



# General Assembly

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## Seventy-ninth session

Item 100 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 2023.

The Board of Trustees of UNIDIR endorsed the report on 25 June 2024 in New York, at the eighty-second session of the Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters.

The Board recognized the impact of the Institute's research, its increased global reach and the urgency of a subvention increase request to ensure the sustainability of its vital research functions.

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\* [A/79/150](#).



## **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 2023, the approved programme of work and financial plan for 2024 and the proposed programme of work and financial plan for 2025**

### *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.

In line with its status as an autonomous institution within the United Nations, UNIDIR provides independent, evidence-based, future-facing research on the key security, disarmament and arms control challenges confronting the international community. Following on from a record-breaking year in 2022, UNIDIR was again able to further expand its policy-oriented research and convening activities in 2023. Voluntary support from the most diverse and largest group of donors in the Institute's history, together with a strengthened funding structure and operating model, allowed the Institute to conduct studies in such key areas as artificial intelligence and autonomy, nuclear risk, biosecurity, space security, cybersecurity, gender and disarmament, regional security in the Middle East and interlinkages between disarmament, arms control, conflict prevention, peacebuilding and development.

Most notably, UNIDIR launched a range of highly accessible and interactive digital tools. Regular engagement with States and the provision of sustained, discreet technical support to States, regional organizations and multilateral bodies also helped to ensure that the Institute's research was underpinned by reliable, up-to-the-minute information and insight. The regular budget subvention continued to allow UNIDIR to deliver quarterly briefings to all United Nations regional groups, as well as three events in countries that are not members of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development.

Although today's complex global security environment has driven demand for the work of UNIDIR to new heights, the Institute continues to rely almost exclusively on voluntary contributions for all of its programmatic work. The destabilizing effect of the geopolitical landscape on voluntary funding, paired with year-on-year declines in unearmarked funding, represents a risk to the autonomy and sustainability of the Institute's statutory research functions. These trends underline the importance of both the regular budget subvention and support from all Member States in all regions, ideally in the form of unearmarked, multi-year funding.

In today's challenging geostrategic context, the work of UNIDIR is more urgent than ever. The timeliness and high quality of that work has been recognized by the General Assembly (see resolution [75/82](#)). Continued support for UNIDIR – and its ability to bring together diverse perspectives in spaces of inclusive, collaborative dialogue – will allow it to continue to act as an independent knowledge provider and bridge-builder even in times of heightened global tension.

## I. Introduction

1. The year 2023 was marred by crisis after crisis. Global average temperatures were the hottest on record. Military expenditure reached new heights. The risk of nuclear war rose to levels not seen in decades. In addition, artificial intelligence continued to enhance and augment military capabilities on a dizzying scale and at an astonishing pace. Multiple crises, growing mistrust and warp-speed technological transformation combined to create a pervasive sense of overwhelming complexity and insurmountable challenges.

2. To escape this breakdown trajectory, the New Agenda for Peace presented by the Secretary-General in July 2023 places prevention and disarmament at the heart of the global peace and security architecture. It recognizes that, rather than being ideals for an imagined future, disarmament and arms control are essential tools for rebuilding trust precisely in times like these, when tensions are at a maximum. They represent crucial waypoints towards re-establishing international cooperation and steering the world towards a better future.

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. In today's dynamic global security environment, the Institute's independent research and evidence-based analysis are in ever higher demand. From an institute with 19 staff members with total revenue of \$3 million in 2018, UNIDIR grew to a team of 58 staff members with a total income of \$12.9 million in 2023, a fourfold increase in five years. In 2023, this income was also provided by the most diverse and largest group of donors in the Institute's history. These 37 donors – up from 33 in 2022 and 26 in 2021 – came from all five regional groups, as well as all five permanent members of the Security Council.

4. UNIDIR equips the international community with the knowhow and tools required to tackle the world's most urgent international security challenges. Its experts provide up-to-date, reliable and often discreet technical support to States, regional organizations and multilateral bodies, and facilitate inclusive, collaborative dialogue among both public and private stakeholders at every level. The General Assembly, in its resolution [75/82](#), recognized the importance, timeliness and quality of the work of the Institute.

5. In 2023, UNIDIR further expanded and diversified the scope and impact of its research, outreach and capacity-building activities worldwide. Indeed, its total number of research outputs was more than three times higher than in 2019. The Institute also began to construct a global disarmament research network and continued to expand its range of partnerships across all continents. It organized a high-level retreat on revitalizing the Conference on Disarmament, and its annual flagship events – the Cyber Stability Conference, the Outer Space Security Conference and the Innovations Dialogue – set new participation records. The Institute also developed a new website that has boosted the global accessibility and dissemination of its research products and stimulated greater use of its suite of digital tools. Keeping track of these rapidly evolving policy areas allows UNIDIR to create a virtuous circle of transparency and current data feeding into its research and advisory work.

6. Despite having developed and grown so much in recent years, UNIDIR continues to depend almost exclusively on voluntary contributions from States, the vast majority of which are earmarked for specific workstreams. The share of total income available as unearmarked contributions has been steadily declining over recent years, hitting an all-time low of just 6 per cent in 2023. This trend represents a serious risk to the functioning, flexibility and responsiveness of the Institute, as unearmarked funding often underpins frontier research in emerging, underfunded

areas. This underlines the importance of both the regular budget subvention and donor support from every world region, especially unearmarked multi-year funding. Only with this kind of support can UNIDIR continue to carry out its vital and unique work of providing independent, evidence-based research to all Member States.

## II. Performance and status of implementation of activities in 2023

### Research agenda and programmes

7. In 2023, 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 this 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 UNIDIR Futures Lab combines the Institute’s cross-disciplinary expertise and focuses on forward-looking, long-term research with a view to better managing and mitigating the risks and complexities of the dynamic global security environment in the twenty-first century.

8. In addition to its standing research programmes, UNIDIR pursued two major research projects, on the following topics: (a) managing exits from armed conflict and (b) a Middle East zone free of weapons of mass destruction.

#### *Conventional arms and ammunition*

9. The New Agenda for Peace underlines how important countering the proliferation, diversion and misuse of small arms and light weapons remains to achieving sustainable peace, security and development. In 2023, 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 development and security challenges.

10. To reduce the human cost of the proliferation and misuse of conventional arms and ammunition, UNIDIR promotes a whole-of-system approach to effective through-life weapons and ammunition management. In his 2023 report on small arms and light weapons, the Secretary-General emphasized the importance of comprehensive baselines for weapons and ammunition management, highlighting key findings from the Institute’s reference methodology for national baseline assessments and its annual report on progress made by African States in strengthening weapons and ammunition management.

