



# General Assembly

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## Seventy-eighth session

Item 103 of the provisional agenda\*

### **Review of the implementation of the recommendations and decisions adopted by the General Assembly at its tenth special session**

## **United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research**

### **Note by the Secretary-General**

The Secretary-General hereby transmits to the General Assembly the report of the Director of the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) on the activities of the Institute for the period from January to December 2022, the Institute's approved programme of work and financial plan for 2023 and the Institute's proposed programme of work and financial plan for 2024.

The Board of Trustees of UNIDIR reviewed the report and approved the programme of work and financial plans for 2024 at the eightieth session of the Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters, held in New York on 20 June 2023.

Despite the challenging international geostrategic environment, including setbacks in disarmament and arms control, UNIDIR has reinforced its position as an independent knowledge provider, convener and bridge-builder, providing the necessary space for difficult but vital reflections on a range of peace and security matters.

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\* [A/78/150](#).



## **Report of the Director of the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research on the activities of the Institute for the period from January to December 2022, the approved programme of work and financial plan for 2023 and the proposed programme of work and financial plan for 2024**

### *Summary*

The present report was prepared in accordance with General Assembly resolution [39/148 H](#), in which the Assembly invited the Director of the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) to report annually to it.

UNIDIR provides independent, evidence-based research on some of the world's most pressing security challenges. It builds knowledge and capacity on security and disarmament matters globally, supports international treaty regimes and the informed engagement of States in multilateral arms control and disarmament processes, enhances transparency through its policy portals and helps to save lives through its work on illicit small arms and improvised explosive devices. The Institute's current research agenda, endorsed by its Board of Trustees, is aimed at identifying pathways to reinvigorate multilateral arms control and disarmament in the face of a challenging international political and security environment. Through this work, it acts as a bridge-builder in a fraught global security environment and facilitates inclusive, transparent and collaborative dialogue among both State and non-State stakeholders. The importance, timeliness and high quality of the work of the Institute have been recognized by the General Assembly (see resolution [75/82](#)).

All this work is made possible by the voluntary support of an increasingly diverse group of donors. This support, together with the recent strengthening of the Institute's funding structure and operating model, allowed UNIDIR to further expand its policy-oriented research and convening activities. It also enabled studies in 2022 in key areas, such as nuclear risks, biosecurity, outer space, the risks and benefits of new technologies, gender and disarmament, and the interlinkages between security, arms control, conflict prevention, development and peacebuilding.

In 2022, the number of events and publications both rose by more than two thirds compared with 2021. The Institute also built new digital policy portals, on artificial intelligence and on space security, and its experts provided sustained, and often discreet, technical support to States, regional organizations and multilateral bodies. The increased regular budget subvention allowed UNIDIR to deliver quarterly briefings to all regional groups and three events in countries that are not members of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development.

Notwithstanding the significant evolution and growing impact of UNIDIR in recent years, the Institute continues to rely almost exclusively on voluntary contributions for all of its programmatic work. The volatile geopolitical landscape and global economy, which are affecting the voluntary funding environment, and a constant decline in unearmarked funding pose risks to the Institute. These trends underline the importance of regular budget subvention and of all Member States from all regions supporting the Institute's activities, ideally with unearmarked, multi-year funding. In today's challenging geostrategic context, the Institute's independent, evidence-based and forward-looking research on disarmament and global security issues is in high demand. Its mission of working towards a stable and more secure world is perhaps more urgent than ever.

## I. Introduction

1. Our world is facing a dramatic confluence of global crises. The symbolic doomsday clock now stands at 90 seconds to midnight, which is closer than even at the height of the cold war and, indeed, the closest to humanity's self-destruction it has ever been. Nuclear weapons are back in the global spotlight. Hostilities in outer space and cyberspace are becoming more likely, while the age of artificial intelligence and supercomputing, with its manifold implications for weapons and global security, is only beginning. All this is happening amid a raging climate crisis and deep geopolitical division and mistrust.

2. In his address to the General Assembly at its seventy-seventh session, the Secretary-General warned that "our world is in peril" and "paralysed". Disarmament, arms control and non-proliferation are essential waypoints on any path towards cooperation and dialogue. They are a precondition for trust-building and global course correction and, as the Secretary-General appealed in his address, must urgently be brought back to the centre. Without progress on even these basics of international cooperation, it will be impossible to deal with the compound crises that humanity is facing.

3. The United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) is the only United Nations think tank that focuses on disarmament, arms control and non-proliferation. Its independent research, evidence-based analysis, practical tools and inclusive convening activities are in increasingly high demand. In 2022, this resulted in UNIDIR receiving support from the most diverse group of donors in its history and the highest number of donors ever. These included donors from all five regional groups as well as, for the first time since 2010, all five permanent members of the Security Council.

4. UNIDIR builds bridges in a divided world and supports the international community in addressing some of the world's most pressing international security challenges. Its experts provide sustained, and often discreet, technical support to States, regional organizations and multilateral bodies while facilitating inclusive, transparent and collaborative dialogue among both State and non-State stakeholders. The General Assembly, in its resolution [75/82](#), recognized the importance, the timeliness and the high quality of the work of the Institute.

5. In 2022, the Institute's research outputs again expanded significantly with the number of events and publications both up by more than two thirds compared with 2021. The Institute also built new digital policy portals, on artificial intelligence and on space security; commenced the development of an online database on national implementation of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction; incorporated a multi-year research project on managing exits from armed conflict; and saw record participation in its three annual flagship events: the Cyber Stability Conference, the Outer Space Security Conference and the Innovations Dialogue.

6. In 2022, with the support of the international community, UNIDIR continued to expand the scope and impact of its research, outreach and capacity-building activities worldwide. From an Institute of 19 staff members with a total revenue of close to \$3 million in 2018, UNIDIR has grown to a team of 41 staff members with a total revenue of approximately \$8 million in 2022. An increase in the regular budget subvention approved by the General Assembly in 2021 enabled UNIDIR to consolidate its senior management team through the establishment of an Executive Officer position (P-5) and to scale up its global dissemination activities through quarterly briefings to all regional groups of Member States and the organization of

three events in States that are not members of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development.

7. Notwithstanding this significant evolution and the growing impact of its work in recent years, UNIDIR continues to rely almost exclusively on voluntary contributions that are mostly earmarked. Unearmarked contributions have steadily declined in the past three years, from \$1,035,618 in 2020 to \$632,823 in 2022. This trend poses an increasing risk to the Institute and underlines the importance of the regular budget subvention and of all Member States from all regions supporting the Institute's activities, ideally with unearmarked multi-year funding. This is needed to ensure that UNIDIR can continue to provide its vital and unique work: independent, evidence-based research for all Member States.

## II. Performance and status of implementation of activities in 2022

### Research agenda and programmes

8. In 2022, UNIDIR made significant strides towards the implementation of its multi-year strategic research agenda for the period 2022–2025, endorsed by its Board of Trustees (see [A/77/263](#)). Five research programmes lie at the core of its research agenda: (a) conventional arms and ammunition; (b) weapons of mass destruction; (c) space security; (d) security and technology; and (e) gender and disarmament. These programmes are designed as dynamic, multi-year scalable workstreams to reflect the disarmament priorities of a diverse international community. The Institute also pursued its research project on the Middle East zone free of weapons of mass destruction and commenced a new research project on managing exits from armed conflict.

9. The Institute's research agenda emphasizes the continuous expansion and diversification of its expertise, digital products, educational activities and forward-looking research on disarmament, arms control and global security matters, in line with its statutory mandate. It contributes to integrating disarmament across the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (see General Assembly resolution [70/1](#)) and ensures that knowledge, ideas and dialogue on disarmament and arms control are accessible to a global audience, including young people and policymakers. Through the UNIDIR Academy, the Institute offers knowledge-building activities in key areas of arms control and disarmament. The UNIDIR Futures Lab focuses on forward-looking, long-term research with a view to better managing and mitigating the risks and complexities of the global security environment in the twenty-first century.

