CONNECTING THE DOTS

UNIDIR
UNITED NATIONS INSTITUTE FOR DISARMAMENT RESEARCH

OVERVIEW OF FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

PARTICIPATION

EXAMPLES OF GENDER-RESPONSIVE ARMS CONTROL AND DISARMAMENT PRACTICES

- 2019 decision taken by the States parties to the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) requWesting the Secretariat to track gender balance of delegations.
- 2018 United Nations Secretary-General's Agenda for Disarmament, including a commitment to achieving gender parity in groups of governmental experts on arms control and disarmament.
- Collaboration between States parties and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to create the Informal Gender Working Group for the 2019 Review Conference of the Mine Ban Convention and the 2020 Review Conference of the Convention on Cluster Munitions.
- Collaboration between a group of States to establish a fellowship, offering sponsorship and training programmes for women diplomats participating in cybersecurity negotiations.
- Provision of a helpline and email address to support potential victims of sexual harassment during the 2019 Preparatory Committee for the 2020 Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) Review Conference.

AREAS FOR FURTHER ACTION

- More efforts should be undertaken to go beyond merely increasing the number of women, to effectively ensure both the full and meaningful participation of women as well as the inclusion of more diverse voices. Affected people and survivors of armed violence, as well as their representative organizations, should also take part in arms control and disarmament policy and programmes.
- Efforts should also be made to find common ground between WPS and disarmament actors, for example, by creating joint commissions or bringing WPS experts into arms control delegations and vice versa.

PREVENTION, PROTECTION

EXAMPLES OF GENDER-RESPONSIVE ARMS CONTROL AND DISARMAMENT PRACTICES

- Inclusion of Article 7(4) in the ATT, making it illegal to transfer weapons and material if there is a risk that those will be used to commit or facilitate acts of gender-based violence (GBV).
- National legislation denying gun licences or legal gun acquisition to those either convicted of domestic violence, acts of GBV, violent intimidation or stalking or seen to be at a high risk of committing them.
- Guidelines to prevent sexual harassment, exploitation and abuse in mine action.

AREAS FOR FURTHER ACTION

- Efforts related to prevention and protection should go beyond conflict-related sexual violence to also take into account the role of weapons in non-conflict GBV. They should ultimately ensure prevention of and protection from armed violence in general.
- The goals of prevention and protection should not be limited to small arms and light weapons (SALW) and must inform other areas of arms control and disarmament, including efforts to combat online harassment and GBV.
- Measures related to prevention and protection should also be informed by the potential impact of climate change on increasing armed violence and localized precarity. In this regard, additional research efforts are needed to improve understandings of the nexus between climate change and armed violence, as well as its gendered impacts.

RELIEF AND RECOVERY

EXAMPLES OF GENDER-RESPONSIVE ARMS CONTROL AND DISARMAMENT PRACTICES

- Clearance and handover of land previously contaminated by explosives to returning populations.
- Implementation of gender-sensitive victim assistance as part of multilateral action plans on cluster munitions and landmines.
- Comprehensive integration of gender perspectives into security sector reform (SSR) and disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) policies, guidelines and programming.

AREAS FOR FURTHER ACTION

- Policy actors and practitioners should act to improve and adequately fund mechanisms for disaggregated age- and gender-specific data collection related to the needs of survivors.
- The experience with gender-sensitive victim assistance in mine action should be expanded to protocols and agreements dealing with chemical, biological and nuclear weapons as well.

To access the complete study, visit www.unidir.org/WPS