11. UNIDIR plays a leading role in enhancing knowledge to understand and mitigate the risk of diversion in arms transfers. In 2023, in collaboration with the Stimson Center and Conflict Armament Research, UNIDIR published a compendium of key resources and tools and a report on how industry and other private sector actors can counter the diversion of conventional arms. In cooperation with the Flemish Peace Institute, UNIDIR developed a new framework for identifying and assessing technologies that could strengthen efforts to counter the diversion of conventional arms and related components. In 2024, this framework will inform discussions on opportunities for greater use of technology for countering the diversion of small arms at the fourth United Nations Conference to Review Progress Made in 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, and discussions on

the diversion of components for uncrewed aerial systems at the tenth Conference of States Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty.

12. The Institute continues its efforts to build bridges between the conventional arms control, conflict-prevention and armed violence-reduction communities. In his report on small arms and light weapons, the Secretary-General highlights the “practical guidance” contained in the Institute’s *Arms-Related Risk Analysis Toolkit* for use by United Nations peacekeeping operations and special political missions. In 2023, the United Nations Integrated Transition Assistance Mission in the Sudan and the country team in the Sudan used the toolkit to identify entry points for integrating arms control and conflict prevention. A UNIDIR report on the experience of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali provided lessons for peacekeeping operations in hostile environments. In 2024, the programme will continue to explore the potential role of data on flows of arms and ammunition for conflict early-warning and early-response mechanisms.

13. In 2023, UNIDIR, in collaboration with United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa and the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs of Switzerland, fostered regional exchanges of experience and practices in developing a joint and sustainable approach to preventing violent extremism and managing conventional weapons in West Africa. A report documenting the intersection between preventing violent extremism and conventional weapons management will be published in 2024.

14. In 2023, the Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters called for innovative strategies to enhance public awareness of military spending and to reduce such spending (see [A/78/287](#)). In 2023, UNIDIR and the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute launched a joint research initiative, as part of the Global Disarmament Research Network, to develop practical tools and policy recommendations for enhancing oversight and accountability of security spending with a view to rebalancing security and development spending.

15. UNIDIR continues to increase knowledge relating to technological developments and innovations in the field of conventional arms. In 2024, it will share research findings on the use of uncrewed systems by non-State armed groups around the world, as well as the results of the first global survey on improvised and craft-produced small arms and light weapons.

#### *Weapons of mass destruction*

16. Within the challenging geostrategic context of 2023, the UNIDIR weapons of mass destruction programme pursued research across three workstreams: (a) nuclear risk reduction; (b) new approaches to transparency and verification in nuclear disarmament; and (c) strengthening the norm against chemical and biological weapons.

17. In 2023, the Institute’s nuclear risk reduction workstream continued to provide a space for the development of shared understandings of risks and risk-mitigation tools. Drawing on its unique convening power, the Institute explored different regional perspectives with a view to mapping perceptions of nuclear risk and identifying “islands of consensus” upon which to build approaches to risk reduction. UNIDIR also continued its work related to the risks arising from the convergence of nuclear weapon systems with emerging technologies, including space systems.

18. Work on nuclear risk reduction will continue over the course of 2024 with a publication on global perceptions of nuclear risk, along with further work on nuclear risk reduction in the First Committee of the General Assembly, at the Summit of the Future and in the run-up to the 2026 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty

on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. UNIDIR will also take stock of the full range of risk-reduction tools available and develop a digital resource for nuclear risk-reduction measures.

19. In 2023, UNIDIR organized an innovative nuclear verification field exercise at a facility provided by the Government of Switzerland. This exercise improved understanding of the practice of nuclear disarmament verification, especially the role and limits of on-site inspections and satellite surveillance. UNIDIR also provided 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 Treaty's informal working group on nuclear disarmament verification, as well as provided important substantive support to the Group of Governmental Experts to further consider nuclear disarmament verification issues, which successfully concluded in 2023.

20. In 2024, work on nuclear disarmament verification will shift focus to looking at how to revitalize work on a treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices. UNIDIR will explore the concept of verification in a time of distrust and geostrategic tension by looking at steps that can be taken unilaterally, bilaterally or multilaterally to build confidence in treaty compliance.

21. UNIDIR has established itself as an international thought leader on issues related to chemical and biological disarmament diplomacy. In 2023, its work included a publication and a 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 also continued work related to the Biological Weapons Convention, including publications, presentations and briefings on verification, transparency and the implications of converging technology, which, in the words of the Chair of the working group on the strengthening of the Biological Weapons Convention, "inspired" States parties. UNIDIR also worked on strengthening biological disarmament through stakeholder engagement, including through a joint event with the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Office for Disarmament Affairs on biorisks and biosecurity, and the development of a digital database of materials related to national implementation of the Biological Weapons Convention.

22. In 2024, UNIDIR will undertake research into the future of chemical and biological weapon regimes and measures designed to prevent the development and use of these weapons, which currently face a number of challenges. UNIDIR will also support the working group on the strengthening of the Biological Weapons Convention through, among other things, a series of webinars and research on biorisks, voluntary transparency measures and changes in science and technology of relevance to the Convention. UNIDIR will also continue to populate and promote its database on national implementation measures related to the Convention, which is emerging as a valuable resource for strengthening biological disarmament globally.

#### *Space security*

23. The governance of space security has become a salient topic in international security discourse. However, discussions around space security governance have been made more complicated and more complex by advances in and the diffusion of space-related technologies. To address this complexity, in 2023 the UNIDIR space security programme launched "A lexicon for outer space security", which serves as an accessible global reference point for terminology related to space security. The lexicon, which was produced collaboratively with a geographically representative team of space security and disarmament experts, was described by the Chair of the

open-ended working group on reducing space threats through norms, rules and principles of responsible behaviours as “an invaluable tool for having a more inclusive multilateral discussion” on space security.

24. UNIDIR also launched the space security portal, which gathers available information at the national, regional and international levels on policies, processes and structures that are relevant to outer space security. The portal is designed to aid policymakers in developing shared understandings of policies and practices related to space security governance.

25. The programme continued to provide expert support to the open-ended working group on reducing space threats, which concluded in 2023, as well as the Group of Governmental Experts on Further Practical Measures for the Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space, which held its first session in November 2023. In addition, the Institute organized several events designed to facilitate dialogue on space security, including consultations with non-governmental entities, the 2023 Outer Space Security Conference and two regional in-person space security events, the first in Africa and the second in Latin America.

26. In 2024, the programme will continue its pioneering work on the lexicon for outer space security and the portal, expanding the scope of these resources and providing versions in all official languages of the United Nations to facilitate a wider understanding of both terminology and approaches to space security. The programme will also continue to support ongoing international processes, serving as a trusted broker for discussions on space security, including through events on space threat vectors and on verification and monitoring in space.

#### *Security and technology*

27. The year 2023 was a pivotal one for emerging technologies, with artificial intelligence becoming a key priority following the rapid diffusion of large language models and other generative applications. 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 2023, the programme focused on: (a) international cybersecurity; (b) artificial intelligence in the military domain; (c) developments in enabling technologies; and (d) strategic foresight. Throughout the year, the programme informed multilateral processes related to international cybersecurity and lethal autonomous weapon systems and contributed to the preparations for the Summit of the Future.