10. In 2022, UNIDIR further expanded its offering of digital tools. The UNIDIR Cyber Policy Portal added a host of new features, including a multilingual interface in all six United Nations official languages. In addition, UNIDIR built new policy portals on artificial intelligence and on space security and commenced the development of an online database on national implementation of the Biological Weapons Convention.

11. Following on from a record-breaking year in 2021, UNIDIR was again able to expand its research outputs and outreach in 2022. A total of 132 events (up 69 per cent) attracted 9,500 participants and 98 publications (up 69 per cent) were downloaded a record 54,000 times (up 35 per cent) by users in 191 countries.

12. The Institute's steadfast commitment to youth engagement yielded impressive results in 2022. These included the launch of the online Youth Disarmament Orientation Course, which received over 3,500 visits in its first two months online; the first UNIDIR Global Disarmament Essay Competition, with 121 entries from 38

countries from Africa, Asia, Europe and the Americas; a Model United Nations session on space security, involving 60 students and 5 UNIDIR experts; and the Institute's research talent-building Graduate Professional Programme, which brought 24 young researchers from 16 countries and 6 different regions to UNIDIR.

#### *Conventional arms and ammunition*

13. The illicit proliferation and misuse of conventional arms and ammunition prolongs conflicts and fuels armed violence and insecurity worldwide. Understanding the dynamics of illicit proliferation and developing effective measures to tackle related threats must be central to any international security and development agenda.

14. In 2022, the conventional arms and ammunition programme of UNIDIR conducted research in three priority areas: (a) strengthening weapons and ammunition management; (b) preventing armed conflict and armed violence; and (c) addressing global development and security challenges. The programme contributes to multilateral and regional processes, through the provision of knowledge and advisory services, and supports the implementation and development of relevant international instruments. In 2022, the programme contributed substantively to the multilateral process to establish a global framework on conventional ammunition control and provided support to 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, 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, United Nations transparency and confidence-building instruments and the work of the Security Council.

15. Weapons and ammunition management is an essential tool for States to exercise governance and control over conventional arms, ammunition and related components. It serves to prevent conflict and reduce armed violence. In 2022, UNIDIR supported a national baseline assessment of weapons and ammunition management in Benin, in cooperation with the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), and two national baseline assessments, one in El Salvador and one in Guatemala. UNIDIR also supported a follow-up assessment in the Central African Republic and participated in a United Nations weapons and ammunition management assessment mission to Somalia. The results of the assessment informed discussions on benchmarks contained in Security Council resolutions relating to the Central African Republic and Al-Shabaab in Somalia. On the occasion of the Eighth Biennial Meeting of States to Consider 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, UNIDIR released the first annual "Weapons and ammunition management in Africa insight" report in English and French. It identifies enabling factors and challenges to progress in strengthening weapons and ammunition management in Africa.

16. UNIDIR plays a leading role in enhancing knowledge to understand and mitigate the risk of diversion in arms transfers. In 2022, as part of research conducted with the Stimson Center and Conflict Armament Research, UNIDIR launched the counter-diversion assessment tool. Testing with eight States has shown that the tool can help to identify and to close gaps that allow diversion of conventional arms. At the invitation of the presidency of the Eighth Conference of States Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty, the programme shared its findings on post-delivery cooperation to support the development of the presidency's working paper on post-shipment controls and coordination. In 2023, UNIDIR will explore the role of technology in countering diversion.

17. In order to support the integration of conventional arms and ammunition control into the conflict prevention and management activities of the United Nations, in 2022, the programme shared findings on enhancing the protection of civilians through conventional arms control and addressing the linkages between illicit arms, organized crime and armed conflict. The *Arms-Related Risk Analysis Toolkit* offers practical guidance for conflict prevention analysts and, in 2023, it will be tested in cooperation with United Nations field missions.

18. In 2022, in order to feed into the diplomatic process towards the signing of the Political Declaration on Strengthening the Protection of Civilians from the Humanitarian Consequences Arising from the Use of Explosive Weapons in Populated Areas, the programme also published its *Second Menu of Indicators to Measure the Reverberating Effects on Civilians from the Use of Explosive Weapons in Populated Areas* and a fact sheet covering frequently asked questions on this issue.

19. In order to inform the deliberations of the open-ended working group on conventional ammunition established by General Assembly resolution [76/233](#), the programme released a study on the technical feasibility of marking small-calibre ammunition, available in English, French and Spanish, and the results of an ammunition profiling exercise conducted with law enforcement agencies in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

20. General Assembly resolution [77/64](#) underlines the impact of the work of UNIDIR in the field of conventional arms. In that resolution, Member States were encouraged to use the Institute's counter-improvised explosive device self-assessment tool. In 2022, in order to counter the threat posed by improvised explosive devices, the programme supported national self-assessments in Burkina Faso and the Philippines. In 2023, the programme will continue to support self-assessments on request, as well as regional information exchanges in South-East Asia and West Africa. Translations of the counter-improvised explosive device tool in Arabic, Bahasa Indonesia, Khmer, Thai and Vietnamese will be released in 2023.

21. In 2022, the conventional arms and ammunition programme and the security and technology programme published research results on the linkages between conventional arms control and new technologies. This innovative work focuses on uncrewed aerial, ground and maritime systems and also explores technologies for remote ceasefire monitoring. In 2023, the programmes will jointly undertake exploratory research into the proliferation of improvised and craft-produced weapons, as well as the use of uncrewed systems by non-State actors.

#### *Weapons of mass destruction*

22. Within a challenging geostrategic context, where the threat of the use of weapons of mass destruction has increased, the UNIDIR programme on weapons of mass destruction pursued research across three workstreams: (a) identifying nuclear risk reduction measures, including through dialogue on nuclear deterrence, disarmament and strategic arms control; (b) exploring new approaches to transparency and verification in nuclear security and disarmament; and (c) strengthening the norm against chemical and biological weapons.

23. UNIDIR is recognized as a global thought leader on nuclear risk reduction. With the prospect of nuclear conflict back within the realm of possibility, nuclear risk reduction became increasingly important in 2022. In order to address this topic, UNIDIR organized a closed expert workshop with a geographically representative set of experts to discuss a report on the implications of the invasion of Ukraine for arms control and disarmament. The findings from this report and wider research generated considerable media interest. The programme's work on nuclear risk reduction further informed stakeholders and shaped official positions and working papers for the tenth

Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, as well as the work of the First Committee of the General Assembly and other disarmament forums.

24. In 2023, the programme will continue to facilitate dialogue on disarmament, nuclear deterrence and strategic arms control in an age of geostrategic tension, providing a space for the development of shared understandings of risks and risk mitigation tools. Furthermore, the programme will examine differing regional perspectives of nuclear risks with a view to mapping regional risk perceptions. The programme will also explore the risks arising from the convergence of nuclear weapon systems with emerging technologies, including space systems. In addition, the programme will conduct research on nuclear decision-making in crisis situations.

25. UNIDIR research has long played an important role in advancing discussions on verification in nuclear disarmament. In 2022, the programme carried out two key research projects in this area. The first drew from past arms control measures and new technological opportunities to develop innovative thinking around approaches to missile verification that could be applied in future strategic arms control and disarmament agreements. A second project analysed disarmament verification in the context of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. Findings from this project were presented at the first Meeting of States Parties to the Treaty, in June 2022. Insights from the programme's work on nuclear disarmament verification were also used to inform the work of the Group of Governmental Experts to consider the role of verification in advancing nuclear disarmament.

