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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) for the period from January to December 2025.

The Board of Trustees of UNIDIR endorsed the report at the eighty-sixth session of the Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters, held in New York on 24 June 2026.

The Board recognized the timeliness, relevance and impact of the Institute's research activities, the diversity of which reflects the broad spectrum of issues within the global security architecture that are covered by UNIDIR.

* [A/81/150](#).



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 2025, the approved programme of work and financial plan for 2026 and the proposed programme of work and financial plan for 2027

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 2025, the multilateral system came under great strain, even as the need for collective solutions to global problems became ever clearer. In the light of heightened nuclear risks, the rapid spread of emerging technologies and record levels of global military spending, the international community's capacity to contain crises is being stretched to the limit. A bold collective commitment will be essential to restoring confidence in the possibility of delivering peace and security, both for Member States at the international level and for ordinary people in their everyday lives. It will also require creative, agile thinking that finds workable ways forward when traditional channels are blocked, keeping momentum going even against the odds. As the dedicated think tank of the United Nations system on disarmament and global security, UNIDIR was well placed in 2025 to deliver the kinds of innovative, practical approaches needed to address multiple mounting challenges.

Even amid rising great Power tensions, the Institute provides impartial, evidence-based advice to States of all sizes, helping them to develop more effective, efficient and credible policy responses, while its data-driven, accessible resources reduce tensions, strengthen trust and provide rare spaces for constructive dialogue. With UNIDIR research reaching every corner of the world and engagement in its events more than doubling in 2025, donors from around the globe have recognized the importance of the Institute's work through their generous voluntary contributions in recent years, with all United Nations regional groups represented and all five permanent members of the Security Council included.

UNIDIR marked its forty-fifth anniversary in 2025. The Institute took this milestone as an opportunity not only to reflect on past achievements, but also to chart a positive, productive and forward-looking agenda with its new Strategic Framework 2026–2030, which is centred on three core areas of excellence: strengthening arms control and disarmament; preventing conflict for brighter futures; and advancing governance of emerging technologies. The Institute's achievements in 2025 demonstrate that its independent, innovative work towards advancing global security has played and will continue to play a vital role in efforts to build a more secure world.

I. Introduction

1. In 2025, a civilian lost their life every 12 minutes and deaths from armed conflict increased by 40 per cent.¹ Those stark figures demonstrate the gravity of the current geopolitical moment, as interlinked, evolving threats continue to gather pace, straining the international community's collective ability to anticipate or contain them. Nuclear risks have resurfaced, emerging technologies are spreading rapidly and military spending is at record levels. Yet just when concerted global action is needed most, the multilateral peace and security architecture itself has come under unprecedented pressure. A bold, collective commitment and action are needed to demonstrate effectiveness, increase efficiency and restore faith in the possibility of safeguarding peace and delivering for Member States, societies and people around the globe.

2. As the sole think tank of the United Nations system on disarmament and global security, UNIDIR has stepped forward to offer innovative, productive ways of addressing these challenges. Even as inclusive governance is threatened by the return of overt, great Power contestation, the Institute works to empower States all around the world, regardless of their size or resources. The product of multilateral norm-setting and practical initiatives on the ground, the Institute's research-based advisory support unlocks more effective, efficient and evidence-backed policy and impact. In a world where spaces for constructive dialogue are disappearing, UNIDIR offers practical tools and resources that defuse tensions, build trust and identify viable ways forward.

3. The forty-fifth anniversary of UNIDIR in 2025 served as an opportunity both to reflect on a successful history and to develop a prospective vision of future global security issues, in order to maximize the Institute's potential to tackle them. For the near to medium term, UNIDIR launched its Strategic Framework 2026–2030, which is centred on three key areas of excellence: strengthening arms control and disarmament; preventing conflict to build brighter futures; and advancing the governance of emerging technologies.

4. Bringing key findings to bear in every region of the world and at every level of governance, from community councils to the Security Council, the Institute's work has a significant global footprint. In 2025, its outputs were downloaded in 193 countries and the number of participants in its events more than doubled to more than 20,000. Widespread demand also brought broad-based support, with voluntary contributions received from 44 donors, including all five permanent members of the Security Council and States from every region of the world.

5. For many years, UNIDIR has been honing lean, agile structures and cultivating a start-up mentality in order to be able to generate creative ideas for a world in crisis. As a result, UNIDIR was well prepared to respond to the call that the Secretary-General made in his UN80 Initiative for a more efficient and effective organization, and it stands ready to enhance strategic alignment with the Office for Disarmament Affairs while maintaining the essential autonomy laid out in the Institute's statute.

6. As the many and varied activities and achievements of UNIDIR in 2025 demonstrate, the Institute's innovative, independent and impactful role in advancing global security has never been more vital.

¹ United Nations Human Rights Innovation and Analytics Hub, "Human Rights Count". Available at <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/b12adfl1ee3a840b7a23d089050c3bd80>.

II. Performance and status of implementation of activities in 2025

Research agenda, programmes and projects

7. In 2025, UNIDIR concluded the implementation of the 2022–2025 strategic research agenda previously endorsed by its Board of Trustees ([A/77/263](#)).

