



DISARMAMENT ORIENTATION COURSE 2024

Disarmament Fora & Processes

The order followed by this table corresponds to that of the course modules of the 2024 Disarmament Orientation Course and is not intended to be exhaustive of all disarmament fora, processes and mechanisms.

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

Module 1: Scene-setting and UN disarmament machinery

Forum	Details	Meetings/Sessions	References
UN General Assembly First Committee	The First Committee of the UN General Assembly focuses on disarmament, global security, and international peace, with resolutions and debates taking place during the General Assembly session each fall.	79th Session of the UN General Assembly First Committee on Disarmament and International Security: 7 October - 8 November 2024 LOCATION NEW YORK	https://www.un.org/en/ga/first/ https://resolutions.unoda.org/
Summit of the Future	The Summit of the Future is a high-level gathering of global leaders and stakeholders aimed at discussing and adopting strategies for addressing future global challenges, including disarmament, peace, and security. The summit includes the adoption of the "Pact for the Future," which will include a Global Digital Compact and the Declaration on Future Generations as annexes.	20 - 21 September: Action Days 22 – 23 September: Summit LOCATION- NEW YORK	Summit of the Future website - EN United Nations Pact for the Future revision documents - SOF United Nations



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Conference on Disarmament (CD)	<p>The Conference on Disarmament is the sole multilateral forum for negotiating arms control and disarmament agreements.</p> <p>The CD agenda includes: (1) cessation of the nuclear arms race and nuclear disarmament; (2) prevention of nuclear war, including all related matters; (3) prevention of an arms race in outer space (PAROS); (4) effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons (NSAs); (5) new types of weapons of mass destruction and new systems of such weapons; radiological weapons; (6) comprehensive programme of disarmament; and (7) transparency in armaments.</p>	<p>Weekly and annual planning of its sessions: United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (unoda.org)</p> <p>LOCATION- GENEVA - 3 parts from January to September</p>	<p>SSOD-I¹ Conference on Disarmament – UNODA</p>
Disarmament Commission	<p>The UN Disarmament Commission (UNDC) serves as a deliberative body that formulates guidelines and recommendations on various disarmament issues. It focuses on two agenda items each year, with one involving nuclear disarmament and another addressing some other matter. The Commission's work contributes to broader international disarmament discussions by providing consensus-based recommendations.</p>	<p>Meets for three weeks each in April.</p> <p>LOCATION - NEW YORK</p>	<p>https://www.un.org/disarmament/institutions/disarmament-commission/</p>

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



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Module 2: Weapons of mass destruction

Treaty/Forum	Details	Meetings/Sessions	References
Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT)	The NPT is generally regarded as the cornerstone of the international nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament regime, aiming to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons, promote peaceful uses of nuclear energy, and further the goal of nuclear disarmament. The treaty is reviewed every five years at review conferences, with preparatory meetings held in between.	Reviewed every 5 years. 11th Review Conference to be held in 2026 with Preparatory Committee meetings in the three years prior. Monitored and serviced from New York	http://disarmament.un.org/treaties/t/npt See also: https://www.un.org/disarmament/wmd/nuclear/repository/
Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW)	The TPNW is the first legally binding international agreement to comprehensively prohibit nuclear weapons, with the ultimate goal of their total elimination. The treaty establishes a framework for the elimination of nuclear weapons. It also includes prohibitions on development, testing, production, and possession. It reflects the growing global consensus on the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons.	Third Meeting of States Parties, 3-7 March 2025 Monitored and serviced from New York	http://disarmament.un.org/treaties/t/tpnw
Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention (BWC or BTWC)	The BWC is a key international treaty banning the development, production, and stockpiling of biological and toxin weapons. The Convention, which came into force in 1975, is a cornerstone of efforts to prevent the use of disease as a weapon. The Convention is reviewed every five years, with an intersessional work programme held in between to discuss strengthening the Convention through confidence-building measures and enhancing its implementation. The Meeting of States Parties (MSP) take place every year in December.	Reviewed every 5 years. Fifth Session of the Working Group on the strengthening of the Convention, 2 – 13 December 2024. 2024 Meeting of States Parties, 16 – 18 December 2024. ISU based in Geneva	http://disarmament.un.org/treaties/t/bwc See also: http://disarmament.un.org/treaties/t/1925 5th Session BWC WG on the strengthening of the Convention: https://meetings.unoda.org/bwc-/biological-weapons-convention-