26. In 2023, UNIDIR will undertake a nuclear verification field exercise at a facility offered by the Government of Switzerland. This exercise will inform the practice of nuclear disarmament verification and generate research outputs on the role of satellite surveillance, among other issues. UNIDIR will also provide expert input to verification-related discussions at the Preparatory Committee for the Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and the second Meeting of States Parties to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons and will provide substantive support to the Group of Governmental Experts on Nuclear Disarmament Verification.

27. Work on treaty compliance and enforcement continued in 2022 with publications focused on the rescheduled Ninth Review Conference of the States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction. The programme's work on the Convention provided policymakers with a better understanding of the key issues and opportunities for the Conference. Moreover, it helped the President of the Review Conference, Leonardo Bencini, to create a strategy for the Review Conference. UNIDIR input to the Biological Weapons Convention was also recognized as facilitating a convergence of views around review mechanisms for science and technology and on international cooperation under the Convention.

28. In 2023, the programme's work on chemical and biological weapons will include a publication and series of events on preparing for success at the Fifth Special Session of the Conference of the States Parties to Review the Operation of the Chemical Weapons Convention. UNIDIR will also continue to work on strengthening biological disarmament through expert support for the new working group process of the Biological Weapons Convention, stakeholder engagement and innovative policy research into technological opportunities for verification of the Convention.

29. The programme on weapons of mass destruction will also develop several digital tools in support of biological disarmament, including a major online database

that will serve as a repository of tools and materials related to national implementation of the Biological Weapons Convention.

#### *Space security*

30. With space becoming increasingly congested and contested, UNIDIR research on space security has informed thinking around the governance of outer space. In 2022, the newly established space security programme produced policy outputs on topics related to the legal framework for space security, space threats and the role of norms in space security governance. These widely referenced products helped to shape understandings of space issues in United Nations forums, including the open-ended working group on reducing space threats through norms, rules and principles of responsible behaviours. The 2022 Outer Space Security Conference involved over 1,000 participants from a diverse range of backgrounds. The programme also organized a further eight events, including regional space security events for the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States and for South-East Asian States.

31. In 2023, the space security programme will conduct research on verification, gender and the dual-use dilemma. It will also launch a common lexicon of space security concepts and terms in all official languages of the United Nations and a digital space security policy portal. The lexicon will build capacity for meaningful participation in discussions on space security. The portal will aid policymakers in developing shared understandings of policies and practices related to space security governance. The programme will continue to provide expert support to the open-ended working group on reducing space threats through norms, rules and principles of responsible behaviours and will facilitate dialogue by organizing a space industry workshop, the 2023 Outer Space Security Conference and a regional space security event in Africa.

#### *Security and technology*

32. Briefing the General Assembly on his priorities for 2023, the Secretary-General acknowledged that no agenda for peace could ignore the dangers posed by new technologies, including cyberattacks and lethal autonomous weapon systems. The UNIDIR security and technology programme explores the changing landscape of technological innovation in order to identify risks posed to international peace, security and development. In 2022, the programme focused on: (a) international cybersecurity; (b) artificial intelligence in the military domain; and (c) the convergence of new technologies, conventional weapons and conflict. Throughout the year, the programme informed multilateral processes related to international cybersecurity and lethal autonomous weapon systems.

33. The Institute's work on international cybersecurity supports States in implementing the framework for responsible behaviour in cyberspace and strengthens their capacity to manage international cyber incidents. In 2022, the programme conducted research on attribution, threat and incident classification and on the protection of critical infrastructure, which was also the subject of the 2022 Cyber Stability Conference. The programme also conducted a series of tabletop exercises, both in person and online, on the management of international cyberincidents, bringing together over 50 government officials from 30 countries from the European Union, African Union, Organization of American States and Association of Southeast Asian Nations. The UNIDIR Cyber Policy Portal continued to be extensively referenced by national delegations and reached a new milestone in 2022 with over 20,000 visits from around the world. In 2023, UNIDIR will support the operationalization of the framework for responsible State behaviour in cyberspace, focusing on confidence-building measures and international law.



34. The programme's second focus area is artificial intelligence and autonomy in weapon systems, decision-making processes and other military applications. In 2022, UNIDIR was instrumental in supporting the work of the Group of Governmental Experts on Emerging Technologies in the Area of Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems. An extensive research project, which included a round-table discussion among more than 30 delegations, highlighted crucial areas of convergence and divergence in proposals advanced by States for the establishment of a normative and operational framework for lethal autonomous weapon systems. UNIDIR also initiated a series of activities on the broader application of artificial intelligence in the military domain. The 2022 Innovations Dialogue examined the disruptive effect of artificial intelligence on international security and explored responsible artificial intelligence practices in the security context.

#### *Gender and disarmament*

35. The gender and disarmament programme contributes to gender equality and the integration of gender perspectives into all areas of arms control and disarmament. In 2022, the impact of its work was evident in the inclusion of gender issues in outcome documents adopted in arms control and disarmament processes, such as the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction, the Convention on Cluster Munitions, the Programme of Action on Small Arms and the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. Focus areas included the renewal of the mandate of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution [1540 \(2004\)](#) and engagement with gender focal points in multilateral regimes, as well as connecting the women and peace and security agenda with arms control and disarmament.

36. Research on the gender-related impact of biological threats informed multilateral initiatives, such as the Group of Seven Global Partnership Conference on Current Biosecurity Challenges, convened by Germany in October 2022. Members of the Global Partnership issued a declaration on biological security that recognized gender as a priority line of action.

37. To support delegations participating in the Eighth Conference of States Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty, UNIDIR and Control Arms developed a new fact sheet on gender and the Arms Trade Treaty. This resource provides an overview of gender balance in Arms Trade Treaty meetings and offers ideas to promote gender equality in conventional arms control.

38. As part of the International Gender Champions Disarmament Impact Group, UNIDIR launched a new fact sheet on gender and diversity in the Convention on Cluster Munitions in partnership with the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining. The Impact Group also produced the fourth edition of the "Gender and disarmament resource pack for multilateral practitioners".

39. With many countries officially adopting feminist foreign policies, UNIDIR is exploring what a feminist stance on arms control would look like. Initial reflections were shared during a conference hosted by the German Federal Foreign Office on the theme "Shaping feminist foreign policy" in September 2022 and in an article published by the European Leadership Network.

40. Throughout 2022, the programme delivered gender briefings to national actors working on conventional arms control and disarmament. Building on the programme's 2021 publication *Women Managing Weapons*, a new initiative comprising virtual and in-person workshops for women technical specialists on ammunition was set up under the auspices of the SaferGuard programme.

41. The programme collaborated with States and stakeholders in research projects, side events and working papers covering distinct disarmament forums. These included the tenth Review Conference of the Parties to the Non-Proliferation Treaty, the first Meeting of States Parties to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons and the open-ended working group on conventional ammunition, among others.

42. In 2023, the programme will publish an analysis of best practices for gender equality in conventional arms control, with a view to helping organizations to achieve more inclusive working environments. UNIDIR will also launch a report on how arms control and disarmament can help to prevent sexual violence. The programme will continue to develop initiatives that equip the women and peace and security community to deal with international security challenges related to cybersecurity and the military applications of artificial intelligence, including their gendered implications.

*A Middle East zone free of weapons of mass destruction*

43. The Institute's project on a Middle East zone free of weapons of mass destruction is aimed at examining the historical chronology of efforts to establish such a zone, as well as the perspectives and ideas underpinning progress towards it. Historical divergences, ongoing conflicts and deep mistrust among States in the region have diverted attention from cooperative initiatives designed to reduce regional proliferation challenges.