8. At the core of that agenda were five research programmes: (a) conventional arms and ammunition; (b) weapons of mass destruction; (c) security and technology; (d) space security; and (e) integrated approaches. These programmes take a dynamic, scalable approach to anticipate and meet the needs of the international community. UNIDIR also pursues major research projects on managing exits from armed conflict and a Middle East zone free of weapons of mass destruction.

Conventional arms and ammunition

9. The United Nations recorded more than 48,000 conflict-related civilian deaths in 2024.² Conventional weapons are implicated in many of these deaths, not to mention the wider human suffering prevalent in conflict-affected settings. In 2025, UNIDIR addressed the negative consequences of the proliferation and misuse of conventional weapons by: (a) countering the diversion of arms and ammunition; (b) mitigating civilian harm and contributing to armed-violence reduction; (c) examining the development-security nexus; and (d) strengthening implementation of multilateral arms control instruments.

10. The international trade in small arms and ammunition almost doubled in value from 2019 to 2024. Since some of these weapons are diverted into terrorism, criminality and violations of international law, measures for countering illicit proliferation need to keep pace. In 2025, UNIDIR carried out an in-depth analysis of national efforts to regulate arms brokering and strengthen end user controls. In addition to providing a comprehensive overview of trends in international flows of small arms and transfer controls, this analysis will feed into national counter-diversion practices and international meetings on the Arms Trade Treaty and the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects.

11. With armed violence intensifying across Africa, UNIDIR stepped up its efforts to integrate arms control measures into prevention strategies, giving substance to the commitment to building and sustaining peace that is set out in the Pact for the Future. UNIDIR built connections, dialogue and understanding between practitioners involved in preventing violent extremism and arms control practitioners in West Africa, pooling best practices and generating recommendations for holistic approaches to armed violence prevention. The Institute also launched an initiative to examine how community-led arms control can shape weapons use. Meanwhile, a new digital dashboard has enabled better early warning efforts using arms flow data, as the Secretary-General acknowledged in his report to the Security Council on small arms and light weapons ([S/2025/670](#), para. 8).

12. With global military spending at its highest level in the twenty-first century, the UNIDIR Expert Network on Security Priorities and Public Spending contributed to the report of the Secretary-General entitled *The Security We Need: Rebalancing Military Spending for a Sustainable and Peaceful Future*. The Institute applied a new framework for promoting accountability in national security spending through a pilot

² United Nations, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, “UN data shows surge in civilian deaths in conflict globally, highlights pervasive discrimination”, press release, 18 June 2025.

study on Kenya that revealed various barriers to progress, such as irregular reporting, poor expenditure tracking and institutional opacity.

13. UNIDIR research fed into the universalization efforts of various multilateral arms control processes, thereby extending protection from the dangers of misused weapons to a larger proportion of the global population. A voluntary guide was launched to support implementation of the Global Framework for Through-life Conventional Ammunition Management, thereby helping to strengthen safety, security and sustainability efforts at all levels. UNIDIR research informed the establishment of a mechanism for reporting on implementation of the Framework. In 2026, UNIDIR will assist States in Africa, the Americas and Asia as they evaluate their national situations with regard to implementation of the Framework. Meanwhile, UNIDIR recommendations on the use of explosive weapons in populated areas, including with regard to collection of data on indirect effects, were echoed in the outcome statement of the second international conference on the Political Declaration on Strengthening the Protection of Civilians from the Humanitarian Consequences Arising from the Use of Explosive Weapons in Populated Areas.

Weapons of mass destruction

14. An increasingly unpredictable geopolitical environment is eroding traditional channels for dialogue regarding existential risks, such as nuclear weapons. To help mitigate these risks, in 2025, UNIDIR analysed the risk perceptions of nuclear-armed States and identified opportunities to advance nuclear risk reduction. The Institute also examined the strategic, financial and humanitarian implications for China, the Russian Federation and the United States of America of a resurgence of arms race dynamics and disseminated its findings in national, regional and international forums.

15. With trust undermined by growing tensions, the verification of agreements has become even more important, leading UNIDIR to develop the concept of “demonstrative verification” and new protocols that produce credible information on compliance without the need to include extensive verification provisions in treaties. In the lead-up to the 2026 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, UNIDIR generated options for interactive reporting on disarmament obligations under the Non-Proliferation Treaty and facilitated dialogue on such sensitive issues as strengthening Treaty safeguards for the development of naval nuclear propulsion. This work will allow the Institute to make informed, viable proposals before, during and after the Review Conference.

16. The Institute will also offer a series of public and closed-door events to deepen understanding of perceived nuclear risks and develop actionable steps that could be integrated into the outcome documents of future Review Conferences. Looking beyond the Review Conference, UNIDIR will use simulation-based methods, including tabletop exercises that evaluate risk reduction measures, to deepen understanding of crisis decision-making and craft more effective means of avoiding escalation. A digital nuclear disarmament verification repository will be launched in 2026, enabling peer-learning on best practices and fostering understanding among policymakers and specialists assigned to the recently established Group of Scientific and Technical Experts on Nuclear Disarmament Verification.

