

Disarmament Fora and Processes

2025 Disarmament Orientation Course

The order followed by this table corresponds to that of the course modules of the 2025 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, 1946	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.	80th Session of the UN General Assembly First Committee on Disarmament and International Security: 9 September – 23 September 2025 Location: New York	https://www.un.org/en/ga/first/ https://resolutions.unoda.org/		



Summit of the Future, 2024	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
Conference on Disarmament (CD), 1979	The Conference on Disarmament is the single multilateral forum for negotiating arms control and disarmament agreements. 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	Weekly and annual planning of its sessions: https://meetings.unoda.org/cd/conference-on-disarmament-2025 Location: Geneva – 3 parts from January to September First part: 19 January – 27 March 2026 Second part: 11 May – 26 June 2026 Third part: 27 July – 11 September 2026	SSOD-¹ Conference on Disarmament – UNODA



	programme of disarmament; and (7) transparency in armaments.		
Disarmament Commission, 1979	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.	Meets for three weeks each in April. Location: New York	https://www.un.org/disarmament/institutions/disarmament-commission/

Module 2: The Conference on Disarmament and its subsidiary bodies

Forum	Details	Meetings/Sessions	References
Conference on Disarmament (CD), 1979	The Conference on Disarmament is the single multilateral forum for negotiating arms control and disarmament agreements.	Weekly and annual planning of its sessions: https://meetings.unoda.org/cd/conference-on-disarmament-2025 Location: Geneva – 3 parts from January to September First part: 19 January – 27 March 2026 Second part: 11 May – 26 June 2026 Third part: 27 July – 11 September 2026	SSOD-I¹ Conference on Disarmament – UNODA



	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)		
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	comprehensive programme of disarmament; and (7) transparency in armaments.		
Subsidiary Body 1: Cessation of the nuclear arms race and nuclear disarmament	Established most recently by the Conference on Disarmament in 2018, 2022, 2024, and 2025.	Location: Geneva	Reports 2018: https://docs.un.org/cd/2138 2024: https://docs.un.org/cd/2392
Subsidiary Body 2: Prevention of nuclear war, including all related matters	Established most recently by the Conference on Disarmament in 2018, 2022, 2024, and 2025.	Location: Geneva	Reports 2018: https://docs.un.org/cd/2139 2024: https://docs.un.org/cd/2394
Subsidiary Body 3: Prevention of an arms race in outer space	Established most recently by the Conference on Disarmament in 2018, 2022, 2024, and 2025.	Location: Geneva	Reports 2018: https://docs.un.org/cd/2140 2022: https://docs.un.org/cd/2308 2024: https://docs.un.org/cd/2393
Subsidiary Body 4: Effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-	Established most recently by the Conference on Disarmament in 2018, 2022, 2024, and 2025.	Location: Geneva	Reports 2024: https://docs.un.org/cd/2395



weapon states against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons			
Subsidiary Body 5: New types of weapons of mass destruction and new systems of such weapons; radiological weapons - Comprehensive programme of disarmament - Transparency in armaments	Established most recently by the Conference on Disarmament in 2018, 2022, 2024, and 2025.	Location: Geneva	Reports 2018: https://docs.un.org/cd/2141 2022: https://docs.un.org/cd/2309 2024: https://docs.un.org/cd/2396
Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), 1968	The NPT is generally regarded as the cornerstone of the international nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament regime, aiming to prevent the	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/



	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.		
Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW), 2017	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	Third Meeting of States Parties, 3-7 March 2025 Monitored and serviced from New York	http://disarmament.un.org/treaties/t/tpnw



	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.		
Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention (BWC or BTWC), 1972	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	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-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



	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.		
Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC), 1980	The CWC prohibits the development, production, acquisition, stockpiling, and use of chemical	Reviewed every 5 years. One Hundred and Seventh Session of the Executive Council (EC-107), 8 – 11 October 2024	http://disarmament.un.org/treaties/t/cwc See also: https://www.opcw.org/



	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.	The Twenty-Ninth Conference of the States Parties (CSP-29), 25 – 29 November 2024 OPCW- based in The Hague	
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Module 3: Outer Space Security and Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space (PAROS)