44. This three-year project funded by the European Union was first launched in October 2019 and then extended until July 2023 owing to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic. It pursues four overarching goals: (a) filling a research gap on the evolution of the Middle East zone free of weapons of mass destruction; (b) building analytical capacity to support new thinking on regional security issues and the zone initiative; (c) collating ideas and developing new proposals on how to move forward; and (d) fostering inclusive dialogue and soliciting regional perspectives, including by engaging officials and experts in workshops and dialogues in States in the Middle East.

45. In 2022, under the project, seven events were held with over 500 participants. A series was also published on regional perspectives, drivers and objectives for the zone, as was an essay on issues related to means of delivery. These activities encouraged and informed discussions on regional perspectives and priorities, including weapons of mass destruction-related threat perceptions. The project continued to foster dialogue on less explored topics such as biological and chemical weapons, as well as cooperation on nuclear energy and research in the context of the zone, thereby facilitating ongoing and future negotiations. UNIDIR participated in over 40 related events and regularly briefed and consulted with States in the region and United Nations system entities, including the International Atomic Energy Agency, the Office for Disarmament Affairs, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) and the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons.

46. By July 2023, the project will have published a narrative account of the zone process by the main stakeholders, personal accounts of the 2013–2014 informal consultations in Glion (Switzerland) and Geneva and research on possible modalities of nuclear disarmament in the zone. It will also publish two workshop reports: one on development and cooperation on nuclear research and energy and another on chemical and biological warfare in the context of the zone. A final report outlining the project's findings will be launched by June 2023.

*Managing exits from armed conflict*

47. The Institute's project on managing exits from armed conflict is a multi-year collaboration to develop a unified, rigorous assessment of how and why individuals exit armed conflicts. The main objective of the project is to enhance the effectiveness of efforts by the United Nations to prevent and respond to armed conflict. Robust, comparable evidence generated by the project will allow the United Nations and its partners to make decisions, issue mandates and allocate resources more effectively and with a better evidence base, and ultimately help to interrupt conflict cycles and promote sustainable peace. Launched in 2018 at the United Nations University, the project transitioned fully to its permanent institutional home at UNIDIR on 1 January 2023.

48. The project, together with United Nations partners and experts from various fields, developed an agreed framework that provides a converging vision for what "successful" transitions away from conflict look like, as well as a road map for the rigorous assessment of the impact of efforts by the United Nations to support such transitions. The project pilot-tested its framework and assessment tools, providing practitioners on the ground with evidence to support their work in real time in the following six countries: Cameroon, Chad, Colombia, Iraq, Niger and Nigeria.

49. In 2022, the project ran 13 different surveys, with over 13,000 respondents and more than 40 focus groups, and conducted participatory key informant interviews across the six countries. During its transition from the United Nations University to UNIDIR, which began on 1 June 2022, the project produced 16 publications that serve to highlight its findings and their policy and programming implications, 7 of which were translated to reach local stakeholder populations. The project also organized or participated in 24 events with over 600 participants to ensure that the findings were widely shared.

50. To date, the project has been funded by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Norway, the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs of Switzerland, the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office of the United Kingdom, the Department of Foreign Affairs of Ireland, the United Nations Development Programme and the International Organization for Migration. It works in partnership with the secretariat of the Regional Stabilization, Recovery and Resilience Strategy for Areas Affected by Boko Haram in the Lake Chad Basin Region, the Department of Peace Operations, the United Nations Children's Fund and the World Bank.

51. In 2023, the project will expand its work in the Lake Chad basin. It will follow up with survey panels and study the mass surrenders from Boko Haram, banditry in the north-west region of Nigeria and climate-driven recruitment. In Iraq, the project will expand its study on Iraqis returning from the Hawl refugee camp and, in Colombia, it will run its reincorporation survey with former combatants of the Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia – Ejército del Pueblo.

**Knowledge and advisory support**

52. The knowledge and advice generated by UNIDIR is continuously in high demand and its notable impact is widely recognized. Throughout 2022, UNIDIR regularly supported international treaty regimes and the informed engagement of States in multilateral processes relating to arms control and disarmament.

53. In the run-up to the Ninth Review Conference of the States Parties to the Biological Weapons Convention, UNIDIR launched a series of publications and events that helped to inform preparations by States parties. The President of the Review Conference acknowledged the Institute's work as having helped to create a

strategy for the conference. UNIDIR co-hosted a workshop to identify specific measures to work towards gender equality in biosecurity and disarmament and co-organized a photo exhibition highlighting women professionals in the field of biosecurity. UNIDIR also provided technical insights into the work of the first Meeting of States Parties to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. This included the publication of a report on the verification of the Treaty and co-authorship of an official working paper on operationalizing the gender provisions of the Treaty submitted with Chile, Ireland and Mexico. All four recommendations presented in the working paper were reflected in the final action plan adopted by the Meeting.

54. UNIDIR continued to support the national implementation of international and regional instruments on conventional arms and ammunition control. It conducted weapons and ammunition management baseline assessments in four States, bringing the total number of assessments conducted in Africa and the Americas since 2016 to 15. With engagements in Burkina Faso and the Philippines during 2022, the Institute's counter-improvised explosive device self-assessment tool has been used by at least 10 States since 2020. A UNIDIR expert contributed to the first train-the-trainer regional workshop, in the Philippines, for the Arms Trade Treaty secretariat.

55. UNIDIR continued to provide advisory support to groups of governmental experts. For the Group of Governmental Experts on Emerging Technologies in the Area of Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems, UNIDIR provided a comparative analysis of submitted proposals, a closed-door round-table discussion with a geographically diverse set of States, and research and a side event on human-machine interfaces. The Group's Chair and several experts acknowledged the impact of these contributions. UNIDIR experts served as consultants to the Group of Governmental Experts on the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms, providing briefings, co-convening events and recommending changes to the Register's scope and measures. The Group's Chair complimented UNIDIR on its outstanding work and sound technical input. UNIDIR supported the Group of Governmental Experts on Nuclear Disarmament Verification, including by developing a compendium of past verification practices, providing insights into the role of gender in verification and providing assistance to the Chair across two sessions.

56. UNIDIR also provided research and advice to open-ended working groups. As consultants to the Chair of the open-ended working group on conventional ammunition, UNIDIR experts worked closely with the Chair to provide, among other support, online briefings and input for informal dialogues. In cooperation with the Office for Disarmament Affairs, UNIDIR lent technical support to the Chair of the open-ended working group on security of and in the use of information and communications technologies 2021–2025, by providing research and support to Member States. UNIDIR also delivered working papers and expert presentations to the open-ended working group on reducing space threats through norms, rules and principles of responsible behaviours.

57. Through the UNIDIR Academy, the Institute again provided its disarmament orientation course for newly arrived diplomats in Geneva together with the Office for Disarmament Affairs. It will be repeated annually, subject to funding. In cooperation with the United Nations Institute for Training and Research, UNIDIR experts conducted a security and technology summer course. UNIDIR personnel gave presentations at events around the world and provided briefings to government officials, scholars and students all year round.

### **Dialogue activities**

58. Dialogue is central to the mission of UNIDIR. The Institute exercises important bridge-building functions and serves as an interactive platform for inclusive multi-

stakeholder dialogues. In 2022, its 132 events engaged participants at the national, regional and international levels on topics spanning the breadth of its research programmes. This increase of 69 per cent, compared with 78 events in 2021, demonstrates the importance of the Institute's role in building bridges. UNIDIR regularly brings together representatives of States, civil society and industry as well as experts and researchers from various disciplinary and geographical backgrounds to discuss a diverse range of disarmament and global security issues.