17. The recent use of chemical weapons in Ukraine and greater accessibility to chemical and biological technology for States and non-State actors make the current threat landscape the most perilous in respect of chemical and biological weapons since the cold war ended. Accordingly, UNIDIR focused on emerging biological threats and their potential application as weapons in a shifting geostrategic context. Conscious of international imbalances in capacity, the Institute delivered an advanced training course on biosecurity governance for 20 emerging leaders from the global

South, with a view to strengthening capacity for informed engagement. It also sustained dialogue in the context of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction through multiple activities, receiving plaudits from the Working Group on the Strengthening of the Biological Weapons Convention and its membership. With regard to future threats, UNIDIR identified opportunities and challenges arising from new technologies, especially artificial intelligence (AI).

18. To combat the re-emergence of chemical weapons and reinforce confidence in long-standing treaty arrangements, UNIDIR will lead a global initiative in 2026 to strengthen the industry verification framework of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction. It will also develop a biological disarmament verification mechanism that addresses threats both present and future, and it will support efforts to bolster implementation of the Biological Weapons Convention, particularly in relation to the prevention of bioterrorism.

19. UNIDIR will co-organize a high-level retreat to develop pathways towards progress for the United Nations disarmament machinery in an unstable multilateral context. It will also seek to learn lessons from the genesis of cold war-era agreements to explore the potential of unilateral initiatives, which could help reverse the downward spiral afflicting arms control and disarmament processes today.

Security and technology

20. In 2025, rapid advances in AI, information and communications technology (ICT) security and emerging technologies continued to reshape the international security landscape, underlining the urgent need for forward-looking governance. UNIDIR supported multilateral decision-making by reducing knowledge gaps, providing strategic foresight and bringing together policy, technical and stakeholder communities around the world.

21. UNIDIR consolidated its leadership with regard to AI in security and defence by convening its first Global Conference on AI, Security and Ethics. This two-day conference brought together more than 500 participants in Geneva and another 6,000 online, making it the Institute's best-attended event to date. The UNIDIR Women in AI Fellowship also went from strength to strength, with applications increasing by 150 per cent to more than 250 from 90 States in every region of the world. UNIDIR conducted regional consultations across Europe, Latin America, Africa and the Middle East in support of the Responsible AI in the Military Domain (REAIM) summit that was held in February 2026, during which it launched a proposed framework of responsible industry behaviour for AI in the military domain.

22. With regard to information and communications technology (ICT) security, UNIDIR tackled various emerging issues, such as cyberbiosecurity, responsible State behaviour in cyberspace, cooperation between national computer security incident response teams and protecting subsea cables from hybrid warfare. Those efforts responded directly to evolving risks and States' growing demand for policy-relevant analysis.

23. UNIDIR played a central convening role in efforts to analyse the cyberthreat landscape and building cyber-resilience. The Institute developed a new framework to analyse ICT activities, which it applied in a simulated escalating cyberincident scenario with cascading regional impacts during the 2025 Cyber Stability Conference. The hands-on, real-world approach helped participants explore interdependencies, find practical ways to strengthen resilience and ultimately safeguard security in cyberspace. The 2025 Cyber Stability Conference marked the launch of Geneva Cyber

Week, which provides a new platform for multi-stakeholder dialogue on international ICT security. The initiative attracted more than 1,900 participants who took part in 19 events, reinforcing the role of Geneva as a global hub for cyberdiplomacy.

24. To mark the International Year of Quantum Science and Technology, UNIDIR expanded its work on quantum computing, with a focus on the intersection of quantum science and technology with AI. Meanwhile, the Institute's recently launched cross-programmatic Science and Technology Watchtower project provides early warning and evidence-based analysis of technological developments with potential security implications.

25. Research impacts were reinforced by the UNIDIR AI Policy Portal and the UNIDIR Cyber Policy Portal, which provide multilingual mappings of the global policy landscapes for each issue. With more than 60,000 views from more than 55,000 users in 2025, these innovative digital tools increased transparency, boosted trust and enabled peer learning among States in dynamic, highly technical policy areas.

Space security

26. The space domain became even more complex in 2025, with growing interest in interceptor technologies and concerns over the deployment of nuclear weapons. With space security governance and multilateral processes approaching an impasse, UNIDIR used informal dialogue and inclusive forums to make progress on such issues as lunar security and strategic unpredictability in space. Innovative formats were used during the flagship Outer Space Security Conference to build trust and pool ideas among States and stakeholders. Within the United Nations, UNIDIR supported diplomatic processes in the Conference on Disarmament, the First Committee and the open-ended working group on the prevention of an arms race in outer space in all its aspects.

27. To boost representation of the global spectrum of perspectives on space, the Institute expanded its outreach to regional platforms, such as the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Regional Forum and the European Parliament. The newly established UNIDIR Expert Network on Space Security, part of the Global Disarmament Research Network, will deepen global understanding of the grave consequences of space incidents and the strategic implications of nuclear-related systems in space. This network will be central to a pioneering project that maps space threats and consequences in order to identify key risks and catalyse collective action.

