

DISARMAMENT FORA & AGENCIES



The order followed by this table corresponds to that of the course modules of the 2023 Disarmament Orientation Course and is not intended to be exhaustive of all disarmament fora or weapons and technologies.

This table should be read in conjunction with the separate reading list. Acronyms used in this table are listed in the accompanying glossary.

Module 1: Scene-setting

Forum	Details	Meetings/Sessions	Venue
UN General Assembly First Committee	https://www.un.org/en/ga/first/ Deals with disarmament and international security. Disarmament Resolutions and Decisions Database: https://resolutions.unoda.org/	78th Session of the UN General Assembly First Committee on Disarmament and International Security: 2 October - 3 November 2023	New York

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Conference on Disarmament (CD)	Set up in current form by the General Assembly via SSOD-I ¹ Conference on Disarmament – UNODA Deals with (mainly) nuclear disarmament including fissile materials; PAROS; NSAs; ² new types of WMD including radiological weapons; comprehensive programme of disarmament; and transparency in armaments. SSOD-I styled the CD as “a single multilateral disarmament negotiating forum of limited size taking decisions on the basis of consensus”.	Weekly and annual planning of its sessions: United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (unoda.org)	Geneva
Disarmament Commission	Set up in current form by the General Assembly via SSOD-I: https://www.un.org/disarmament/institutions/disarmament-commission/ Deals with 2 items per year: nuclear disarmament and one item drawn from a range of issues.	Meets for three weeks each April.	New York

¹ First special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament, 1978.

² Effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons.

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Module 2: Weapons of mass destruction

Weapon or potential weaponization	Existing or potential treaty regime(s)	Administering body & other relevant forums & agencies	Main Meetings of States Parties (MSPs), and Reviews	Venue	Treaty reference sites & other key references
Nuclear weapons	Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), 1968	The NPT has no formal secretariat. It relies on ODA, New York for support	Reviewed 5-yearly in New York. Meets in Vienna, Geneva and New York in each of the 3 years prior to the Review Conference. 10th Review Conference of NPT States Parties: dates tbc https://www.un.org/en/conferences/npt2020 NB: in the next 5-yearly review cycle of the NPT, States Parties are likely to hold Preparatory Committee meetings in Vienna, Geneva and New York.	New York (PrepCom: also Vienna, Geneva)	http://disarmament.un.org/treaties/t/npt See also: https://www.un.org/disarmament/wmd/nuclear/repository/
	Partial Test Ban Treaty (PTBT), 1963				http://disarmament.un.org/treaties/t/test_ban
	Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban-Treaty (CTBT), 1996 (not in force)	CTBTO, Vienna (monitors nuclear tests)	Not yet in force. Article XIV Conferences take place every other year in Vienna and New York.	Vienna / New York	http://disarmament.un.org/treaties/t/ctbt See also: https://www.ctbto.org/

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		In the years between Article XIV Conferences, Ministerial Meetings of CTBT Member States take place in New York in September.		
Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW), 2017		2MSP: 27 November-1 December 2023 https://meetings.unoda.org/node/67225	New York	http://disarmament.un.org/treaties/t/tpnw
Nuclear weapon free (regional) zones				https://www.un.org/disarmament/wmd/nuclear/nw/z/ see also: Middle East Weapons of Mass Destruction Free Zone Programmes UNIDIR
Safeguards: Comprehensive (NPT art III) & Additional Protocol	IAEA, Vienna			https://www.iaea.org/topics/safeguards-legal-framework
		GGE on nuclear disarmament verification (2022-2023); Concluded.	Geneva	Final report: N2318395.pdf (un.org)

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Biological weapons	Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention (BWC or BTWC), 1972	BWC ISU, Geneva	Reviewed 5-yearly Working Group on the strengthening of the Convention: 4-8 December 2023 https://meetings.unoda.org/node/67453 Next MSP: 11-13 December 2023 https://meetings.unoda.org/node/67446	Geneva	http://disarmament.un.org/treaties/t/bwc See also: http://disarmament.un.org/treaties/t/1925
Chemical weapons	Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC), 1992	OPCW, The Hague	Reviewed 5-yearly 26th CSP (tbc): 29 Nov–3 December 2021 https://www.opcw.org/calendar/2021/11/29/csp-26-twenty-sixth-conference-states-parties	The Hague	http://disarmament.un.org/treaties/t/cwc See also: https://www.opcw.org/
WMD	Security Council Resolution 1540	UN Secretariat, New York			https://www.un.org/disarmament/wmd/sc1540/ See also: https://www.un.org/d