59. The year 2022 also saw record levels of participation in the Institute's three annual flagship events. The 2022 Cyber Stability Conference explored ways to advance critical infrastructure protection, bringing together more than 1,000 participants. The 2022 Outer Space Security Conference provided a unique forum for more than 1,300 participants, which is 27 per cent more than in 2021, to discuss policy options to enhance space security. The 2022 Innovations Dialogue, organized for the first time in New York, attracted over 1,500 participants, which represents a 33 per cent increase from 2021, to explore the impact of artificial intelligence on international peace and security. Adoption of a hybrid format facilitated participation from around the world.

60. For the first time, UNIDIR organized quarterly briefings for all regional groups of Member States. This important activity was enabled by the increase in the regular budget subvention approved in December 2021. In line with diplomatic priorities for 2022, the briefings focused on the Ninth Review Conference of the States Parties to the Biological Weapons Convention, the Eighth Biennial Meeting of States on Small Arms and the 2023 sessions of the open-ended working group on security of and in the use of information and communications technologies 2021–2025. They also focused on best practices for gender equality in conventional arms control.

61. UNIDIR continued its nuclear disarmament, nuclear deterrence and strategic arms control dialogue with interactive round tables. These brought together senior experts from around the world to identify specific options for recrafting strategic arms control and revitalizing the pursuit of nuclear disarmament. This dialogue resulted in the publication of a significant report on the future of arms control and disarmament following the war in Ukraine.

62. The first ECOWAS-UNIDIR Regional Seminar on Disarmament and Arms Control also took place in 2022. Hosted online and in Abuja, it brought together experts to discuss developments in gender and disarmament, small arms and light weapons, improvised explosive devices, space security, biosecurity and cybersecurity.

63. All UNIDIR programmes and projects regularly convene events around the globe. Research projects on managing exits from armed conflict and on a Middle East zone free of weapons of mass destruction brought together over 1,100 officials, experts, academics and civil society representatives in 77 workshops and round tables to discuss the regional perspectives of different geographical zones (the Lake Chad basin, Colombia and the Middle East).

64. UNIDIR further expanded its networking activities through the 2022 UNIDIR-Women in International Security CoLab, which convened a high-level meeting that brought together a distinguished group of 40 women from all regions working in international security in Geneva.

### **The Institute**

65. In 2022, UNIDIR continued to grow while further strengthening its operating model and funding structure. The Institute, in collaboration with the Department of Management Strategy, Policy and Compliance, also strengthened its monitoring of internal controls, leading to a marked improvement in scores on associated indicators.

*Staffing and operations*

66. The credibility and impact of UNIDIR depend on the quality and diversity of its researchers. Owing to increasing demand for the Institute's work, its full-time workforce increased by 14 per cent, from 36 in 2021 to 41 in 2022. Ten additional positions were added during the first quarter of 2023. As requested by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, a detailed staffing table is available in annex IV. The Institute's current personnel originate from 28 countries from five continents and speak 17 languages, including all six United Nations official languages. In total, 92 per cent of staff have a postgraduate degree, while 38 per cent hold a doctoral degree. UNIDIR has a well-balanced gender ratio of 58:42 between female and male staff.

67. At the institutional level, a new Executive Officer position was established at the P-5 level, which is funded by the increased regular budget subvention. This role includes managing and overseeing the Institute's Finance, Budget and Administration Unit and its Communications Unit. The Institute's Directorate was strengthened through the addition of two Junior Professional Officer positions, one of which is funded by the Government of Germany and the other by the Government of France. The Junior Professional Officers provide institute-wide support on special projects, communications and resource mobilization.

68. In line with the staffing model recommended for UNIDIR by the Secretary-General in 2018 (see [A/73/284](#)), UNIDIR continued to offer temporary United Nations appointments to heads of programmes and consultancy contracts through the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) to all other full-time research staff. The conditions provided by UNOPS for consultancy contracts remain more attractive than those provided by the United Nations Office at Geneva. Specifically, they include the same annual leave, sick leave and parental leave entitlements as for United Nations staff, and the possibility to cover relocation costs and to issue Swiss residence permits for eligible family members. This model allows UNIDIR to offer attractive yet flexible contracts and retain the talent required to fulfil its research agenda, thereby making efficient use of limited financial resources. As before, UNIDIR offered more cost-efficient consultancies through the United Nations Office at Geneva for limited-duration expertise.

69. UNOPS-contracted staff are offered a salary rate commensurate with the job description and background of the selected candidate. In 2022, UNIDIR reviewed the salary rates of all UNOPS-contracted staff with a view to ensuring that they are aligned across the Institute. In order to match the inflation rate-based salary increase adopted by the International Civil Service Commission for United Nations pay scales, UNIDIR implemented a salary increment of 5 per cent for its UNOPS-contracted staff.

70. In 2022, the total expenditure for 30 UNOPS-contracted staff was \$1,876,128 (compared with \$1,461,946 in 2021 for 20 staff). The service fees incurred to administer these human resources services and all travel (staff entitlement travel as well as official travel) amounted to \$150,090 in 2022 (compared with \$136,606 in 2021).

71. Owing to the growth in the Institute's operations in 2022, the cost of transaction-based services provided by the United Nations Office at Geneva, as well as rent, came to a total of \$319,242 (compared with \$304,446 in 2021).

*Communications and outreach*

72. In 2022, UNIDIR began to update its online presence and redesign its publications in order to better disseminate its products and to improve cost-efficiency.

73. The Institute's new website, to be launched in 2023, offers a more audience-focused and appealing channel through which stakeholders can discover and engage with its research and tools. For users, the new website provides alternative entry points and organizational principles that bring key themes and products to the fore. For UNIDIR staff, it enables rapid, decentralized and cost-effective generation of content. This will minimize redundancy in workloads and empower research programmes and projects to engage with key debates in real time.

74. A new suite of professionally designed publication templates will increase the consistency and impact of UNIDIR research products while reducing design costs through greater standardization.

75. The growing demand for the digital tools and portals offered by UNIDIR led to continued expansion in 2022, in terms of both reach and coverage. The global accessibility of the UNIDIR Cyber Policy Portal was boosted by the provision of interfaces in all six United Nations official languages. It received accolades from Member States and the private sector. Development of digital tools on space security, artificial intelligence and biosecurity also began in earnest in 2022, cementing the Institute's role as a digital hub for tackling key global security issues.

76. Outreach targeted at key partners within and beyond the United Nations system, as well as coordinated cross-platform social media campaigns, saw website visits rise to nearly 900,000. The Institute's combined social media audience also surpassed 40,000, with growth particularly strong on LinkedIn (a 50 per cent increase compared with 2021).

77. The 132 events held by the Institute, with over 9,500 participants, meant that 2022 was also another year of significant expansion in activities and outreach.

78. The Institute's 98 publications in 2022 (a 69 per cent increase compared with 2021) dealt with topics as varied as the cybernuclear nexus, uncrewed systems, gender issues in the Arms Trade Treaty, the recruitment of children into armed groups and the means of delivery in the Middle East zone free of weapons of mass destruction initiative. UNIDIR remains strongly committed to reaching new and underserved audiences through multilingual outputs. To this end, the Institute produced 19 translations into Arabic, Chinese, French and Spanish in 2022 alone. A complete listing of UNIDIR publications in 2022 is available on the Institute's website.<sup>1</sup>

79. Acting on a recommendation from its Board of Trustees to engage with young people on disarmament matters (see [A/75/283](#)), UNIDIR implemented a number of new activities targeting younger audiences and building expertise among next-generation researchers. These included a Model United Nations session on space security; the first UNIDIR Global Disarmament Essay Competition, which received 121 entries from 38 countries; and the Youth Disarmament Orientation Course, a self-paced course offering six e-learning modules on key disarmament issues.