28. As in other domains covered by UNIDIR, digital tools provide the intellectual scaffolding required to build knowledge and trust on space security. The Space Security Portal informs broad-based participation in space governance by promoting transparency and building confidence, while the Lexicon for Outer Space Security fosters common understandings of key technologies and terminologies. Those two sites received more than 30,000 visits in 2025.

29. In 2026, the Institute will invest in the next generation of space security expertise by launching the Space Security Research Fellowship and, for Geneva-based diplomats, a Space Security Law Bootcamp. A series of regional tabletop exercises will provide diplomats in Geneva and experts from national capitals with practical insights into managing space security challenges.

Integrated approaches

30. The twenty-fifth anniversary of the women and peace and security agenda in 2025 came against a backdrop of armed conflict, technological change and pressure on multilateral norms, underscoring both the relevance of the agenda and the need to consolidate its implementation. UNIDIR focused on evaluating the progress made to

date in implementing the agenda and finding innovative ways to ensure that the agenda remains responsive to weapon-related risks and technological developments. This included a dedicated analysis of the implications of AI and guidance on aligning victim assistance provisions with the principles of the women and peace and security agenda. UNIDIR and a cross-regional group of 24 States submitted a working paper ([NPT/CONF.2026/PC.III/WP.37](#)) outlining the relevance of the agenda to the Preparatory Committee for the 2026 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. The importance of work that connects policy areas was also recognized by a record 90 States in the First Committee.

31. UNIDIR reviewed the implementation of national action plans for the implementation of Security Council resolution [1325 \(2000\)](#) on women and peace and security, identifying a trend towards acknowledging the role of arms control and disarmament measures in advancing commitments under the women and peace and security agenda. To reinforce this process, the Institute synthesized concrete examples of national actions and indicators into a practical toolkit for policymakers and practitioners around the world.

32. During the annual 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence campaign, UNIDIR worked with a Swiss artist, Franziska Greber, to bring to the Palais des Nations an immersive art installation centred on the testimonies of survivors. This collaboration offered a uniquely impactful means of diffusing the Institute's research on integrating arms control measures into efforts to prevent sexual violence.

33. Recognizing the importance of intergenerational engagement, UNIDIR expanded its activities for younger audiences by adding new modules to its Youth Disarmament Orientation Course and by making the entire course available in French and Spanish. The Institute also established a digital Youth and Disarmament Hub, which serves as a gateway to youth-led and youth-empowering actions in disarmament, arms control and non-proliferation.

Managing exits from armed conflict

34. The Institute's work on managing exits from armed conflict examines how and why individuals join and leave armed groups. It generates a robust, comparable and accessible evidence base that allows partners to better prevent conflict, promote peace and enable sustainable transitions to civilian life. Amid tectonic shifts in contemporary armed conflict and the multilateral system, there is a clear need for the actionable insights that UNIDIR provides on preventing recruitment, driving demobilization and promoting defection in unstable operating environments.

35. UNIDIR runs multi-method studies in Cameroon, Chad, Colombia, Iraq, the Niger and Nigeria. The evidence generated feeds into programming and policymaking at the local, national and regional levels. Context-specific findings are reintegrated into the programming cycle, enabling practitioners to adjust to real-world conditions in real time. This process is facilitated by partnerships with a wide range of United Nations entities, the regional stabilization strategy secretariat of the Lake Chad Basin Commission and various local and national governments.

36. In 2025, UNIDIR ran eight surveys with more than 6,700 respondents, complementing them with focus groups and key-informant interviews. Findings from the resulting 17 publications were widely cited, including in *SIPRI Yearbook 2025*, a report by the Federal Ministry of Environment of Nigeria, the academic journal *Terrorism and Political Violence* and the report of the Secretary-General on women and peace and security ([S/2025/556](#)). UNIDIR produced seven interactive Data Dashboards for Managing Exits from Armed Conflict that allow policymakers and

practitioners to directly access and employ de-identified data from the surveys. Through more than 40 Institute-hosted and external events, UNIDIR was able to present its work on managing exits from armed conflict to more than 5,000 participants.

37. In 2026, UNIDIR will prioritize advising the United Nations community on supporting reintegration of the Syrian population at Hawl camp, and it will promote evidence-based responses with the interim authorities in the Syrian Arab Republic. The Institute is also working on an evidence-to-action programme to improve the reintegration of women and girls leaving Boko Haram in the Lake Chad basin. UNIDIR will expand its research on banditry and armed group activity in north-west Nigeria, and it will analyse the spillover of violence from the Sahel to the littoral States of the Gulf of Guinea and identify entry points for its proven research model. In Latin America, the Institute will expand its work relating to the defection and reintegration of ex-combatants leaving dissident, criminal and narcotrafficking organizations in Colombia. This work will support the development of custom programming for these kinds of hybrid groups.

A Middle East zone free of weapons of mass destruction

38. Escalating tensions in the Middle East have complicated security cooperation, but they have also underscored the importance of creating spaces for dialogue. UNIDIR continues to support the process to establish a Middle East zone free of weapons of mass destruction and the strengthening of security arrangements by fostering dialogue, building capacity and generating ideas to address the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction in the region. To that end, the Institute hosted and participated in many briefings, workshops and dialogues designed to address the threat of weapons of mass destruction, engaging with more than 300 participants from governments and non-governmental organizations.

