally, this organization also gives full support to the implementation of disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration. The organization had a significant impact on this issue through its powerful actions of facilitating negotiations and improving its standards.

United Nations Institute of Disarmament Research (UNIDIR)

This organization is an autonomous institution within the United Nations that conducts research on disarmament and international security concerns on a worldwide basis. UNIDIR focuses on providing innovative solutions to the world's most significant security issues. As an autonomous organization inside the United Nations, it plays a substantial role in policy making and negotiation management. It also advances the UN Secretary-General's Disarmament Agenda by contributing to and providing insights into the New Agenda for Peace, which focuses on managing strategic risks, preventing war, and enhancing peacekeeping operations. Hence, fostering peacebuilding and stability.

United States of America

The United States contributes to the issue of addressing disarmament efforts through its involvement in the United Nations. United States holds significant power over international disarmament policies and peacekeeping responsibilities as a permanent member of the UN Security Council. The United States puts forth and showcases its active involvement through funding and supporting the disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration programmes. These programmes are essential for promoting peace globally. Moreover, the United States is majorly involved since the US and Russia negotiated a few important treaties in the early 1990s

to reduce nuclear weapons. The most essential treaties were START I AND START II in the early 1990s.

Russia

Russia has been involved in numerous Armed Conflicts both internally and with neighbouring countries, making it an important factor in disarmament efforts. Russia has faced internal conflicts that required disarmament initiatives, notably in 1994-96 and after 1999.

Timeline of Events

Date	Description/Note
July 29, 1957	The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) is established and officially announced in Vienna as a forum for international cooperation on civilian nuclear research. US. I President Dwight D. Eisenhower first called for the creation of a such an agency in his Atoms for Peace speech to the UN General Assembly in 1953.
August 5, 1963	The Soviet Union, the United Kingdom, and the United States finally agreed to prohibit nuclear explosions in the atmosphere, outer space, and under water, and severely restrict underground testing after years of negotiations.
May 23, 1992	UN Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali introduces the concept of "micro-disarmament" focused on practical disarmament of light weapons in conflict zones.
September 24, 1996	The Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) that prohibits all nuclear tests including underground tests was adopted at the United Nations General Assembly in 1996.
May 31, 2001	The UN Firearms Protocol was fostered on May 31, 2001.
December 24, 2013	The arms trade treaty was endorsed to manage international trade in conventional arms.
May 24, 2018	The most awaited UN Secretary-General's Agenda for Disarmament released, expressing the role of disarmament during conflict prevention and peacebuilding.

Previous Attempts/Solutions

Invention of the Arms-Related Risk Analysis Toolkit

To overcome this issue the UNIDIR contributed to a solution on integrating conventional arms control into conflict prevention. This has led to the innovative development of the Arms-Related Risk Analysis Toolkit. This Toolkit provides you with a holistic approach to incorporating arms-related data into conflict analysis. It suggests and provides individuals with a step-by-step method to strengthen collaborative efforts to prevent armed conflict, with an emphasis on identifying context-specific drivers of armed violence. Using this Toolkit, analysts are guided in acquiring and evaluating arms-related information to support the development of conflict prevention methods ranging from early warning and preventative diplomacy to peace mediation, peacekeeping, and post-conflict peacebuilding. UNIDIR's Toolkit offers a starting point for every individual who is unfamiliar with arms-related issues. Analysts engaged in a conflict analysis (whether before, during, or after a conflict) may use UNIDIR's Toolkit since it is suggested, and it helps to identify appropriate risks and understand how those risks might affect the context being examined. The Toolkit launched by UNIDIR is arranged into three tools that incorporate 5 Risk Areas, 19 Risk Factors, and 54 Risk Points. This simply enables analysts to choose between 134 pre-identified options, 371 indicators, and 200 information sources to assess conflict risks in relation to arms and ammunition.

Japan's Efforts

Japan has conducted active disarmament and has focused on following the non-proliferation diplomacy. As a nation, Japan has been playing a leading role in disarmament and non-proliferation issues. In the current circumstance, Japan is involved with all multilateral disarmament and non-proliferation regimes. Japan plays significant roles in each of the following aspects of rule-making, implementation of the rules by each party, verification of compliance with the rules, remedy against non-compliance of the rules, and expansion of participants of the rules (universalization).

Launch of the Hague Code of Conduct

Japan has put forth to contribute to the launch of the Hague Code of Conduct against Ballistic Missile Proliferation (HCOG), as well as to formulating the IAEA's Model Additional

Protocol. Additionally, as an activity at the preparatory stage for the establishment of rules, Japan submits nuclear disarmament resolutions to the UN General Assembly every year, indicating the direction that the nuclear disarmament negotiations should take. Also, in the area of conventional weapons, UN resolutions concerning small arms and light weapons and the UN Register of Conventional Arms are submitted every year to set the direction for future rule-making activities.

Japan's contribution to the reinforcement of the IAEA safeguard measures

In addition to that, Japan has played a huge role in contributing to the reinforcement of the IAEA safeguards measures, which play as a verification mechanism in the nuclear non-proliferation field. The IAEA's Model Additional Protocol was adopted in 1997 at the IAEA to fundamentally reinforce the existing safeguards system in the wake of the revelation of Iraq's covert nuclear-weapon programs. Japan made a great contribution to the process of initiating the Additional Protocol. After the adoption, Japan supported seminars that took place in South America and Central Asia for the universalization of the Additional Protocol. Japan also hosted the international conference on Wider Adherence to Strengthened IAEA Safeguards in Tokyo in December 2002 in order to reinforce the IAEA safeguards regime.

Potential Solutions

Utilize advanced and high technology like drones and satellite imagery in order to monitor weapons stockpiles, which enables real-time tracking and assessment of disarmament processes. The utilization and implementation of drones and satellite imagery can also be used for aerial surveys.

Develop a global disarmament fund supported and mostly facilitated by contributions from governments, philanthropic organizations, and the business sector to fund innovative disarmament programmes and initiatives around the world, which will stimulate creativity and collaboration in disarmament efforts.

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