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Treaty/Forum	Details	Meetings/Sessions	References
			working-group-on-the-strengthening-of-the-convention-fifth-session-2024BWC Meeting of States Parties: https://meetings.unoda.org/bwc-msp/biological-weapons-convention-meeting-of-states-parties-2024
Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC)	The CWC prohibits the development, production, acquisition, stockpiling, and use of chemical weapons. It is the first multilateral disarmament agreement to provide for the elimination of an entire category of weapons under international verification. The Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) oversees the implementation of the CWC and conducts inspections to ensure compliance.	Reviewed every 5 years. One Hundred and Seventh Session of the Executive Council (EC-107), 8–11 October 2024 The Twenty-Ninth Conference of the States Parties (CSP-29), 25–29 November 2024 OPCW- based in The Hague	http://disarmament.un.org/treaties/t/cwc See also: https://www.opcw.org/

Module 3: Space and Missiles

Forum	Details	Meetings/Sessions	References
Group of Governmental Experts on further practical measures for the prevention	Established pursuant to General Assembly resolution 77/250 with a mandate to consider and make recommendations on substantial elements of an international legally binding instrument on the prevention of an arms race in outer space, including, inter alia, on the prevention of the placement of weapons in outer space.	Session 1: 20 November – 1 December 2023 Session 2: 5 – 16 August 2024 [CONCLUDED 16 August 2024]	Group of governmental experts on further practical measures for the prevention of an arms race in outer space - (2023) United Nations (unoda.org)



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Forum	Details	Meetings/Sessions	References
of an arms race in outer space	The Group adopted a final report by consensus on 16 August 2024.	Serviced in Geneva	
Open-ended working group on further practical measures for the prevention of an arms race in outer space	Established pursuant to General Assembly resolution 78/238, this working group will begin its substantive work in 2025 meeting twice a year through 2028.	2-day organizational session, 2024 One ten-day substantive and one five-day substantive session each in 2025, 2026, 2027, and 2028 To be serviced in Geneva	Further practical measures for the prevention of an arms race in outer space : (un.org)
Open-ended working group on reducing space threats through norms, rules and principles of responsible behavior	Established pursuant to General Assembly resolution 78/20, this working group will begin its substantive work in 2025 with two substantive sessions, followed by two further substantive sessions to be held in 2026.	2-day organizational session, 2025 Two substantive sessions of five days each in 2025 and 2026 To be serviced in Geneva	Reducing space threats through norms, rules and principles of responsible behaviours : (un.org)
Subsidiary Body 3 of the CD	Between 1985 and 1994 and in 2009, 2018, 2022, and 2024 the Conference on Disarmament decided to establish a subsidiary body on the prevention of an arms race in outer space.	Location - Geneva	
Outer Space Treaty (OST), 1967	The OST is the foundational legal framework governing activities in outer space, including the Moon and other celestial bodies. It prohibits the placement of nuclear weapons in space and establishes that space exploration should be conducted for the benefit of all humankind.		UNTC Outer Space – UNODA UNOOSA
Hague Code of Conduct Against Ballistic Missile	The HCOC is a politically binding international norm aimed at curbing the proliferation of ballistic missiles capable of delivering weapons of mass destruction.		The Hague Code of Conduct against Ballistic Missile Proliferation (HCOC) HCOC



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Forum	Details	Meetings/Sessions	References
Proliferation (HCOC)	Subscribing states commit to providing pre-launch notifications and annual declarations of their ballistic missile and space-launch programs, enhancing transparency and confidence-building.		
Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR), 1987	The MTCR is an informal political agreement among 35 States that seeks to restrict the proliferation of missile and unmanned aerial vehicle technology capable of carrying WMDs. The regime focuses on export controls and sharing of best practices to prevent the spread of missile technology to states or non-state actors seeking to acquire WMD delivery systems.	Members meet annually.	MTCR Annex: MTCR Press releases: MTCR

Module 4: Conventional Weapons

Treaty/Forum	Details	Meetings/Sessions	References
Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW)	The CCW seeks to prohibit or restrict the use of specific types of conventional weapons that are considered to cause unnecessary suffering or have indiscriminate effects. The Convention includes separate protocols addressing different weapon types, such as mines, booby traps, and incendiary weapons.	Next Review Conference in 2026. Meeting of High Contracting Parties to the Convention, 13–15 November 2024, Geneva ISU based in Geneva	https://www.un.org/disarmament/the-convention-on-certain-conventional-weapons/ See also: https://www.icrc.org/en/document/1980-convention-certain-conventional-weapons Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons -Meeting of High Contracting Parties (2024) United Nations (unoda.org)