39. UNIDIR continued to offer policy-relevant insights into how technological and regional security developments shape threat perceptions, military perspectives and security strategies, particularly with regard to the proposed Middle East zone free of weapons of mass destruction. In addition to its contribution to a General Assembly-mandated study on nuclear-weapon-free zones, the Institute generated research on regional trends in weapons of mass destruction proliferation and the implications of those trends for regional security, as well as on the impact of AI and the role of extraregional actors.

Capacity-building, dialogue and evidence-based advisory support

Capacity-building

40. UNIDIR is tasked, under its statute, with ensuring that all States engage on an equal footing in multilateral negotiations, thereby achieving more durable collective security. The General Assembly, as recently as at its seventy-ninth session, has underlined “the valuable contribution that the Institute makes and should continue to make in the field of disarmament, non-proliferation education and capacity-building in all regions of the world” (resolution 79/73, para. 4). A core part of this is the annual Disarmament Orientation Course, which the Institute delivers with the Office for Disarmament Affairs. In 2025, the course equipped 47 Geneva-based diplomats from 44 States and delegations with the knowledge needed to participate meaningfully in key forums.

41. Because ICT security vulnerabilities can easily cascade across borders and become regional or global issues, there is an urgent need to bolster cyber-resilience at the international level. Conscious of imbalances in technical capacity and

resources, the Institute significantly expanded its capacity-building efforts in South-East Asia, the Asia-Pacific region, Latin America and Africa. UNIDIR delivered 28 capacity-building initiatives on ICT security and international law in cyberspace, developing the skills of more than 750 diplomats and policymakers, with a focus on deepening understanding of the application of international law to the use of ICT by States.

42. UNIDIR successfully held its hybrid, five-month Biological Weapons Convention Advanced Education Course, which facilitated engagement in ongoing biosecurity processes. The course brought together 25 diplomats and scientists, primarily from the global South. In a week-long interactive session in Geneva, participants completed a simulation exercise and engaged with the Working Group on the Strengthening of the Biological Weapons Convention.

43. The Institute helped to build the capacity of 30 diplomats, experts and policymakers from the Middle East on non-proliferation, arms control and disarmament policies. That work was reinforced through the use of innovative digital tools that build knowledge, trust and cooperation, specifically the Middle East WMD-Free Zone Timeline, the Middle East WMD-Free Zone Documents Depository and the Middle East WMD-Free Zone Compass websites.

44. Joining forces to bolster expertise in critical situations, UNIDIR experts on conventional arms, integrated approaches and managing exits from armed conflict delivered an integrated capacity-building programme for the African Union Monitoring, Verification and Compliance Mission in Tigray, Ethiopia. This initiative is typical of UNIDIR efforts to enhance the quality, efficiency and scope of the work of key local, national and regional actors endeavouring to prevent conflict.

45. A further example is the support, advice and capacity-building that UNIDIR provides to the States members of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) to counter threats from improvised explosive devices. As at the end of 2025, eight West African States had assessed their counter-improvised explosive device capability using the UNIDIR model and self-assessment tool. UNIDIR also supported the States of the region in developing a wider strategy on improvised explosive devices, adopted in late 2025. A forthcoming digital compendium of effective national practices for countering threats from improvised explosive devices will further cement progress.

46. Also making a difference on the ground are the comprehensive assessments of national weapons and ammunition management capabilities that 21 States around the world have undertaken using a methodology developed by UNIDIR. In 2025, the Institute supported assessments in Costa Rica and Senegal and prepared for the conduct of assessments in Guinea and Uruguay. Somalia became the first country to use the UNIDIR methodology at the subnational level to inform its overarching national strategy. Ultimately, improvements enabled by the Institute's assistance help to reduce the devastating human impact of weapons falling into the hands of criminal networks and terrorist groups.

Dialogue

47. In today's hotly contested security environment, the role of UNIDIR in fostering meaningful dialogue is essential. In 2025, the Institute advanced dialogue by bringing together stakeholders across regions, sectors and levels at 175 different events. A total of 21,000 participants took part, in person and online, in those events, a year-on-year increase of more than 100 per cent.

48. The Institute's highly accessible events prioritize formats that bring together voices from government, academia, industry, civil society and policymaking. This

approach is clear in the Institute's flagship annual gatherings dedicated to space security, cyberstability, security-related technological innovations and military applications of AI. In 2025, the four flagship conferences drew a total of nearly 9,000 participants from around the world. By connecting sectors, regions and expert communities, these forums help ease frictions, enrich formal deliberations and ensure that non-State perspectives are properly considered.

49. The inaugural Global Conference on AI, Security and Ethics alone attracted more than 245 abstracts from authors of 53 nationalities from around the world. The conference also provided an ideal platform for the multi-stakeholder community to hone responses to the Secretary-General's call for views on the military use of AI in advance of the forthcoming consideration of a resolution on the matter by the First Committee.