28. The Institute’s work on international cybersecurity supports States in their implementation of the framework for responsible State behaviour in cyberspace and strengthens their capacity to manage international cyberincidents. In 2023, the programme conducted research on international law – which was also the subject of the 2023 Cyber Stability Conference – and formulated recommendations on the foundational cybercapabilities required for the implementation of the framework. The programme also organized a series of events, both public and closed-door, to facilitate knowledge and information exchange and to support confidence-building in the cyber domain. A particularly impactful activity of 2023 was a closed-door scenario-based workshop on the application of international law to the domain of information and communications technology, in which over 50 government officials from more than 25 countries in all regions participated.

29. In 2023, the UNIDIR Cyber Policy Portal was officially recognized as a global confidence-building measure in the annual report of the open-ended working group on security of and in the use of information and communications technologies 2021–2025, which was later endorsed by the General Assembly by consensus. In addition, the Portal continued to be extensively referenced by national delegations and reached

a new milestone in 2023 with over 23,000 visits from around the world. In 2024, UNIDIR will continue to support the operationalization of the framework for responsible State behaviour in cyberspace, focusing on capacity-building and international law.

30. In 2023, UNIDIR explored the wider implications of artificial intelligence for the military domain and international security more broadly, the first time this has been done within the United Nations context. While continuing to support the work of the Group of Governmental Experts on Emerging Technologies in the Area of Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems, UNIDIR also broadened its work to include the security implications of artificial intelligence beyond weapons systems. The 2023 Innovations Dialogue brought together more than 2,000 participants to examine the impact of artificial intelligence in all domains of warfare. UNIDIR also supported the organization of the first Summit on Responsible Artificial Intelligence in the Military Domain. In 2023, the Institute launched the UNIDIR artificial intelligence policy portal to increase transparency and information-sharing on the development of policies on artificial intelligence and defence and security. In 2024, UNIDIR will continue to explore the different implications of artificial intelligence for global security, with a particular focus on confidence-building measures and support for national policy development.

31. UNIDIR also launched two new workstreams in 2023. The first workstream is focused on exploring the development of key enabling technologies and their impact on international peace and security, including quantum technologies, synthetic data, Internet fragmentation and submarine cables. The second focuses on the use of futures and foresight methodologies to explore the impact of emerging technologies on the contemporary international peace and security environment.

#### *Gender and disarmament*

32. The gender and disarmament programme of UNIDIR contributes to gender equality in multilateral processes and the incorporation of gender perspectives into arms control and disarmament. It thereby supports the broadening of the scope of arms control beyond weapons and also addresses the impacts of weapons and violence on individuals.

33. Building on recommendations put forward by UNIDIR and other stakeholders, the Global Framework for Through-Life Conventional Ammunition Management, as adopted in 2023, includes an objective dedicated to gender mainstreaming. In line with the Institute's best practices for collection of gender-disaggregated data, the Global Framework is also aimed at achieving an increased understanding of the differentiated impacts of unplanned explosions at conventional ammunition sites and of the diversion of conventional ammunition.

34. To advance knowledge on the linkages between the availability of weapons and ammunition and the occurrence of gender-based violence, UNIDIR published "Addressing weapons in conflict-related sexual violence: the arms control and disarmament toolbox". This report shows that, in countries with disaggregated data on weapons, 70 to 90 per cent of incidents of conflict-related sexual violence are reported to involve weapons, in particular firearms. This finding was reflected in the annual report of the Secretary-General on women and peace and security, in which he underscored the importance of arms control in the prevention of gender-based violence and called for gender parity in all areas of international security.

35. UNIDIR was invited to present its research to the Security Council during the open debate on small arms and light weapons convened by Ecuador in December 2023. On that occasion, UNIDIR urged Security Council members to support the systematic collection of data on the impacts of weapons and ammunition,



disaggregated by sex and age, including when recording casualties and conflict-related sexual violence.

36. Another important area of work was the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction. As the Convention's Oslo action plan for the period 2020–2024 entered its final year, UNIDIR launched “Beyond Oslo: taking stock of gender and diversity mainstreaming in the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention”, an in-depth analysis of the implementation of action points covering gender, diversity and inclusion.

37. As part of a new research project, UNIDIR began work with a diverse group of experts connecting gender issues with nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. The Institute also coordinated the submission of an official working paper on taking forward gender mainstreaming efforts in the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, which was co-sponsored by a cross-regional group of 11 States parties at the first session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2026 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

38. Throughout 2023, the programme delivered briefings to national actors and collaborated with multilateral stakeholders on research projects, side events and working papers covering distinct disarmament forums. All of this contributed to a greater appreciation of the importance of gender analysis in international security, which was reflected in the fact that a record proportion – 38 per cent – of resolutions adopted by the First Committee in 2023 included a gender perspective, a significant increase from 25 per cent in 2019.

39. In 2024, UNIDIR will continue to support States and stakeholders in efforts to advance multilateral policy and dialogue on gender and disarmament. In particular, the Institute will step up its work on gender and security technology with the development of the Women in AI fellowship, a new initiative to promote the meaningful engagement of women in discussions related to military applications of artificial intelligence.

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

40. UNIDIR completed the first phase of the project on a Middle East zone free of weapons of mass destruction, which was funded by the European Union and launched in 2019. In its first phase, the project helped to fill the research gap on the Middle East zone, built analytic capacity to support new thinking on regional security issues and the zone, developed proposals on how to move forward and fostered dialogue between experts and policymakers on regional security issues, which could then contribute to ongoing multilateral processes.

41. In 2023, the project held four events, attracting a total of over 400 participants. Activities focused on dialogues and research related to enhancing regional security and the prospects for establishing the zone. Project activities, such as a workshop on regional security perspectives, co-organized with the Bahrain Center for Strategic, International and Energy Studies in Manama, encouraged discussions on regional perspectives and priorities, including threat perceptions. UNIDIR continued to facilitate existing processes and to inform future ones by drafting reports, summarizing States' positions and helping bridge positions during regional conferences. It supported the fourth session of the Conference on the Establishment of a Middle East Zone Free of Nuclear Weapons and Other Weapons of Mass Destruction and its intersessional working committee. UNIDIR also participated in 14 related events and regularly briefed and consulted with States of the region and entities such as the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the Office for Disarmament Affairs.

42. UNIDIR continued to promote a better understanding of past and current efforts by releasing a report discussing the various narratives on the Middle East zone and a series – authored by the negotiators themselves – on the consultations held in Glion, Switzerland, and Geneva in 2013 and 2014. The project also produced analyses on issues relevant to the ongoing and any future zone negotiations, such as the modalities of nuclear disarmament, how to address chemical and biological weapons, and the peaceful use of nuclear energy in the context of the proposed zone. The project’s main findings were discussed at an expert workshop in Prague and published in its final report.

43. The project’s second phase was launched in July 2023. Its main objectives are (a) to assist in mitigating regional trends in the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction; (b) to encourage regional security arrangements and arms control, non-proliferation and disarmament norms and processes; (c) to develop a more in-depth understanding of the relationship between the zone and current regional and international developments; and (d) to promote an effective, verifiable, inclusive and sustainable zone free of weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East.