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Treaty/Forum	Details	Meetings/Sessions	References
CCW Protocols I to V (1980, 1995, 1996 and 2003) including Amended Protocol II (APII) (1996)	The five protocols under the CCW address specific categories of weapons. Protocol I bans the use of non-detectable fragments; Protocol II regulates landmines and booby traps; Protocol III addresses incendiary weapons; Protocol IV bans blinding laser weapons; and Protocol V deals with explosive remnants of war. Each protocol is subject to regular review and implementation discussions among States Parties.	<p>Annual conferences for APII & PV only:</p> <p>Meeting of Experts on Protocol V: 2 September 2024 https://meetings.unoda.org/node/70969</p> <p>Group of Experts of Amended Protocol II on IED: 3-4 September 2024 https://meetings.unoda.org/node/70967</p> <p>18th Annual Conference of Protocol V: 11 November 2024 Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons -Protocol V Annual Conference (2024) United Nations (unoda.org)</p> <p>26th Annual Conference of Amended Protocol II: 12 November 2023 Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons -Amended Protocol II Annual Conference (2024) United Nations (unoda.org)</p>	<p>P I: Microsoft Word - Protocol I.doc (unoda.org)</p> <p>AP II: Microsoft Word - AMENDED PROTOCOL II.doc (unoda.org)</p> <p>P III: Microsoft Word - PROTOCOL III.doc (unoda.org)</p> <p>P IV: Microsoft Word - PROTOCOL IV.doc (unoda.org)</p> <p>P V: Microsoft Word - Protocol on Explosive Remnants of War.doc (unoda.org)</p>
Political Declaration on Strengthening the Protection of Civilians from	The Political Declaration on Explosive Weapons in Populated Areas (EWIPA) is an international initiative aimed at protecting civilians from the use of explosive weapons in urban and populated environments. The declaration calls for states to adopt measures to limit the	The second official conference of the EWIPA Political Declaration is planned to take place in San Jose,	EWIPA Political Declaration: https://ewipa.org/



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the Humanitarian Consequences Arising from the Use of Explosive Weapons in Populated Areas (EWIPA), 2022	impact of these weapons on civilian populations and infrastructure, emphasizing the need for precautionary measures in military operations.	Costa Rica in 2025 (exact date tbc). Coordination and service support based in Geneva	
Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC), 1997	Also known as the Ottawa Treaty, the APMBC prohibits the use, stockpiling, production, and transfer of anti-personnel mines. It requires states parties to destroy existing stockpiles and assist in mine clearance and victim rehabilitation. The Treaty has significantly reduced the global use of landmines and contributed to ongoing efforts to clear mine-affected areas.	Reviewed every 5 years with annual Meetings of States Parties Fifth Review Conference: 25-29 November 2024 in Siem Reap, Cambodia ISU based in Geneva	https://www.apminebanconvention.org/overview-and-convention-text/
Cluster Munitions Convention (CCM)	The CCM prohibits all use, production, transfer, and stockpiling of cluster munitions, which are known for their indiscriminate effects and long-lasting dangers to civilians. The Convention also mandates the destruction of stockpiles and clearance of contaminated areas.	Reviewed every 5 years with annual Meetings of States Parties 12 th MSP: 10-13 September 2024 Convention on Cluster Munitions -Twelfth Meeting of States Parties (2024) United Nations (unoda.org) ISU based in Geneva	https://www.clusterconvention.org/the-convention/convention-text/
Arms Trade Treaty (ATT)	The ATT regulates the international trade in conventional arms, including small arms, battle tanks, combat aircraft, and warships. It aims to prevent and eradicate the illicit trade in arms and ensure that arms transfers do not contribute to human rights abuses or exacerbate conflict.	Annual Conference of the States Parties. Next CSP (CSP11): August 2025.	https://thearmstradetreaty.org/Arms Trade Treaty – UNODA



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	The Treaty is a key instrument in promoting responsible arms transfers and transparency in the global arms trade.	ISU based in Geneva	
UN Register of Conventional Arms	The UN Register is a voluntary mechanism for countries to report on their imports, exports, and holdings of major conventional weapons. It aims to promote transparency and confidence building by allowing States to share information on their military capabilities and arms transfers, thereby helping to prevent arms races and reduce tensions.	UN Secretary-General convenes a group of governmental experts every three years to review its continuing operation and explore options for its further development (next GGE to occur between 2024 and 2025). Serviced from NY	https://www.un.org/disarmament/conarms/register/
Programme of Action on small arms & light weapons (PoA), 2001	The PoA is a global framework aimed at combating the illicit trade and proliferation of small arms and light weapons. It calls for national, regional, and global measures to control the production, transfer, and storage of these weapons. The PoA is reviewed regularly through Biennial Meetings of States, where progress is assessed and future steps are planned.	Biennial reviews & 5-yearly Review Conferences. <i>Recent meetings—</i> 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) Monitored and serviced from NY	Programme of Action on small arms and its International Tracing Instrument – UNODA UN Programme of Action on small arms and light weapons (reachingcriticalwill.org)
International Tracing Instrument (ITI)	The ITI is a supplement to the PoA, focusing on the marking and tracing of small arms and light weapons to prevent their illicit trade. It requires states to ensure that all small arms are marked at the time of manufacture,	Biennial reviews with Review Conferences every 5 years	Draft International Instrument to Enable States (unoda-web.s3.amazonaws.com)