80. In 2023, the Institute will focus on consolidating its redeveloped website, populating and promoting its suite of policy portals and engaging in a more targeted, effective and consistent way with traditional and digital media.

### *Partnerships*

81. In order to harness wide-ranging, first-rate thinking around the globe, UNIDIR works with a diverse, global network of individuals and partner institutions, including the United Nations, regional and national organizations, research institutes and academia, non-governmental organizations and the private sector.

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<sup>1</sup> See <https://unidir.org/DR23-pubs>.

82. In 2022, UNIDIR further strengthened its collaboration with United Nations entities, such as the Biological Weapons Convention Implementation Support Unit, the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate, the Department of Peace Operations, the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs, the International Organization for Migration, the Office for Disarmament Affairs, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Institute for Training and Research, the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute, the United Nations University, UN-Women and the World Health Organization. The Institute also engaged with the International Atomic Energy Agency, the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, various regional organizations and the United Nations Cyber Hub. Close cooperation with the Office for Disarmament Affairs continued across the Institute's programmes. UNIDIR provided expertise and participated in various United Nations inter-agency processes, including those on counter-terrorism; disarmament, demobilization and reintegration; sanctions; mine action; improvised explosive devices; small arms and light weapons; biological risks; biological weapons; and space security. For instance, in cooperation with the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate and the Office of Counter-Terrorism, UNIDIR launched technical guidelines on preventing terrorists from acquiring weapons and conducted regional workshops on their implementation.

83. UNIDIR partnered with regional organizations such as the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, the African Union, ECOWAS, the European Union and the Organization of American States on topics such as cybersecurity, multidimensional security and conventional arms control. UNIDIR established a memorandum of understanding with the International Women's Peace Centre in Namibia to promote scholarship, dialogue and the exchange of best practices with regard to the women and peace and security agenda, as well as its interlinkages with disarmament. It also continued collaboration with research institutes and scholars worldwide, by formalizing a new agreement for research cooperation with the University of California, Berkeley (United States of America), and partnering with the Institute of Strategic Studies, Islamabad, the Flemish Peace Institute, Non-Violence International South-East Asia and the Verification Research, Training and Information Centre.

84. The Institute's small liaison presence at United Nations Headquarters in New York helped to deepen these collaborations. It supports Member States and other partners with knowledge and ideas and reinforces linkages between UNIDIR-led disarmament research, events and other activities in Geneva and New York.

85. In 2023, UNIDIR is also intensifying its efforts to engage broader and more diverse audiences globally. The Institute will further diversify its research networks and strengthen cooperation with individual experts from all regions and specialized across the full spectrum of disarmament and related global security issues by launching a UNIDIR global disarmament research network. As a network of networks, it will encompass several thematic networks focusing on specific disarmament and global security topics.

#### *Resource mobilization*

86. In 2022, revamped resource mobilization efforts by UNIDIR led to the highest ever contribution of revenue, which amounted to \$7,865,076, and the highest ever number of donors, which stood at 33, in the history of the Institute. Despite this growth in overall revenue, un earmarked resources have been declining, both in absolute and percentage terms, from \$1,035,618 (15 per cent) in 2020 to \$632,823 (8 per cent) in 2022. UNIDIR continues to remind potential donors of General Assembly resolution [75/82](#), in which the Assembly appealed to all Member States to



continue to make financial contributions to the Institute, if possible multi-annual, and strongly encouraged them to earmark these contributions so as to contribute to its viability, independence and impartiality and the quality of its work over the long term.

87. In 2022, for the first time since 2010, UNIDIR received financial contributions from all five permanent members of the Security Council. All five countries were engaged in various UNIDIR programmes, ranging from a multi-year agreement for the development of knowledge portals on monitoring the Biological Weapons Convention and the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction to the annual facilitation of multi-State conferences on space and cybersecurity.

88. After the end of the first batch of multi-year agreements in 2021, UNIDIR established six new multi-year agreements for two-, three- and four-year periods. Confirmed pledges of funding for future years are a key factor in successful operational planning and implementation.

89. A significant boost for financial stability in 2022 was the increase in the subvention for UNIDIR approved by the General Assembly on 24 December 2021. UNIDIR now receives regular budget funding for two positions, as well as the convening of three events and quarterly briefings for United Nations regional groups. The level of voluntary contributions has also increased in line with demand for the Institute's work. The subvention of \$683,500 therefore accounted for less than 10 per cent of total voluntary contributions in 2022, which is well below the subvention levels (50 per cent of voluntary funding received) permitted by the UNIDIR statute.

90. Eligibility for classification as official development assistance is becoming increasingly important in donors' funding decisions. In 2019, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development determined a development assistance coefficient of 27 per cent for UNIDIR. Some donors have found this percentage insufficient to provide funds from their development budgets. The Institute is currently assessing whether this coefficient could be increased in 2024.

91. In line with established practice, in 2022, UNIDIR briefed its donors through biannual donor forums and regular bilateral discussions. It also engaged with private sector and philanthropic partners on the basis of its guiding principles for engagements with non-State actors.

### **Resources and expenditures**

92. With the generous support of 33 donors, the increased regular budget subvention and other income, the total revenue for 2022 amounted to \$7,924,855. This allowed UNIDIR to increase its impact and respond to global demands for an improved understanding of an increasingly complex global security environment. Revenue for the first quarter of 2023 is shown in annex II, table 1. Details of voluntary contributions to UNIDIR in 2022 are shown in annex II, table 2. Details of projected income and expenditure are also included, in annex III, as requested by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions in 2022.

93. Although actual voluntary contributions were higher than projected (see [A/77/144](#), annex IV), approximately 92 per cent of total voluntary contributions received in 2022 were earmarked for specific programmes or activities (as noted above).

94. The Institute's total expenditure in 2022 was \$7,289,994 (see annex II, table 1). Actual expenses for the first quarter of 2023 are also shown. Total expenditure in 2022 was 93 per cent of the projection of \$7,843,000 (see [A/77/144](#), annex IV). The main reason for this underspend was the implementation of COVID-19-related travel restrictions, which caused delays to planned activities of the project on a Middle East

zone free of weapons of mass destruction. More generally, while post-pandemic travel picked up in the latter part of 2022, operating costs for conferences were low owing to lower-priced venues or in-kind contributions from donors that covered some operating expenses. Staff costs were also lower than projected, as the two P-4 institutional positions (Communications Officer and Finance and Budget Officer) vacated during the second half of the year have been kept on temporary hold. The impact of changes to the Institute's communication strategy, described above, will be evaluated prior to a decision on filling the P-4 Communications Officer position. The P-4 Finance and Budget Officer position has been temporarily filled by a P-2 Associate Administrative Officer.

95. Total expenditure in 2022 was lower than total revenue in the year. Funds carried forward to 2023 were those that had longer implementation deadlines or where no-cost extensions had been obtained by mutual agreement.

96. Throughout the year, UNIDIR monitored its financial situation to ensure that expenditure did not outpace revenue. Controls included a strengthened annual budgeting process, the provision of an annual cost plan to the United Nations Office at Geneva, biannual financial briefings to its Board of Trustees and donors, quarterly executive budget reviews, monthly updates on the Institute's financial dashboard and more robust internal controls.

### **III. Programme of work and financial plan for 2023 and 2024**

97. The programme of work for 2023 was approved by the Board of Trustees at its meeting in June 2022 (see [A/77/263](#)). It reflects the updated workplans of the Institute's research programmes, guided by three cross-cutting priorities: (a) strengthening multilateral disarmament processes, including with a view to addressing the implications of new technologies; (b) continuing to implement the initiative of the Secretary-General, *Securing Our Common Future: An Agenda for Disarmament*, with a focus on efforts to reduce the impact of arms-related violence on civilians; and (c) expanding the Institute's engagement in different regions of the world, including through inclusive, interactive online formats. In line with its mandate, UNIDIR will emphasize long-term, forward-looking research and consider the wider linkages between disarmament, conflict prevention, development and global security.