#### *Managing exits from armed conflict*

44. The UNIDIR project on managing exits from armed conflict is developing a unified, rigorous assessment of how and why individuals exit an armed conflict and sustainably reintegrate into civilian life. The project’s main objective is to produce a robust, comparable and shared base of evidence that will allow partners across the United Nations to design interventions that help prevent the onset of conflict and promote sustainable peace.

45. In 2023, UNIDIR, after consultation with partners from across the United Nations system – the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Department of Peace Operations and the World Bank – and experts in various fields, agreed on the Conflict Exits Assessment Framework, which provides a converging vision for what “successful” transitions away from conflict look like and a road map for rigorous assessment of the impact of efforts by the United Nations to support such transitions. Over recent years, UNIDIR has deployed its framework and assessment tools in six countries – Cameroon, Chad, Colombia, Iraq, the Niger and Nigeria – to support practitioners on the ground with evidence to enhance their work in real time.

46. In 2023, the project produced 11 publications and launched two new research series: the *Fieldwork Note* series, focusing on research processes, lessons learned and practical insights from field research; and the *Research into Action* series, bridging academia and practitioners through interviews with scholars on key findings of their otherwise difficult-to-access work and its policy implications. In addition, UNIDIR conducted seven surveys with a total of over 5,000 respondents, undertook participatory research with young people and held a number of focus groups and interviews with hundreds of key informants. The project also organized 32 events with a total of over 1,400 participants, including a three-day conference in New York in March 2023 that brought together experts, United Nations leaders and high-level diplomatic representatives to enhance cross-sectoral approaches to conflict prevention and post-conflict reintegration.

47. The project partners with UNDP, the Department of Peace Operations, the World Bank, the secretariat of the Regional Stabilization, Recovery and Resilience Strategy for Areas Affected by Boko Haram in the Lake Chad Basin Region, and the United Nations University (UNU) Centre for Policy Research.

48. In 2024, the project will focus on several key activities in Colombia, Iraq and Nigeria. In Colombia, it will follow up with participants in the differential assistance processes for Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia – People’s Army (FARC-EP) dissidents and criminal groups. In Iraq, the project will analyse the impact of shifting returnee profiles on community acceptance. In Nigeria, it will conduct surveys with mass surrenders from Boko Haram and expand research on banditry in the north-west of the country.

### **Knowledge and advisory support**

49. The knowledge and advisory support of UNIDIR is continually in high demand, and its notable impact is widely recognized. Throughout 2023, UNIDIR regularly supported the informed engagement of all States in multilateral processes relating to arms control and disarmament.

50. UNIDIR provided advice to United Nations disarmament, peace and security entities. It supported the First Committee and the Conference on Disarmament, including through a high-level retreat. This retreat and the subsequent report and presentations on revitalizing the Conference laid out a number of possible steps, strides to be made and major reforms, some of which have been implemented. The Institute also briefed the Security Council on small arms and light weapons.

51. UNIDIR organized two events alongside the first session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2026 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, in 2023, providing insights into nuclear risk reduction and nuclear disarmament verification. UNIDIR also coordinated the submission of an official working paper on taking forward gender mainstreaming efforts in the Non-Proliferation Treaty, with co-sponsorship coming from a cross-regional group of 11 States. Ahead of the fifth Review Conference of the States Parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention, UNIDIR launched a major report and a series of events that helped inform the preparations of States parties. The Chair of the Review Conference welcomed the Institute’s work and the recommendations provided to States parties. The working group on the strengthening of the Biological Weapons Convention and a range of States parties to the Convention invited UNIDIR to provide briefings, both regional and bilateral. The Institute also supported the informal working group on nuclear disarmament verification of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. The Institute’s weapons of mass destruction programme further briefed the working committee of the Conference on the Establishment of a Middle East Zone Free of Nuclear Weapons and Other Weapons of Mass Destruction.

52. General Assembly resolution [77/64](#) underscores the impact of work by UNIDIR in the field of conventional arms. In 2023, UNIDIR advised various international and regional processes on conventional arms and ammunition control. It supported the presidency of the ninth Conference of States Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty, convening dialogue activities which underpinned the presidency’s working paper on the role of industry. Further, UNIDIR and the Office for Disarmament Affairs, through thematic seminars, gathered recommendations for the fourth United Nations Conference to Review Progress Made in 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, in 2024. The General Assembly has encouraged Member States to use the Institute’s counter-improvised explosive device self-assessment tool. Since 2020, at least 14 States have used the tool, with UNIDIR supporting a 2023 assessment in Thailand. In its work on weapons and ammunition management in 2023, UNIDIR supported a baseline assessment in Côte d’Ivoire, led by the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), and the first examination of

subnational practices in Somalia, and shared key findings of earlier assessments in the Central African Republic and Togo.

53. Throughout the year, UNIDIR continued to advise and generate research for various groups of governmental experts. Via dedicated studies on artificial intelligence, it helped the Group of Governmental Experts on Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems to progress in its work. The Group's Chair and several experts acknowledged the impact of these contributions. UNIDIR also provided "invaluable" support to the Group of Governmental Experts on Nuclear Disarmament Verification and, through presentations and background papers, advised the new Group of Governmental Experts on Further Practical Measures for the Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space.

54. Open-ended working groups also continued to benefit from the research and advice of UNIDIR. The Institute supported the successful diplomatic process of the open-ended working group on conventional ammunition, which led to the adoption of the new Global Framework for Through-life Conventional Ammunition Management. Together with the Office for Disarmament Affairs, UNIDIR also 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 and facilitated Member States' knowledge- and information-sharing through several dedicated events. UNIDIR delivered working papers and expert presentations to the open-ended working group on reducing space threats through norms, rules and principles of responsible behaviours and organized related regional events, briefings and consultations of the Chair with non-governmental entities from industry, academia and civil society.

55. The Institute again conducted its in-person annual disarmament orientation course for newly arrived diplomats in Geneva, together with the Office for Disarmament Affairs. This brought together 44 participants from 38 Member States, an increase of 83 per cent compared with 2022. This course will be continued annually, subject to funding.

### **Dialogue activities**

56. Inclusive dialogue is central to the mission of UNIDIR. The Institute exercises important convening and bridge-building functions and serves as an interactive, global platform for inclusive multi-stakeholder dialogues. 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. In 2023, its 148 events engaged more than 11,000 participants at the national, regional and international levels on topics spanning the breadth of its research programmes.

57. The year 2023 saw unparalleled levels of participation in the Institute's annual flagship events. The 2023 Cyber Stability Conference, organized for the first time in New York and attended by more than 500 participants, explored ways to advance the discussion on the rights and responsibilities of States in the use of information and communications technologies. The 2023 Outer Space Security Conference provided a unique forum for discussing policy options to enhance space security, with more than 1,000 participants from a diverse range of States joining the discussion. The 2023 Innovations Dialogue attracted the highest-ever level of participation, with over 2,000 participants from around the world, a 25 per cent increase from 2022, to discuss the impact of artificial intelligence on future battlefields.