50. The Institute provided a unique platform for more than 150 representatives of civil society, law enforcement agencies, regional bodies and international organizations to generate solutions to a growing problem, namely, the proliferation and misuse of improvised small arms, uncrewed vehicles and explosive devices. Through regional consultations and an international conference on the knowledge networks that enable the acquisition, production and use of improvised weapons, UNIDIR was able to identify key priorities for multilateral cooperation and effective national prevention measures that have been proven to disrupt such networks.

51. Acutely aware of heightened tensions in the Middle East and the special need for sensitive dialogue, the Institute heeded calls for support from the region by organizing four closed-door, inclusive dialogues to address threats from weapons of mass destruction. Those gatherings brought together officials and experts from all the countries of the region, as well as representatives of nuclear-weapon States.

Evidence-based advisory support

52. The Institute's advisory work is intertwined with its role in fostering dialogue. Core to this effort is an extensive network of relationships with diplomats and experts engaged in disarmament processes. This network provides channels for exploring questions, exchanging perspectives and clarifying policy needs. Sustained engagement reinforces the Institute's reputation as a reliable source of expert guidance in the global security policy ecosystem.

53. UNIDIR has consistently supported States' participation in multilateral processes on global security, including the Conference on Disarmament and the First Committee. As the result of increasing influence at the highest levels of governance, the Institute was again invited to brief the Security Council on two occasions in 2025: an Arria-formula meeting on harnessing safe, inclusive, trustworthy AI for the maintenance of international peace and security; and a high-level open debate on maritime security.

54. Recognizing that there are inequalities in access to expertise, the Institute extended its advisory support to a broad spectrum of stakeholders, thereby helping to level the playing field in arms control discussions at key junctures. In this vein, UNIDIR addressed the 2026 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, craft-produced weapons, the future of cyberviolence, and sexual violence in armed conflict in its quarterly briefing to all United Nations regional groups. The Institute is also expanding its outreach by working directly with an ever-wider range of partners across the global South, particularly through tailored initiatives in States that are not members of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). In 2025, these engagements took place in Benin, Senegal and Sri Lanka, with topics ranging from

mitigation of threats from conventional weapons to engagement with the multilateral arms control architecture.

55. With regard to small arms and light weapons, UNIDIR focuses on supporting States to combat illicit proliferation where its effects are most acutely felt. In Africa, UNIDIR and the Regional Centre on Small Arms in the Great Lakes Region, the Horn of Africa and Bordering States have begun the first ever assessment of the implementation of the Nairobi Protocol for the Prevention, Control and Reduction of Small Arms and Light Weapons in the Great Lakes Region and the Horn of Africa. The survey led to the development of proposed amendments to the Nairobi Protocol concerning new international instruments, small arms proliferation dynamics and emerging security challenges that the States members of the Regional Centre will consider in 2027. In the Americas, UNIDIR and the Organization of American States (OAS) have undertaken a hemispheric study on trafficking in small arms, ammunition and explosives, developing a methodology and specific tools for assessing implementation of the Inter-American Convention against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives, and Other Related Materials. In that regard, UNIDIR is also identifying threats and providing evidence-based recommendations for States.

56. With regard to weapons of mass destruction, UNIDIR has begun to extend expert support to the secretariat of the independent Scientific Panel on the Effects of Nuclear War that is conducting an investigation into the physical effects and societal consequences of a nuclear war, which will continue until late 2027. The Institute supported the ongoing activities of the Working Group on the Strengthening of the Biological Weapons Convention, co-organizing events with the Office for Disarmament Affairs and providing briefings to States and stakeholders on key issues, as well as delivering regional briefings in preparation for the 2026 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. In the Middle East specifically, UNIDIR supported the drafting of reports, summarized States' positions and helped bridge positions during regional conferences, including by providing technical expertise to the secretariat of the fifth session of the Conference on the Establishment of a Middle East Zone Free of Nuclear Weapons and Other Weapons of Mass Destruction.

57. UNIDIR provided expert support and advice regarding various types of weapon systems and agreements concerning those systems, including the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention, the Convention on Cluster Munitions, the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons and, as of 2025, the Arms Trade Treaty, to focal points tasked with ensuring that the relevant processes take into account the differentiated impacts of armed violence on women, men, boys and girls.

58. Within the United Nations system, supporting groups of governmental experts and open-ended working groups offers an ideal opportunity to inform multilateral thinking early in its development, particularly with regard to frontier technologies. In addition to the processes related to lethal autonomous weapon systems and the prevention of an arms race in outer space, a clear example of that is the open-ended working group on security of and in the use of information and communications technologies 2021–2025. UNIDIR supported the Chair of the open-ended working group in conceptualizing, organizing and carrying out the first ever simulation exercise for the Global Intergovernmental Points of Contact Directory on the Use of Information and Communications Technologies in the Context of International Security. The exercise brought together more than 130 points of contact from some 80 Member States and helped to provide practical insight into the functioning of the Directory. UNIDIR hosted a follow-up event on enhancing State participation and engagement, thereby increasing the effectiveness of this important confidence-

building measure. The Institute served, for a second time, as technical adviser to the Group of Governmental Experts on the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms. In particular, UNIDIR research on the increased use of small armed uncrewed maritime systems led to a proposal to amend the scope of the Register. UNIDIR and the Office for Disarmament Affairs are jointly convening a series of seminars in 2025 and 2026 to support preparations for the first meeting in 2026 of the open-ended technical expert group to address developments in small arms and light weapons manufacturing, technology and design.