98. To ensure sustained high-quality, impactful research outputs and results-oriented management, UNIDIR continues to implement its strategic research agenda for the period 2022–2025, which was formulated in 2021. It does this while operating a continuous review process that includes quarterly implementation reviews, impact monitoring and reporting. The next multi-year strategic research agenda for the Institute and corresponding workplans for individual programmes will be developed in 2024 to cover the period 2025–2030.

99. The projected revenue for 2023 and 2024 is based on a conservative estimate of voluntary contributions, as detailed in annex III. Some of these estimates are calculated on the basis of signed multi-year agreements and some are predicted based on historical trends for each individual donor. Expenses encompass the workplans of programmes and institutional initiatives. Implementation will be monitored and kept within the available resources. The expenditure required to support the 2023 and 2024 programmes of work is projected to be \$8.5 million and \$8.6 million, respectively, as shown in annex III.

100. The Institute's revamped resource mobilization efforts and the volatile geopolitical environment, with its far-reaching financial implications, present an

uncertain economic outlook that makes it difficult to predict the revenues for 2023 and 2024. Against this backdrop and in the light of the continuous decline in unearmarked revenue, UNIDIR will again aim to set aside unearmarked resources of at least 15 per cent of its annual budget for operational liquidity requirements.

## IV. Conclusion

101. The year 2022 was marked by the global arms build-up, dangerous rhetoric and thinly veiled threats. It was a very challenging year for arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation. As tensions between States, including nuclear-armed States, are rising to ever more concerning levels, the risk of nuclear escalation is higher today than it has been in decades. The war in Ukraine represents the most acute example of that risk. As stated by the Secretary-General on 22 February 2023 at the eleventh emergency special session of the General Assembly, “we do not have a moment to lose” and it is indeed “high time to step back from the brink”.

102. The fraught state of the global security environment and pervasive sense of stasis in the multilateral system raise urgent questions about ways of reinstalling dialogue, reinforcing trust and incentivizing international cooperation. In this context, arms control and disarmament cannot be distant aspirations for the future. They must be an integral part of any security strategy, a recipe for strengthened bonds of trust and, ultimately, a continuous real-world exercise in confidence-building and de-escalation. Historically, arms control and disarmament dialogues have helped to disrupt escalatory spirals and have paved the way to more constructive engagement precisely when such an outcome seemed impossible.

103. UNIDIR plays a unique and vital role in the fields of multilateral disarmament, arms control and non-proliferation. It acts as a bridge-builder in a multipolar security environment fraught with tensions, builds capacity and generates positive, real-world change in various regions of the world. The General Assembly, in its resolution [75/82](#) on the fortieth anniversary of UNIDIR, considered the continuing need for the international community to have access to independent and in-depth research on security issues and prospects for disarmament and non-proliferation. As the global security environment continues to deteriorate, the need for the Institute’s work has never been clearer or more urgent.

104. The fact that UNIDIR was supported in 2022 by the largest and most diverse group of donors in its history is a testament to the increased demand for its work. This support allowed UNIDIR to significantly scale up its research activities and their impact, resulting in a record number of research outputs and events. The Institute also intensified its efforts to engage broader, more diverse audiences globally. However, a volatile geopolitical environment and global economy are drastically affecting the voluntary funding on which UNIDIR depends, with unearmarked funding in constant decline.

105. Significant support is needed to enable UNIDIR to sustainably meet the international community’s increasing research demands and to deliver the Institute’s mission of working towards a stable and more secure world.

**Annex I****Explanatory note to financial annexes**

All figures shown in annex II, with the exception of voluntary contributions, are based on the United Nations statement of financial performance for the year 2022 for the Institute.

**Revenue**

|                                 |   |
|---------------------------------|---|
| Voluntary contributions         | Voluntary contributions, in cash and goods in kind<br>Contributions from non-Member States  |
| Other transfers and allocations | Allocations from other funds<br>Subvention from the United Nations regular budget<br>Allocations from United Nations common system entities |
| Investment revenue              | Investment revenue<br>Bank balance interest<br>Realized market gain (loss)<br>Unrealized market gain (loss)                                 |
| Other revenue                   | Foreign exchange gains<br>Other miscellaneous income  |

**Expenses**

|  |   |
|--|---|
| Employee salaries, allowances and benefits | Staff contracts administered by the United Nations Secretariat<br>Staff salaries and wages, allowances, including taxes and education grant, home leave, family visit, rest and recuperation and education grant travel<br>General temporary assistance compensation and allowances |
| Other expert contracts and fees            | Individual contractors and individual consultants administered by the United Nations Secretariat and the United Nations Office for Project Services   |
| Grants and other transfers                 | Outright grants and other transfers to implementing agencies and partners and other entities  |
| Travel                                     | Travel of staff<br>Travel of expert personnel<br>Travel of representatives  |
| Other operating expenses                   | Rent, utilities<br>Contracted services  |

## Annex II

Table 1  
**Actual revenue and expenses for 2022 and first quarter of 2023**

(Thousands of United States dollars)

| <i>Description</i>                         | <i>2022</i>  | <i>First quarter 2023<sup>a</sup></i> |
|--|--------------|---------------------------------------|
| <b>Opening balance</b>                     | <b>6 703</b> | <b>7 338</b>                          |
| <b>Revenue</b>                             |              |                                       |
| Voluntary contributions <sup>b</sup>       | 6 450        | 3 180                                 |
| Other transfers and allocations            | 1 415        | 1 630                                 |
| Investment revenue                         | 9            | 80                                    |
| Other revenue                              | 51           | –                                     |
| <b>Total revenue</b>                       | <b>7 925</b> | <b>4 890</b>                          |
| <b>Expenses</b>                            |              |                                       |
| Employee salaries, allowances and benefits | 2 157        | 480                                   |
| Other expert contracts and fees            | 2 438        | 60                                    |
| Grants and other transfers                 | 1 163        | 28                                    |
| Travel                                     | 422          | 137                                   |
| Other operating expenses                   | 468          | 91                                    |
| Programme support costs <sup>c</sup>       | 642          | 302                                   |
| <b>Total expenses</b>                      | <b>7 290</b> | <b>1 098</b>                          |
| <b>Surplus/(deficit) for the period</b>    | <b>635</b>   | <b>3 792</b>                          |
| <b>Closing balance</b>                     | <b>7 338</b> | <b>11 130</b>                         |

<sup>a</sup> Position as at 3 April 2023; subject to changes until the close of the March 2023 accounting period.

<sup>b</sup> Includes contributions pledged in 2019, 2020 or 2021 that were receivable for 2022 and excludes those that were pledged in 2022 for future years.

<sup>c</sup> Programme support costs generated from use of extrabudgetary resources were used to cover operating services provided by the United Nations Office at Geneva and other indirect costs.