58. Also in 2023, UNIDIR convened the first informal strategic weapons and ammunition management dialogue for the United Nations and the first global symposium on weapons and ammunition management. These unique platforms

gathered important lessons learned on strengthening national frameworks for weapons and ammunition management and identified opportunities for enhancing coordination and cohesion across the United Nations.

59. As in 2022, UNIDIR again 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 the diplomatic priorities of the year, the briefings focused on the fifth Review Conference of the States Parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention; the discussions of the open-ended working group on security of and in the use of information and communications technologies 2021–2025; and countering threats posed by improvised explosive devices. One additional briefing was delivered to the African Union on child recruitment and reintegration. UNIDIR also convened regional dialogues in South-East Asia and West Africa to share effective national measures and opportunities for enhanced regional cooperation for countering threats from improvised explosive devices. The results of these regional efforts were shared during international conferences in Geneva.

60. In collaboration with ECOWAS, UNIDIR convened a regional seminar in Accra. The event brought together representatives of West African States and disarmament experts to discuss gender perspectives on arms control and disarmament. Over 50 participants from more than 12 West African countries engaged in panels and brainstorming sessions covering gender-sensitive arms control, gender and diversity mainstreaming in mine action, and the participation and leadership of women in arms control.

### **The Institute**

61. The complex geopolitical situation in 2023 once again led to a markedly increased demand for the Institute's independent, evidence-based research on global security issues. As a result, the Institute continued on a growth trajectory, in line with the operating model established by the Secretary-General in his 2018 report ([A/73/284](#)).

#### *Staffing and operations*

62. The number of full-time positions grew by 41 per cent in 2023 to reach 58 (see annex IV), up from 41 in 2022, and had reached 71 as of the first quarter of 2024. Current personnel originate from 33 countries on five continents and speak more than 20 languages, including all six official languages of the United Nations. Ninety-one per cent of staff have a postgraduate degree, including 28 per cent who hold a doctoral degree. UNIDIR has a male-to-female gender ratio of 63:37 among staff.

63. The Institute's steadfast commitment to youth and the engagement of next-generation researchers continued in 2023. Its research talent-building Graduate Professional Programme brought 23 young researchers from 17 countries and five different regions to UNIDIR.

64. Only two institutional functions of the 71 positions at UNIDIR are currently covered by the United Nations regular budget (the Director and Executive Officer positions). Other positions are covered by voluntary contributions that are subject to unpredictable changes in a challenging global funding environment. Against this backdrop and given the growing demand for and importance of the Institute's work among the international community as a whole, the Institute's Board of Trustees, at its June 2023 meeting (see [A/78/287](#)), endorsed the need for a further increase of the Institute's regular budget subvention to preserve and guarantee an "irreducible core" (see [A/70/186](#)) that covers both institutional and research leadership.

65. The high calibre of the Institute's diverse workforce is what makes it such an impactful think tank. In line with the Institute's scalable and economical staffing model, researchers are offered consultancy contracts through the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS). These contracts include similar leave entitlements to those for United Nations staff and the possibility to cover relocation costs and issue Swiss residence permits for eligible family members. The conditions provided by UNOPS for consultancy contracts remain more attractive than those provided by the United Nations Office at Geneva. In 2023, calculated measures were taken to retain talent, such as the addition of a medical insurance subsidy for staff on UNOPS contracts.

66. At the institutional level, a Senior Communications and Partnerships Specialist was added in the first quarter of 2024 to further boost the Institute's outreach and dissemination activities, as well as its global impact. Despite the marked growth of the Institute's research activities, the administrative team remains lean, but reorganization in a decentralized manner has allowed it to attain maximum efficiency in supporting the significant surge in operational demands from programmes and projects. Furthermore, in the light of the United Nations liquidity crisis and a volatile funding environment, a cautious approach is being taken in filling even essential positions as they become vacant.

67. As requested by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, UNIDIR contracted a Senior Human Resources Specialist to evaluate its operational and staffing requirements. The Specialist noted that "to fulfil the increase in demand, the Institute's research outputs have grown by more than 500 per cent in the last five years" and concluded that "the growth in UNIDIR's staffing is justified as it is due to significantly increased demand, and consequently greater workload placed on the Institute, leading to an increase in its operational requirements". UNIDIR continues to follow the staffing model contained in the report of the Secretary-General (A/73/284) published in 2018 after the independent assessment of UNIDIR requested by the General Assembly in its resolution 70/69. The Specialist's evaluation reconfirmed that the use of the United Nations Office at Geneva to provide contracts for United Nations staff and consultants or UNOPS for international individual contractor agreements was "the most suitable method considering the size of the Institute, dependency on voluntary contributions and ability to offer attractive contracts to researchers". A deliberate effort to fill vacant positions with a more equitable geographical representation among staff has resulted in an increase in non-European staff from 49 per cent in 2023 to 56 per cent in the first quarter of 2024. The Specialist encouraged UNIDIR to continue its efforts to maximize regional diversity in its workforce. Finally, the Specialist reviewed the Institute's funding structure against the backdrop of an uncertain economic outlook and recommended an increase in the regular budget subvention for the Institute to improve the predictability and sustainability of research in core areas.

68. UNIDIR extended its human resources services agreement with UNOPS until the end of 2027, with the administrative charges rate reduced to 7 per cent from 1 January 2024 (down from 8 per cent since the start of the arrangement, in 2019). The service fees incurred in 2023 to administer approximately 50 contracts amounted to \$293,598, compared with \$150,090 in 2022.

69. For all other operational requirements, procurement, United Nations staff and short-term consultancies, information technology support and facilities management, UNIDIR relied on its memorandum of understanding with the United Nations Office at Geneva. The total billing for all these services, as well as rent, totalled \$390,847 in 2023, compared with \$319,242 in 2022.

*Communications and outreach*

70. In 2023, UNIDIR developed a new web presence and undertook a major redesign of its suite of publications, enabling significant improvements in brand recognition and the global dissemination of its research products.

71. The Institute's new website offers a more audience-focused and appealing channel through which stakeholders can discover and engage with its research and growing range of digital tools. The new site foregrounds the Institute's focus areas and research products in order to provide more intuitive and user-friendly access to a wide range of audiences. Bringing in the inventive visual interpretations of local and international artists, photographers and researchers has also enabled UNIDIR to connect with its audiences in more visually impactful ways.

72. In 2023, rising demand for the Institute's collection of accessible, interactive digital tools led to the development and launch of the artificial intelligence policy portal, the space security portal, the Cyber Policy Portal database and the Biological Weapons Convention national implementation measures database. These tools increase transparency around the activities of States, which in turn can help to build mutual trust and common understanding. Crucially, however, they also provide up-to-the-minute data to inform and improve the Institute's research and advisory work and further solidify its position as a digital hub for addressing key global security issues.