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	import, and transfer, and that records of these markings are maintained.	Monitored and serviced from NY	
Firearms Protocol, 2005	Part of the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, the Firearms Protocol aims to combat the illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms. It establishes international standards for the marking, record-keeping, and tracing of firearms, and promotes cooperation among states to prevent and eradicate the illegal arms trade.	Biennial Conference of States Parties Monitored and serviced by UNODC in Vienna	UNTC
Global Framework for Through-life Conventional Ammunition Management, 2023	This framework provides comprehensive guidelines for the safe and secure management of conventional ammunition throughout its lifecycle, from production to destruction. It aims to reduce the risks associated with poorly managed ammunition stockpiles, which can lead to unplanned explosions or diversion to the illicit market.	Preparatory Meeting of States planned for 2025, Meeting of States in 2027. Monitored and serviced in NY and Geneva	Final report OEWG on conventional ammunition-unedited.pdf (unoda.org)

Module 5: AI, LAWS & Cyber

Treaty/Forum	Details	Meetings/Sessions	References
Group of Governmental Experts on Lethal autonomous weapons systems (GGE on LAWS)	The GGE on LAWS was established under the framework of the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW) to address the emerging technologies in the area of lethal autonomous weapons systems. The GGE examines the technical, ethical, military, and legal implications of autonomous weapons, with a focus on ensuring that such systems comply with international humanitarian law. The GGE has been working on building consensus on definitions, the applicability of existing	GGE Sessions Two sessions in 2024 (4-8 March and 26-30 August). Mandate is going up until the next Review Conference of the CCW (2026) 2025 dates will be decided by the annual Meeting of the High	GGE LAWS: Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons -Group of Governmental Experts on Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems (2024) United Nations (unoda.org) Lethal Autonomous Weapon Systems (LAWS) – UNODA



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	laws, and the development of possible guidelines or regulations to govern the use of LAWS. The group's mandate runs until the next Review Conference of the CCW in 2026.	Contracting Parties to the CCW (13-15 November 2024). Serviced in Geneva	
Open-ended Working Group on security of and in the use of information and communication s technologies 2021-2025	The OEWG on ICTs was established by the UNGA to advance discussions on the norms, rules, and principles of responsible state behavior in cyberspace. The group focuses on international cooperation, capacity-building, and confidence-building measures to prevent conflicts arising from the use of ICTs. It also explores the applicability of international law in cyberspace and addresses emerging cyber threats.	Open-ended Working Group on security of and in the use of information and communications technologies 2021-2025. 11 sessions between 2021 and 2025. 9th session planned for 02-06 December 2024.	Open-ended working group on information and communication technologies (2021) United Nations (unoda.org)
REAIM (Responsible AI in the Military Domain)	REAIM is a platform and process initiated to address the ethical and responsible use of artificial intelligence (AI) in military applications. The summit brings together government representatives, military officials, industry leaders, and experts to discuss and develop guidelines for the deployment of AI in military operations, ensuring that these technologies are used in accordance with international law and ethical standards. The REAIM initiative emphasizes the importance of transparency, accountability, and human control over AI systems in military contexts. The first REAIM Summit was held in The Hague in 2023, and the next summit is scheduled for Seoul, Republic of Korea, in September 2024.	REAIM Summit took place in Seoul, Republic of Korea, 9-10 September 2024	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
US Political Declaration on the Responsible Military Use of Artificial	The Declaration is a policy statement aimed at establishing principles and guidelines for the ethical and responsible use of AI and autonomous systems in military operations. Announced in February 2023, the declaration aims to function as a complement to expert-level discussions and emphasizes the need for transparency,		Political Declaration on Responsible Military Use of Artificial Intelligence and Autonomy - United States Department of State



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Intelligence and Autonomy	accountability, and human oversight when deploying AI in military contexts. Its primary goals are to ensure that AI-driven military technologies are used in ways that are consistent with international law, reduce risks of unintended harm, and prevent misuse or destabilizing effects in conflict scenarios.		

For updates, please also consult [Portal for official and other disarmament meetings United Nations \(unoda.org\)](https://unoda.org/) and [Calendar \(reachingcriticalwill.org\)](https://reachingcriticalwill.org/).



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