Forum			Details	Meetings/Sessions	References
Group of Governmental Experts on further practical measures for the prevention of an arms race in outer space, 2022	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. The Group adopted a final report by consensus on 16 August 2024.	Session 1: 20 November – 1 December 2023 Session 2: 5 – 16 August 2024 [CONCLUDED 16 August 2024] Serviced in Geneva	Group of governmental experts on further practical measures for the prevention of an arms race in outer space - (2023) United Nations (unoda.org)		
Open-ended working group on the prevention of an arms race in outer space in outer space in all its aspects, 2025			Established pursuant to General Assembly decision 79/512, this working group will begin its substantive work in 2025 meeting twice a year through 2028. It replaces the working groups established by resolutions 78/20 and 78/238.	2-day organizational session, 2025 Two five-day substantive sessions each in 2025, 2026, 2027, and 2028 To be serviced in Geneva	Open-ended working group on the prevention of an arms race in outer space in all its aspects (2025) United Nations (unoda.org)



Subsidiary Body 3 of the CD, 2022	Between 1985 and 1994 and in 2009, 2018, 2022, 2024, and 2025 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 Proliferation (HCoC)	The HCoC is a politically binding international norm aimed at curbing the proliferation of ballistic missiles capable of delivering weapons of mass destruction. Subscribing states commit to providing pre-launch notifications and		The Hague Code of Conduct against Ballistic Missile Proliferation (HCoC) HCoC



	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: Biological Weapons Convention (BWC)

Treaty/Forum	Details	Meetings/Sessions	References
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	Reviewed every 5 years. Seventh Session of the Working Group on the strengthening of	http://disarmament.un.org/treaties/t/bwc See also: 1925 Geneva Protocol http://disarmament.un.org/treaties/t/1925



	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 and enhancing its implementation. The Meeting of States Parties (MSP) takes place every year in December.	the Convention, 8 – 12 December 2025. 2025 Meeting of States Parties, 15 – 17 December 2025. Implementation Support Unit (ISU) based in Geneva.	7th Session BWC WG on the strengthening of the Convention: https://meetings.unoda.org/bwc-/biological-weapons-convention-working-group-on-the-strengthening-of-the-convention-seventh-session-2025 2025 Meeting of States Parties: https://meetings.unoda.org/bwc-msp/biological-weapons-convention-meeting-of-states-parties-2025
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 Eighth Session of the Executive Council (EC-108), 4-7 March 2025 in The Hague, Netherlands One Hundred and Ninth Session of the Executive Council (EC-109), 8-11 July 2025 in The Hague, Netherlands The Thirtieth Conference of the States Parties (CSP-30), 24-28 November 2025 CSP-30 2025 OPCW - Based in The Hague	http://disarmament.un.org/treaties/t/cwc See also: https://www.opcw.org/



Module 5: Conventional weapons

Treaty/Forum	Details	Meetings/Sessions	References
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. The Treaty is a key instrument in promoting responsible arms transfers and transparency in the global arms trade.	<i>Annual Conference of the States Parties.</i> Next CSP (CSP12): 24-28 August 2026. Working Groups sessions: 16-19 March 2026. Informal preparatory meeting of CSP12: 12-13 May 2026. Implementation Support Unit (ISU based in Geneva).	https://thearmstradetreaty.org/ Arms Trade Treaty – UNODA
Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC)	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: 1-5 December 2025 in Geneva, Switzerland. Twenty Second Meeting of the State Parties ISU based in Geneva.	https://www.apminebanconvention.org/overview-and-convention-text/
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	Reviewed every 5 years – next Review Conference will be held in 2026.	The Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs IED: Improvised Explosive Devices United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs



	includes separate protocols addressing different weapon types, such as mines, booby traps, and incendiary weapons. Two Protocols of the CCW have their separate meetings: Amended Protocol II on the Use of Mines, Booby-Traps and Other Device and Protocol V on Explosive Remnants of War (ERW).	Meeting of the High Contracting Parties (12-14 November 2025) Annual Conference of Protocol V (10 November 2025) Annual Conference of Amended Protocol II (11 November 2025) ISU based in Geneva within ODA Geneva.	Meeting of the High Contracting Parties: Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons - Meeting of High Contracting Parties (2025) United Nations 19th Annual Conference of Protocol V: Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons -Protocol V Annual Conference (2025) United Nations 27th Annual Conference of Amended Protocol II: Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons - Amended Protocol II Annual Conference (2025) United Nations
Convention on Cluster Munitions (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, clearance of contaminated areas and victim assistance programmes.	Reviewed every 5 years with annual Meetings of States Parties 13th MSP: 16-19 September 2025 Convention on Cluster Munitions – Thirteenth Meeting of States Parties (2025) United Nations (unoda.org) ISU Based in Geneva.	https://www.clusterconvention.org/the-convention/convention-text/
Global Framework for Through-life Conventional Ammunition Management	The Global Framework for Through-life Conventional Ammunition Management (GFA) is a political arms control instrument that aims to fill a gap at the international level by creating a dedicated regulatory instrument on conventional ammunition. It contains 15 objectives aiming to reduce the	Meeting of States Parties to be held in 2027.	Global Framework for Through-life Conventional Ammunition Management -Preparatory Meeting of States (2025) United Nations



	safety and security risks related to conventional ammunition at every stage of the ammunition life-cycle from production through pre-transfer, transfer, relocation and transport, stockpiling and recovery, to their eventual use or disposal. The objectives contain individual measures to promote the safety, security and sustainability of through-life conventional ammunition management.		
Political Declaration on Strengthening the Protection of Civilians from the Humanitarian Consequences arising from the use of Explosive Weapons in Populated Areas (EWIPA)	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 impact of these weapons on civilian populations and infrastructure, emphasizing the need for precautionary measures in military operations.	Second international Conference: 18-20 November 2025 in San Jose, Costa Rica. Second International Conference EWIPA (2025) Coordination and service support based within ODA Geneva.	EWIPA Political Declaration: https://ewipa.org/



Module 6: AI, LAWS and cyber security

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	The Group usually has two sessions each year. In 2025, the Group met on 3-7 March and 1-5 September. Mandate is going up until the next Review Conference of the CCW (2026). 2026 dates will be decided by the annual	GGE LAWS: Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons -Group of Governmental Experts on Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems (2025) United Nations Lethal Autonomous Weapon Systems (LAWS) – UNODA		



	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 laws, and the development of possible guidelines or regulations to govern	Meeting of the High Contracting Parties to the CCW (12-14 November 2025). Serviced by the CCW ISU.	
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	the use of LAWS. The mandate of the GGE runs until the next Review Conference of the CCW in 2026.				
Open-ended Working Group on security of and in the use of information and communications 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 focused on international cooperation, capacity-building, and confidence-building	The OEWG 2021-2025 concluded in July 2025.	Open-ended working group on information and communication technologies (2021) United Nations (unoda.org)		



	measures to prevent conflicts arising from the use of ICTs. It also explored the applicability of international law in cyberspace and addressed emerging cyber threats.		
United Nations Global Mechanism on developments in the field of ICTs in the context of international security and advancing responsible State behaviour in the use of ICTs	Following the conclusion of the OEWG 2021-2025 in July 2025, the Global Mechanism is a newly established initiative under the United Nations framework, aimed at strengthening global cooperation and	The mechanism is expected to hold its organizational session in March 2026, following formal approval by the UN General Assembly. It will continue the work of the OEWG, integrating lessons learned and expanding efforts to build a secure, stable,	N/A



	governance in cyberspace. The Global Mechanism is permanent, inclusive and universal multilateral mechanism on developments in the field of ICTs in the context of international security and advancing responsible State behaviour in the use of ICTs. The Global Mechanism will feature two integrated, policy-oriented and cross-cutting dedicated thematic groups dedicated to:	and peaceful ICT environment.	
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	- addressing specific challenges in the sphere of ICT security in the context of international security in order to promote an open, secure, stable, accessible, peaceful, and interoperable ICT environment - accelerating ICT security capacity-building		
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.	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



	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,		
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	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.		
US Political Declaration on the Responsible Military Use of Artificial Intelligence and Autonomy	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		<u>Political Declaration on Responsible Military Use of Artificial Intelligence and Autonomy - United States Department of State</u>



	February 2023, the declaration aims to function as a complement to expert-level discussions and emphasizes the need for transparency, 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		
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	effects in conflict scenarios.		
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