73. Targeted outreach to key partners within and beyond the United Nations system, as well as coordinated cross-platform social media campaigns, saw visits to the Institute's website and digital tools rise to over 1 million. The Institute's combined social media audience also surpassed 50,000 followers, with a stronger emphasis on video content leading to a fivefold increase in total YouTube watch time compared with 2022.

74. The total of 148 events held by the Institute, attracting over 11,000 participants, marked 2023 as yet another year of significant expansion in activities and outreach.

75. The Institute's 96 publications in 2023 dealt with everything from long-standing issues like revitalizing the work of the Conference on Disarmament and strengthening bilateral nuclear arms control to the use of synthetic data in artificial intelligence and African perspectives on advancing space security. UNIDIR also remains strongly committed to reaching new and underserved audiences through multilingual outputs. To this end, the Institute produced translations into 10 other languages, including, for the first time, the South-East Asian languages of Thai, Khmer, Vietnamese and Bahasa Indonesia. Multiple language versions of the online portals and databases will be launched in 2024 with the objective of further improving accessibility. A complete listing of UNIDIR publications in 2023 is available on the Institute's website.<sup>1</sup>

76. In 2024, the Institute will take advantage of increased capacity to redefine and relaunch its communications strategy and thereby enhance its communications and engagement work across the board.

*Partnerships*

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

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<sup>1</sup> [https://unidir.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/UNIDIR\\_Publications\\_List\\_2023.pdf](https://unidir.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/UNIDIR_Publications_List_2023.pdf).

78. In 2023, UNIDIR launched its global disarmament research network, which is aimed at convening a broad network of experts from all regions of the world. The Network reinforces the Institute's global networked approach, helping to ensure that ideas are properly heard and integrated from the ground up to enrich the discourse through various perspectives and cross-disciplinary expertise on a global basis. As part of this new initiative, four thematic networks were initiated in 2023: national security priorities and public spending; nuclear weapons and delivery systems; convergence of biological and chemical weapons; and governance of artificial intelligence in the military domain. The nuclear dialogue, for example, brought together senior experts from around the world to identify concrete options for pursuing risk reduction.

79. In 2023, UNIDIR also further strengthened its collaboration with partners from across the United Nations system, many advancing complementary action in the area of peace and security and others working on topics in a nexus with global security, such as humanitarian affairs, human rights and development. Partners included the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate, the Department of Peace Operations, the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs, IOM, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, UNDP, UNICEF, the United Nations Institute for Training and Research, the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute, the Biological Weapons Convention Implementation Support Unit, the Inter-Agency Working Group on Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration, UNU, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) and WHO. The Institute also engaged with IAEA, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, the World Bank, the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons and the United Nations Cyber Hub. Providing research insights and evidence on peace, security and disarmament, UNIDIR contributed to 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.

80. Close cooperation and coordination with the Office for Disarmament Affairs continued across all of the Institute's programmes, including through the co-organization of events and activities and at the strategic and institutional levels. A two-day retreat between the two partners served to ensure alignment and joint planning for the year ahead.

81. UNIDIR also partnered with regional organizations all over the map, on topics such as artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, multidimensional security, conventional arms control, and gender and disarmament. Regional partners included the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, the African Union, the Caribbean Community, the Commission of the Economic Community of West African States, the Economic Community of Central African States, the Southern African Development Community, the Lake Chad Basin Commission, the Regional Centre on Small Arms, the European Union and the Organization of American States. The Institute also continued collaboration with research institutes and scholars worldwide, including the Verification Research, Training and Information Centre and the Secure World Foundation. It forged new partnerships with academic institutions, including Seokyeong University in Seoul and the Centre for International Strategic Studies in Islamabad. UNIDIR also collaborated with the Bahrain Centre for Strategic, International and Energy Studies to co-organize a workshop on regional security perspectives.

82. In 2024, UNIDIR is revamping its fellowship programme. Senior fellows and fellows are invited to enrich the intellectual life and knowledge base of the Institute



with new, diverse perspectives and ideas on critical arms control and disarmament challenges.

#### *Resource mobilization*

83. UNIDIR achieved another record year in 2023, with the highest-ever donor income of \$12,535,342 (compared with \$7,856,076 in 2022) and the largest and most diverse number of donors, at 37 (33 in 2022) in the history of the Institute. Its continuous growth is testament to the effectiveness of its new resource-mobilization strategy, whereby, under the strategic leadership of the Director, all branches of the Institute are now engaged in fundraising all year long.

84. The percentage of unearmarked contributions fell from 8 per cent in 2022 to 6 per cent in 2023. At its January 2024 meeting, the Institute's Board of Trustees reiterated its appeal to all Member States to continue to make financial contributions to the Institute, if possible multi-annual, and strongly encouraged them to unearmark all or part of their contributions so as to sustain the Institute's viability, independence and impartiality and the quality of its work over the long term.

85. In 2023, UNIDIR became eligible to apply for a review of its official development assistance coefficient. The successful application was supported by several Member States and submitted by Canada. It resulted in an increased coefficient of 36 per cent as from 2024, compared with 27 per cent during the previous five years. The work of the Institute's conventional arms and ammunition programme and its project on managing exits from armed conflict was determined to be 100 per cent eligible for official development assistance. This is a step in the right direction for States willing to provide unearmarked contributions to the Institute or to support these areas in particular.

86. UNIDIR established six new multi-year agreements in 2023 and has already signed three in the first quarter of 2024, giving it flexibility in operational planning and implementation.

87. The annually recosted regular budget subvention amounted to \$742,100 in 2023 (\$683,500 in 2022) and offered some much-needed financial stability. As this funds only two of the Institute's positions and accounted for less than 8 per cent of total operations in 2023, the Institute is considering presenting a request for an increase to the General Assembly in due course.

88. In line with established practice, in 2023 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 revised and updated guiding principles for engagements with non-State actors.

#### **Resources and expenditures**

89. Total actual revenue and expenditure for 2023 amounted to \$12,899,000 and \$10,047,000, respectively (see annex II, table 1). This compares with projected revenue and expenditure for 2023 (see [A/78/163](#)) of \$9,276,000 and \$8,523,000, respectively. The higher-than-expected revenue was due to contributions from new or returning donors – Indonesia, Japan, Liberia, Romania, the Holy See, IOM and UNICEF – and larger-than-expected contributions from Canada, Germany, Norway, the United States of America and the European Union. Expenditure was 18 per cent higher than the projection due to the integration of the project on managing exits from armed conflict, the establishment of phase II of the Middle East weapons of mass destruction-free zone project, and growth in the conventional arms and security and technology programmes and in the weapons of mass destruction workstream related

to chemical and biological weapons. The donor income carried forward at the end of 2023 was flexible and will be utilized in 2024 and 2025.

90. Details on voluntary contributions and other transfers from United Nations system entities in 2023 and the first quarter of 2024 are included in annex II, table 3.

91. 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. In collaboration with the Department of Management Strategy, Policy and Compliance, UNIDIR also further strengthened its monitoring of internal controls, leading to high scores on all associated indicators.