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					isarmament/wmd/secretary-general-mechanism/
	Export Controls				https://www.un.org/disarmament/wmd/export-controls/
	Terrorism				https://www.un.org/disarmament/wmd/sgreport-terrorism/

Module 3: Conventional Weapons

Weapon or potential weaponization	Existing or potential treaty regime(s)	Administering body	Main MSPs and Reviews	Venue	Treaty reference sites & other key references
Conventional Weapons (other than WMD)	Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW), 1980	CCW ISU, Geneva	Meeting of High Contracting Parties 16 Nov 2022 – 18 Nov 2022, Geneva Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons - Meeting of High Contracting Parties (2022) United Nations (unoda.org)	Geneva	https://www.un.org/disarmament/the-convention-on-certain-conventional-weapons/ See also: https://www.icrc.org/en/document/1980-

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					convention-certain-conventional-weapons
Non-detectable Fragments (P I), Mines, Booby-traps etc (AP II), Incendiary (P III) Blinding Lasers (P IV), Explosive Remnants of War (P V)	CCW Protocols I to V (1980, 1995, 1996 and 2003) including Amended Protocol II (APII) (1996)	CCW ISU, Geneva	Annual conferences for AP II & P V only: Informal open consultations on Protocol V: 8 November 2023 https://meetings.unoda.org/node/67236 Group of Experts of Amended Protocol II on IED: 9-10 November 2023 https://meetings.unoda.org/node/67234 17 th Annual Conference of Protocol V: 13 November 2023 https://meetings.unoda.org/node/67238 25 th Annual Conference of Amended Protocol II: 14 November 2023 https://meetings.unoda.org/node/67240		P I: Microsoft Word - Protocol I.doc (unoda.org) AP II: Microsoft Word - AMENDED PROTOCOL II.doc (unoda.org) P III: Microsoft Word - PROTOCOL III.doc (unoda.org) P IV: Microsoft Word - PROTOCOL IV.doc (unoda.org) P V: Microsoft Word - Protocol on Explosive Remnants of War.doc (unoda.org)
Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs)	See CCW AP II	See also dedicated General Assembly process			https://www.un.org/disarmament/convarms/ieds/

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Explosive weapons in populated areas (EWIPA) (includes IEDs)	Political Declaration on Strengthening the Protection of Civilians from the Humanitarian Consequences Arising from the Use of Explosive Weapons in Populated Areas (EWIPA), 2022	Discussions in CCW and General Assembly	First follow-up meeting on the EWIPA declaration is planned to take place in Oslo in 2024.		EWIPA Political Declaration Protecting Civilians in Urban Warfare - Department of Foreign Affairs (dfa.ie) See also: https://www.un.org/disarmament/convarms/explosive-weapons/
Anti-personnel landmines	Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC), 1997	ISU, Geneva	5-yearly Review Conferences; annual MSPs. Next Meeting of States Parties (MSP21): 20-24 November 2023 https://www.apminebanconvention.org/en/meetings-of-the-states-parties/21msp/ Fifth Review Conference: 2-6 December 2024	Geneva	https://www.apminebanconvention.org/overview-and-convention-text/
Cluster munitions	Cluster Munitions Convention (CCM), 2008	ISU, Geneva	5-yearly Review Conferences; annual MSPs. 11 th MSP: 11-14 September 2023 https://meetings.unoda.org/ccm-msp/convention-on-cluster-munitions-eleventh-meeting-of-states-parties-2023	Geneva	https://www.clusterconvention.org/the-convention/convention-text/

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<p><i>An aspect affecting all weapons issues and armed conflict in general = International Humanitarian Law (IHL)</i></p>	<p>Geneva Conventions 1949 & Additional Protocols I & II, 1977</p>	<p>ICRC, Geneva</p>	<p>4-yearly Review</p>		<p>https://ihl-databases.icrc.org/applic/ihl/ihl.nsf/vwTreaties1949.xsp</p>
<p>Small arms to battle tanks, combat aircraft and warships</p>	<p>Arms Trade Treaty (ATT)</p>	<p>Secretariat, Geneva</p>	<p>Conferences of the States Parties meet as required. Next CSP (CSP10): 19-23 August 2024. https://www.thearmstradetreaty.org/</p>	<p>Geneva</p>	<p>https://thearmstradetreaty.org/ See also: https://www.un.org/disarmament/convarms/arms-trade-treaty-2/</p>
	<p>UN Register of Conventional Arms</p>				<p>https://www.un.org/disarmament/convarms/register/</p>