Communications, outreach and partnerships

Communications and outreach

59. As conflicts intensify and disinformation increases, connecting with global audiences is becoming ever more complex. UNIDIR meets this challenge by embracing a broad mix of modern digital platforms, formats and technologies.

60. In 2025, UNIDIR added more than 25,000 new followers to its social media community across LinkedIn, Instagram, Facebook, X, Bluesky and YouTube, representing a year-on-year increase of 42 per cent. The total online audience grew to almost 90,000 people and UNIDIR content generated more than 3.3 million impressions. Campaigns for flagship events and the Institute's anniversary alone reached more than 1 million people, and a tripling in the number of email campaigns helped boost performance across the board. This rapid growth stems from a conscious effort to provide core audiences with more substantive content while also strengthening video-led storytelling on visually driven platforms. Emphasizing narrative news content helped to make technical issues and research more accessible and facilitated reporting. Producing new audience profiles across all platforms allowed for content to be better matched to potential users, favouring deeper and more frequent engagement.

61. The Institute's web offerings, including dynamic digital tools and accessible policy portals, attracted 925,000 views from 193 countries, with a 46 per cent increase in the number of users of the core website. There was also an expansion in 2025 in the Institute's range of digital tools with the introduction of the Data Dashboards for Managing Exits from Armed Conflict, the launch of the Youth and Disarmament Hub and the release of French and Spanish versions of the Youth Disarmament Orientation Course. Significant progress was made towards the development of a nuclear disarmament verification repository and a novel nuclear-weapon-free zone treaties hub that will support researchers, decision makers and negotiators involved in new or existing zone initiatives. In addition to enhancing transparency and building trust, these tools provide reliable, up-to-the-minute data that enriches the Institute's research and advisory work, cementing the place of UNIDIR as a vital partner in relation to global security issues.

62. The presentation of innovative ideas by UNIDIR in diverse formats requires that such ideas be generated steadily. To that end, UNIDIR organized 175 events and released 132 publications in 2025, covering everything from such enduring priorities as perceptions of nuclear risk and small arms control to emerging themes like banditry in north-west Nigeria and governance of military AI.³ Reflecting the Institute's commitment to reaching underserved audiences through multilingual engagement, 21 of these publications were translations, while many events were conducted in languages other than English. The interactive UNIDIR portals used AI to provide instant translations into all United Nations languages.

³ See https://unidir.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/03/UNIDIR_Publications_List_2025.pdf.

Partnerships

63. The ability of UNIDIR to serve as a globally trusted centre for capacity-building, dialogue and policy support is reinforced by its relationships with a constellation of partners, including United Nations entities, regional bodies, non-governmental organizations, research institutions, universities, private companies and, crucially, Member States. Engaging closely with this global community helps the Institute to stay attuned to emerging policy developments, ensuring that fresh perspectives continually shape its research agenda and advisory services.

64. Key to that is the UNIDIR Global Disarmament Research Network, the thematic groups of which examine major global challenges, such as nuclear dangers, military uses of AI, accountability in security spending, governance of biological and chemical weapons and applying international law in cyberspace. In 2025, a sixth subnetwork was added, with 12 universities and research organizations around the world coming together to develop a map of space security threats and consequences. The inclusion of the Beijing Institute of Technology, the Geneva Graduate Institute, Georgetown University, Leiden University, Midlands State University, the Maldives Space Research Organization, the University of Cape Coast, the University of Tokyo, the University of the West Indies and Ural Federal University demonstrates how strategic partnerships can engage academic leaders and young people on key issues, ensuring that perspectives on the localized impacts of global security issues are properly represented.

65. The Youth Visions of Peace campaign, meanwhile, called on young people to share their local perspectives and bold images of what a peaceful world could look like. Combining skills development, photography and storytelling, the campaign engaged directly with young people around the world, elevating the experiences and ideas of the next generation in security policy discussions.

66. UNIDIR maintained its consistently strong collaboration with the Office for Disarmament Affairs, partnering with it on numerous initiatives and sustaining regular exchanges at operational, strategic and institutional levels in order to ensure strategic alignment and efficient use of resources. The Institute also deepened its engagement with United Nations entities working in related domains, such as humanitarian response, human rights and development, including the Department of Peace Operations, the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs, the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate, the International Organization for Migration, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Institute for Training and Research, the United Nations University, the International Telecommunication Union, the World Health Organization and the World Bank.

67. Recognizing the essential contribution of regional bodies to the diffusion and contextualization of policy guidance, the Institute worked closely with the African Union, ASEAN, the Caribbean Community, the Economic Community of Central African States, the ECOWAS Commission, the European Union, the Lake Chad Basin Commission, OAS, the Regional Centre on Small Arms in the Great Lakes Region, the Horn of Africa and Bordering States and the Southern African Development Community. Work with OAS in particular has been focused on integrating the women and peace and security agenda into the 11 norms of responsible behaviour of States in the use of ICTs, with the resulting report drawing on case studies in Canada, Chile and Costa Rica and being deliberated on by the open-ended working group on ICT security.