### **III. Programme of work and financial plan for 2024 and 2025**

92. The programme of work for 2024 was approved by the Board of Trustees at its meeting in June 2023 (see [A/78/287](#)). 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) continued implementation of the initiative of the Secretary-General on 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.

93. 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.

94. It is estimated that implementation of the Institute's programme of work for 2024 and 2025 will incur expenditure of \$12.1 million and \$12.3 million, respectively, as shown in annex II, table 1.

95. To ensure financial stability and sustainability, the Institute will continue to set aside at least 15 per cent of its annual budget for operational liquidity requirements, composed of both programme support cost revenue and unearmarked funds.

### **IV. Conclusion**

96. In an increasingly complex and contested security setting, the need and demand for the independent, evidence-based and forward-looking research of UNIDIR on some of the world's most pressing security challenges has never been clearer. Equipping all States with the tools and the know-how to participate effectively in multilateral arms control and disarmament processes, providing inclusive spaces for productive dialogue between a truly diverse array of actors in times of global tension, and building capacity and trust in the public and private domains drive practical change in every region of the world and demonstrate the Institute's vital contribution

to the broader spectrum of global peace and security diplomacy. Indeed, as the Secretary-General remarked when addressing the Conference on Disarmament in February 2024, “Despite the current diplomatic deadlock ... the most effective disarmament tool is inclusive diplomacy. We need that diplomacy now – urgently.”

97. In 2023, the symbolic Doomsday Clock moved closer to midnight than ever before, and demand for the work of UNIDIR grew markedly. At the same time, however, financial support came from the largest and most diverse group of donors in the Institute’s history. Despite the prevailing erosion of the disarmament, arms control and non-proliferation architecture, this has enabled the Institute to significantly expand its research activities, advisory services, capacity-building work and global impact, through both the launch of five new digital tools and the production of an unprecedented volume of events and research outputs.

98. Nevertheless, the Institute continues to rely almost exclusively on voluntary contributions for all of its programmatic work. Today’s geopolitical landscape has destabilized the voluntary funding environment, and unearmarked funding has continued to decline. These issues pose a threat to the autonomy and sustainability of the Institute’s statutory research functions and its ability to support the international community in line with growing global demand. As such, it has never been more important that UNIDIR receive meaningful support from the regular budget subvention and from Member States across all regions, in particular where that support is multi-year and unearmarked. With this backing and with the continued enthusiasm and dedication of its diverse personnel and partners, UNIDIR can and will continue to deliver on its mission of building a more secure world for all.

**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 2023 for the Institute.

**Revenue**

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

**Expenses**

Employee salaries, allowances and benefits	Staff contracts administered by the United Nations Secretariat Staff salaries and wages, allowances, including taxes and education grant, home leave, family visit, rest and recuperation and education grant travel 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 Travel of expert personnel Travel of representatives
Other operating expenses	Rent, utilities Contracted services

## Annex II

Table 1  
**Actual revenue and expenses for 2023 and the first quarter of 2024, and projected revenue and expenses for 2024 and 2025**

(Thousands of United States dollars)

<i>Description</i>	2023	<i>First quarter of 2024<sup>a</sup></i>	2024	2025
<b>Opening balance</b>	<b>7 338</b>	<b>10 190</b>	<b>10 190</b>	<b>8 599</b>
<b>Revenue</b>				
Voluntary contributions	10 531 <sup>b</sup>	8 202	9 493	8 424
Other transfers and allocations	2 004	925	926	835
Investment revenue	3	–	6	6
Other revenue	361	–	50	50
<b>Total revenue</b>	<b>12 899</b>	<b>9 127</b>	<b>10 475<sup>c</sup></b>	<b>9 315</b>
<b>Expenses</b>				
<b>Direct expenditure</b>				
Employee salaries, allowances and benefits	2 226	497	1 845 <sup>d</sup>	1 882
Other expert contracts and fees	3 626	1 620	6 039 <sup>e</sup>	6 364
Grants and other transfers	1 432	25	660 <sup>f</sup>	673
Travel	770	212	1 018 <sup>g</sup>	1 038
Other operating expenses	1 160	278	1 407 <sup>h</sup>	1 231
Programme support costs	833	782	1 097 <sup>i</sup>	1 119
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>10 047</b>	<b>3 414</b>	<b>12 066</b>	<b>12 307</b>
<b>Surplus/(deficit) for the period</b>	<b>2 852</b>	<b>5 713</b>	<b>(1 591)</b>	<b>(2 992)</b>
<b>Closing balance</b>	<b>10 190</b>	<b>15 903</b>	<b>8 599</b>	<b>5 607</b>

<sup>a</sup> Position as at 5 April 2024; subject to change until the closure of the March 2024 accounting period.

<sup>b</sup> Includes contributions pledged in 2021 or 2022 that were for 2023 and excludes those that were pledged in 2023 for future years.

<sup>c</sup> A conservative projected total income of approximately \$10.5 million, or \$1.3 million more than the projected total for the first quarter of 2024.

<sup>d</sup> A projected decrease of approximately \$400,000 compared with 2023 due to anticipated savings from vacant positions and an increase in use of programme support cost funds to cover institutional staff.

<sup>e</sup> A projected increase of approximately \$2.4 million compared with 2023 due to growth in full-time staff (from 58 in 2023 to 71 as at 5 April 2024) and other personnel.

<sup>f</sup> A decrease of approximately \$800,000 compared with 2023 due to the transition of administration of the project on a Middle East zone free of weapons of mass destruction from the United Nations Office for Project Services to the Institute.

<sup>g</sup> A projected increase of approximately \$200,000 in travel expenses compared with 2023 due to an increase in operations.

<sup>h</sup> A projected increase of approximately \$200,000 compared with 2023 due to an increase in operations.

<sup>i</sup> A proportionate increase in programme support costs of approximately \$300,000 as per applicable United Nations financial rules and regulations.

Table 2  
**Programme support costs, revenue and expenses, 2023**

(United States dollars)

Revenue <sup>a</sup>	833 112
Expenses	
Institutional personnel	392 297
United Nations Office at Geneva services <sup>b</sup>	221 736
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>614 033</b>
<b>Closing balance<sup>c</sup></b>	<b>219 079</b>

<sup>a</sup> The standard 13 per cent programme support cost rate is applied to most donor income except for funds from Liberia, the European Union and United Nations agencies, for which a rate of 7 per cent is applied.

<sup>b</sup> Cost of United Nations Office at Geneva indirect service charges.

<sup>c</sup> A portion of the 2023 closing balance is carried forward and the rest is added to the Institute's operational liquidity reserve.