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Small arms and light weapons	Programme of Action on small arms & light weapons (PoA), 2001	ODA, New York	Biennial reviews & 5-yearly Review Conferences. UN Programme of Action on small arms and light weapons (reachingcriticalwill.org) Preparatory Committee: 12-16 February 2024 United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (unoda.org) Review Conference: 17-28 June 2024 United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (unoda.org)	New York	https://www.un.org/disarmament/convarms/salw/programme-of-action/
	International Tracing Instrument (ITI)	ODA, New York	Biennial reviews & 5-yearly Review Conferences.	New York	https://unoda-website.s3.amazonaws.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/ITI_English.pdf
Firearms, their parts, components and ammunition	Firearms Protocol, 2005	UNODC, Vienna	Biennial Conferences of States Parties	Vienna	https://treaties.un.org/Pages/ViewDetails.aspx?src=TREATY&mtdsg_no=XVIII-12-c&chapter=18&clang=en

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					See also: http://www.poa-iss.org/BPD/Upload/UNODC%20Legislative%20guide%20for%20Firearms%20Protocol.pdf
Conventional ammunition	Global Framework for Through-life Conventional Ammunition Management, 2023	ODA, New York	Preparatory Meeting of States planned for 2025, Meeting of States in 2027.	tbc	A Global Framework for Through-life Conventional Ammunition Management: Final report OEWG on conventional ammunition-unedited.pdf (unoda.org)

Module 4: Space and Missiles

Weapon or potential weaponization	Existing or potential treaty regime(s)	Administering body	Main MSPs and Reviews	Venue	Treaty reference sites & other key references
Space weapons and Earth-based weapons capable of	Outer Space Treaty (OST), 1967	Office for Outer Space Affairs, Vienna	COPUOS meets annually	Vienna	https://treaties.un.org/Pages/showDetails.aspx?objid=0800000280128cbd

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targeting space assets	(forbids placement of WMD in outer space)				See also: https://www.un.org/disarmament/topics/outerspace/ and https://www.unoosa.org/
Missile-related goods and technologies	Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR), 1987	No Secretariat. France is the 'Point of Contact'.	Members meet annually. Press Releases – MTCR	Changing venues	https://mtrc.info/guidelines-for-sensitive-missile-relevant-transfers/ Annex: https://mtrc.info/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/MTCR-TEM-Technical-Annex-2019-10-11-1.pdf
Space threats			OEWG on reducing space threats through norms, rules and principles of responsible behaviours Fourth session: 28 August-1 September 2023	Geneva	

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			https://meetings.unoda.org/open-ended-working-group-on-reducing-space-threats-2022		
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Module 3: ICT, AI & Cyber

Weapon or potential weaponization	Existing or potential treaty regime(s)	Administering body	Main MSPs and Reviews	Venue	Treaty reference sites & other key references
Lethal autonomous weapons systems (LAWS)	Group of Governmental Experts within the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW).	CCW ISU, Geneva	GGE on emerging technologies in the area of lethal autonomous weapons systems (GGE on LAWS) of the CCW Parties. GGE Sessions + Annual conferences of High Contracting Parties to the CCW Last 2023 session held in May; potential new mandate for 2024 to be discussed at the upcoming annual Meeting of High Contracting Parties to the CCW (15-17 November 2023).	Geneva	GGE LAWS: https://meetings.unoda.org/ccw-/convention-on-certain-conventional-weapons-group-of-governmental-experts-on-lethal-autonomous-weapons-systems-2023
Cyber	No treaty available but formal UN process: Open-ended Working Group on security of and in the use	UNODA, NY	Open-ended Working Group on security of and in the use of information and communications technologies 2021-2025. 11 sessions between 2021 and 2025. 6th session planned for 11-15 December 2023.	New York	https://meetings.unoda.org/open-ended-working-group-on-information-and-communication-technologies-2021

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	of information and communications technologies 2021-2025				
Artificial Intelligence in the military domain	No treaty or dedicated process	n/a	n/a		Government representatives meeting at the 2023 REAIM summit have agreed a joint call to action on the responsible development, deployment and use of artificial intelligence (AI) in the military domain: https://www.government.nl/documents/publications/2023/02/16/reaim-2023-call-to-action

For updates, please also consult [Home | United Nations \(unoda.org\)](#) and [Calendar \(reachingcriticalwill.org\)](#).

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