Table 2  
**Details of voluntary contributions for 2022**

(United States dollars)

| <i>Description</i>  | <i>Amount</i>    |
|---|------------------|
| <b>A. Voluntary contributions</b>                                 |                  |
| Australia   | 346 782          |
| Canada <sup>a</sup>   | 93 553           |
| China   | 40 000           |
| Czechia   | 12 240           |
| European Union <sup>b</sup>                                       | 578 789          |
| Finland <sup>c</sup>  | 197 025          |
| France  | 255 001          |
| Germany <sup>d</sup>  | 1 447 777        |
| Hungary <sup>e</sup>  | 5 252            |
| Ireland   | 208 768          |
| Italy   | 22 492           |
| Kazakhstan  | 10 000           |
| Luxembourg  | 11 161           |
| Madagascar  | 1 000            |
| Mexico  | 10 000           |
| Netherlands (Kingdom of the) <sup>f</sup>                         | 575 000          |
| New Zealand   | 30 000           |
| Norway <sup>g</sup>   | 113 161          |
| Pakistan  | 5 000            |
| Philippines   | 10 000           |
| Republic of Korea   | 368 262          |
| Russian Federation  | 100 000          |
| Sweden  | 264 340          |
| Switzerland <sup>h</sup>  | 491 000          |
| Türkiye   | 3 000            |
| United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland <sup>i</sup> | 184 757          |
| United States of America <sup>j</sup>                             | 1 025 528        |
| Arms Trade Treaty secretariat                                     | 21 162           |
| Fondation pour la recherche stratégique                           | 19 380           |
| <b>Subtotal, A</b>  | <b>6 450 430</b> |
| <b>B. Other transfers and allocations</b>                         |                  |
| United Nations Foundation <sup>k</sup>                            | 511 746          |
| United Nations University   | 130 000          |
| Office for Disarmament Affairs                                    | 89 400           |
| Subvention from the United Nations regular budget                 | 683 500          |
| <b>Subtotal, B</b>  | <b>1 414 646</b> |
| <b>Total</b>  | <b>7 865 076</b> |

(Footnotes on following page)

## (Footnotes to annex)

- 
- <sup>a</sup> Includes \$81,103 pledged in 2021 for 2022. Does not include a further \$81,103 pledged in 2021 for 2023.
- <sup>b</sup> Part of a conditional multi-year contribution from the European Union of \$3.2 million. Revenue is recognized during the course of the project as specific goods or services are provided under the terms of the agreement.
- <sup>c</sup> Does not include \$98,899 pledged in 2022 for 2023.
- <sup>d</sup> Does not include \$413,650 pledged in 2022 for 2023.
- <sup>e</sup> Does not include \$5,252 pledged in 2022 for 2023.
- <sup>f</sup> Part of a multi-year contribution from the Kingdom of the Netherlands of \$2.3 million. Does not include a further \$1.7 million pledged in 2022 for 2023, 2024 and 2025.
- <sup>g</sup> Includes \$113,161 pledged in 2021 for 2022.
- <sup>h</sup> Includes \$165,000 pledged in 2021 for 2022. Does not include a further \$60,000 pledged in 2021 for 2023 and \$180,000 pledged in 2022 for 2023.
- <sup>i</sup> Does not include \$86,007 pledged in 2022 for 2023.
- <sup>j</sup> Part of a multi-year contribution from the United States of \$3.7 million. Does not include the total of \$2.7 million pledged for 2023, 2024 and 2025.
- <sup>k</sup> Contribution received through the United Nations Foundation from Effective Giving.

## Annex III

**Projected revenue and expenses for 2023 and 2024**

(Thousands of United States dollars)

| <i>Description</i>                         | <i>2023</i>              | <i>2024</i>  |
|--|--------------------------|--------------|
| <b>Opening balance</b>                     | <b>7 338</b>             | <b>8 091</b> |
| <b>Revenue</b>                             |                          |              |
| Voluntary contributions                    | 7 556                    | 8 269        |
| Other transfers and allocations            | 1 630                    | 899          |
| Investment income                          | 80                       | 100          |
| Other revenue                              | 10                       | 20           |
| <b>Total revenue</b>                       | <b>9 276<sup>a</sup></b> | <b>9 288</b> |
| <b>Expenses</b>                            |                          |              |
| Employee salaries, allowances and benefits | 2 591                    | 2 604        |
| Other expert contracts and fees            | 3 416                    | 3 433        |
| Grants and other transfers                 | 643                      | 646          |
| Travel                                     | 487                      | 490          |
| Other operating expenses                   | 541                      | 543          |
| Programme support costs                    | 845                      | 849          |
| <b>Total expenses</b>                      | <b>8 523<sup>b</sup></b> | <b>8 565</b> |
| <b>Surplus/(deficit) for the year</b>      | <b>753</b>               | <b>723</b>   |
| <b>Closing balance</b>                     | <b>8 091</b>             | <b>8 814</b> |

<sup>a</sup> Projected increase of approximately \$1.4 million compared with 2022 attributable to higher voluntary contributions expected from Canada, Germany, Norway and the European Union.

<sup>b</sup> Projected increase of approximately \$1.2 million compared with 2022 attributable to an increase in full-time staff due to the addition of the project on managing exits from armed conflict and steady growth in existing programmes.



## Annex IV

## 2022 staffing table

| <i>Programme/job title</i>                        | <i>Grade</i> | <i>Number of staff</i> |
|---|--------------|------------------------|
| <b>Institutional</b>                              |              |                        |
| Director  | D-2          | 1                      |
| Deputy Director                                   | D-1          | 1                      |
| Executive Officer                                 | P-5          | 1                      |
| Communications Officer                            | P-4          | 1                      |
| Finance and Budget Officer (encumbered by a P-2)  | P-4          | 1                      |
| Finance and Budget Officer                        | P-3          | 1                      |
| Associate Administrative Officer                  | P-2          | 1                      |
| Communications Specialist                         | IICA-2       | 1                      |
| Associate Monitoring and Oversight Specialist     | IICA-1       | 1                      |
| Team Assistant/Personal Assistant to the Director | G-4          | 1                      |
| <b>Subtotal</b>                                   |              | <b>10</b>              |
| <b>Conventional arms and ammunition</b>           |              |                        |
| Head of Programme                                 | P-4          | 1                      |
| Senior Researcher/New York Liaison Officer        | P-4          | 1                      |
| Senior Researcher                                 | IICA-3       | 1                      |
| Researcher  | IICA-2       | 2.5                    |
| Associate Researcher                              | IICA-1       | 4                      |
| Programme Assistant                               | IICA-1       | 1                      |
| <b>Subtotal</b>                                   |              | <b>10.5</b>            |
| <b>Weapons of mass destruction</b>                |              |                        |
| Head of Programme                                 | P-4          | 1                      |
| Senior Researcher                                 | IICA-4       | 1                      |
| Senior Researcher                                 | IICA-3       | 1                      |
| Associate Researcher                              | IICA-1       | 1                      |
| <b>Subtotal</b>                                   |              | <b>4</b>               |
| <b>Space security</b>                             |              |                        |
| Associate Researcher                              | IICA-1       | 1                      |
| <b>Subtotal</b>                                   |              | <b>1</b>               |
| <b>Security and technology</b>                    |              |                        |
| Head of Programme                                 | P-4          | 1                      |
| Researcher  | IICA-2       | 4.5                    |
| Associate Researcher                              | IICA-1       | 3                      |
| Programme Assistant                               | IICA-1       | 1                      |
| <b>Subtotal</b>                                   |              | <b>9.5</b>             |

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| <i>Programme/job title</i>                                    | <i>Grade</i> | <i>Number of staff</i> |
|---|--------------|------------------------|
| <b>Gender and disarmament</b>                                 |              |                        |
| Head of Programme   | P-3          | 1                      |
| Associate Researcher  | IICA-1       | 1                      |
| <b>Subtotal</b>   |              | <b>2</b>               |
| <b>A Middle East zone free of weapons of mass destruction</b> |              |                        |
| Head of Project   | IICA-3       | 1                      |
| Researcher  | IICA-2       | 2                      |
| Project Coordinator   | IICA-2       | 1                      |
| <b>Subtotal</b>   |              | <b>4</b>               |
| <b>Total</b>  |              | <b>41</b>              |

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