Table 3  
**Details on voluntary contributions for 2023**

(United States dollars)

<i>Description</i>	<i>2023</i>	<i>First quarter of 2024<sup>a</sup></i>
<b>A. Voluntary contributions</b>		
Canada <sup>b</sup>	389 369	944 090
China	25 000	–
Czechia	13 915	–
European Union <sup>c</sup>	1 382 061	1 401 033
Finland <sup>d</sup>	150 605	109 649
France	299 810	53 362
Germany <sup>e</sup>	3 603 276	1 629 472
Holy See	4 048	–
Hungary <sup>f</sup>	5 252	–
Indonesia	20 000	–
Iraq	3 000	–
Ireland	263 924	10 400
Italy	109 649	–
Japan	32 834	82 787
Kazakhstan	10 000	–
Liberia	199 758	–
Luxembourg	10 627	–
Netherlands (Kingdom of the) <sup>g</sup>	608 900	575 000
Norway <sup>h</sup>	402 091	539 246
Pakistan	5 000	–
Philippines	10 000	10 000
Republic of Korea	80 000	470 000
Romania	67 486	–

<i>Description</i>	<i>2023</i>	<i>First quarter of 2024<sup>a</sup></i>
Russian Federation	100 000	100 000
Spain	158 228	–
Sweden	179 759	–
Switzerland <sup>f</sup>	910 000	210 000
Türkiye	3 000	–
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland <sup>j</sup>	86 007	–
United States of America <sup>k</sup>	1 182 983	1 852 131
Arms Trade Treaty secretariat <sup>l</sup>	15 057	–
Microsoft Corporation	200 000	215 000
<b>Subtotal, A</b>	<b>10 531 639</b>	<b>8 202 170</b>
<b>B. Other transfers and allocations</b>		
HALO Trust <sup>m</sup>	(6 952)	–
Passthrough for Conflict Armament Research <sup>n</sup>	116 156	–
International Organization for Migration	71 113	–
United Nations Children's Fund	303 493	86 497
United Nations University	313 768	–
Office for Disarmament Affairs <sup>o</sup>	464 025	75 100
Subvention from the United Nations regular budget	742 100	763 700
<b>Subtotal, B</b>	<b>2 003 702</b>	<b>925 297</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>12 535 342</b>	<b>9 127 467</b>

<sup>a</sup> An additional \$1.3 million is expected, mainly from regular core donors such as France, Ireland, Sweden and Switzerland.

<sup>b</sup> Includes \$81,103 pledged by Canada in 2021 for 2023. Does not include a further \$308,266 pledged in 2023 for 2024.

<sup>c</sup> Part of the conditional multi-year contributions from the European Union totalling \$3.6 million. Revenue is recognized during the course of the project as specific goods or services are provided under the terms of the agreement.

<sup>d</sup> Includes \$98,899 pledged by Finland in 2022 for 2023.

<sup>e</sup> Does not include \$1.6 million pledged by Germany in 2023 for 2024.

<sup>f</sup> Includes \$5,252 pledged by Hungary in 2022 for 2023.

<sup>g</sup> Part of the multi-year contribution from the Kingdom of the Netherlands of \$2.3 million. Does not include a further \$1.2 million pledged in 2022 for 2024 and 2025.

<sup>h</sup> Part of the multi-year contribution from Norway of \$1.2 million. Does not include a further \$804,182 pledged in 2023 for 2024 and 2025.

<sup>i</sup> Includes \$60,000 pledged by Switzerland in 2021 for 2023 and \$180,000 pledged in 2022 for 2023. Does not include a further \$150,000 pledged in 2023 for 2024.

<sup>j</sup> Includes \$86,007 pledged by the United Kingdom in 2022 for 2023.

<sup>k</sup> Part of the multi-year contribution from the United States totalling \$5.2 million. Does not include \$1.8 million pledged in 2022 for 2024 and 2025 and \$1.2 million pledged in 2023 for 2024 and 2025.

<sup>l</sup> Includes \$15,057 pledged by the Arms Trade Treaty secretariat in 2022 for 2023.

<sup>m</sup> Reduction by \$6,952 of a contribution of \$18,952 pledged by the HALO Trust in 2021.

<sup>n</sup> Funds from France for a one-time transfer to Conflict Armament Research.

<sup>o</sup> Includes \$32,200 pledged in 2021 for 2023 and \$32,200 pledged in 2022 for 2023. Does not include a further \$96,600 pledged in 2021 for 2024 and 2025.

**Annex III****Allocation and utilization of the 2023 regular budget subvention**

(United States dollars)

<b>Allocation</b>	742 100
<b>Utilization</b>	
Director (D-2)	373 093
Executive Officer (P-5)	286 251
Quarterly briefings	37 117
3 non-OECD events	38 135
<b>Total, utilization</b>	<b>734 596</b>

*Abbreviation:* OECD, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development.



## Annex IV

## 2023 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
Senior Researcher/New York Liaison Officer	P-4	1
Finance and Budget Officer	P-3	1.5
Junior Professional Officer	P-2	2
Communications Specialist	IICA-2	1
Team Assistant/Personal Assistant to the Director	G-4	0.5
<b>Subtotal</b>		<b>10</b>
<b>Conventional arms and ammunition</b>		
Head of Programme	P-4	1
Finance and Budget Officer	P-3	0.5
Senior Researcher	IICA-3	2
Researcher	IICA-2	3.5
Associate Researcher	IICA-1	5
Programme Assistant	IICA-1	1
<b>Subtotal</b>		<b>13</b>
<b>Weapons of mass destruction</b>		
Head of Programme	P-4	1
Finance and Budget Officer	P-3	0.5
Senior Researcher	IICA-4	1
Senior Researcher	IICA-3	1
Researcher	IICA-2	2
Associate Researcher	IICA-1	2
Research Assistant	IICA-1	0.5
<b>Subtotal</b>		<b>8</b>
<b>Space security</b>		
Associate Researcher	IICA-1	1
Research Assistant	IICA-1	1
<b>Subtotal</b>		<b>2</b>
<b>Security and technology</b>		
Head of Programme	P-4	1
Finance and Budget Officer	P-3	0.5
Senior Researcher	IICA-3	1
Researcher	IICA-2	5.5
Associate Researcher	IICA-1	1

<i>Programme/job title</i>	<i>Grade</i>	<i>Number of staff</i>
Programme Assistant	IICA-1	1
Team Assistant	G-4	0.5
<b>Subtotal</b>		<b>10.5</b>
<b>Gender and disarmament</b>		
Head of Programme	P-3	1
Researcher	IICA-2	1
<b>Subtotal</b>		<b>2</b>
<b>Managing exits from armed conflict</b>		
Head of Project	IICA-3	1
Senior Researcher	IICA-3	1
Researcher	IICA-2	2
Associate Administrative Officer	P-2	0.5
Associate Researcher	IICA-1	3
<b>Subtotal</b>		<b>7.5</b>
<b>A Middle East zone free of weapons of mass destruction</b>		
Head of Project	IICA-3	1
Project Coordinator	IICA-2	1
Researcher	IICA-2	1
Senior Researcher	IICA-2	1
Associate Administrative Officer	P-2	0.5
Research Assistant	IICA-1	0.5
<b>Subtotal</b>		<b>5</b>
<b>Total</b>		<b>58</b>

*Abbreviation:* IICA, international individual contractor agreement.