Income and expenditure

68. In 2025, UNIDIR remained a trusted partner of the permanent members of the Security Council, all five of which provided funding and support for a fourth consecutive year. The Institute also welcomed Austria, Cameroon, New Zealand and Spain as new or returning donors, bringing the total number of donors to 44, the second highest number in the Institute's history. With many States taking a more cautious approach to funding, however, revenues fell to \$12.7 million in 2025 from \$14.3 million in 2024.

69. Expenditure in 2025 amounted to \$13.6 million, a marginal increase from \$13.5 million in 2024 (annex I, table 1). Delivery of outputs and activities was unaffected by the reduction in revenue owing to the availability of funds carried over from previous years in line with existing donor agreements.

70. As an organization that relies almost entirely on voluntary funding, UNIDIR has long focused on making the most of donor contributions, particularly by applying principles of lean efficiency. In 2025, additional austerity measures – a freeze on the creation of new positions, shorter contracts for vacant posts, a moratorium on workspace expansion and expenditure only on essential travel – were put in place. In view of increasing resource constraints across the entire international sector, new demands arising from the UN80 Initiative, a larger staff, higher operating costs and a weakening United States dollar, the Institute is continuously monitoring and reassessing its financial situation and operating model, including the geographical location of staff.

71. The level of unearmarked contributions remained low, rising marginally to \$909,856 in 2025 from \$677,153 in 2024. In percentage terms, 44 per cent of total donor revenue in 2025 was tightly earmarked, 49 per cent was softly earmarked for programmes and 7 per cent was entirely unearmarked. This is a slight improvement compared with 2024, when the proportions were 59 per cent, 36 per cent and 5 per cent, respectively.

72. The subvention for UNIDIR from the regular budget of \$786,422 was received in full in late 2025. For 2026, UNIDIR is making the case that its subvention should be exempt from the 20 per cent cut that has been applied more broadly. A 20 per cent cut would reduce the subvention to \$629,154, jeopardizing the functions and activities that the allocation was designed to support, namely, the costs of the posts of the Director and the Executive Officer, quarterly briefings for all regional groups and three events per year in non-OECD countries. Prior to the funding crisis of early 2025 and the launch of the UN80 Initiative, UNIDIR had welcomed the call that the General Assembly made in its resolution [79/73](#) for the Secretary-General to assess the financial needs of the Institute and provide any necessary budgetary recommendations. The assessment, which was carried out in December 2024, identified a need to support the Institute's "irreducible core" ([A/70/186](#), para. 44) by expanding the subvention to cover five additional positions: one Deputy Director, three Heads of Programmes and one Head of Communications and Partnerships.

73. Throughout 2025, UNIDIR continued to prioritize sound financial oversight and management. This effort was underpinned by the annual budgeting process, submission of yearly cost plans to the United Nations Office at Geneva, biannual financial updates to the Board of Trustees and donors, quarterly executive budget reviews, monthly updates to the Institute's financial dashboard and strengthened internal controls. In partnership with the Department of Management Strategy, Policy and Compliance, UNIDIR further strengthened its monitoring of internal controls, achieving high scores across all relevant performance indicators.

Staffing and operations

74. In 2025, the number of full-time equivalent positions at UNIDIR grew by a modest 8 per cent to 77 (see annex II), up from 71 in 2024. These fully funded appointments had already been made in late 2024; no further positions were added owing to the austerity measures applied in 2025. Given the delicate financial situation of the international sector and the evolving implications of UN80 Initiative reforms, UNIDIR will continue to save costs by leaving the Deputy Director post vacant. In the interim, a temporary P-3 post has been added to support the Director with outreach planning and internal coordination. In a similar fashion, the functions of the New York Liaison Officer position (P-4), which was created in 2021 and has been vacant since mid-2023, will be covered in 2026 by a temporary P-3 officer working in conjunction with the Head of the Security and Technology Programme, who is also based in New York.

75. The Institute's workforce reflects its ongoing commitment to global representation, with staff from 40 countries across five continents speaking more than 35 languages, including all six United Nations official languages. Women make up almost two thirds of personnel and, as at March 2026, more than 50 per cent of staff were non-European. More than 90 per cent hold postgraduate degrees, with 25 per cent having doctorates. The Institute's global perspective and sensitivity are due in large part to the international composition of its workforce.

76. UNIDIR contracted more than 40 consultants with local expertise in 2025, as well as 24 graduate professionals and 20 fellows or senior fellows. These experts further deepened and broadened the expertise invested in the Institute's high-quality research, publications and discussions in various forums.

77. In line with the Secretary-General's recommended staffing model for the Institute (see [A/73/284](#)), UNIDIR offers scalable individual contractor agreements through the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) to all researchers, with United Nations staff contracts reserved for heads or deputy heads of programme and core institutional positions. The salaries of UNOPS contractors are set in United States dollars with no adjustment for exchange rate fluctuations. To counteract declining purchasing power, UNIDIR adjusted salaries by a small percentage on an annual basis from 2023 to 2025. However, due to ongoing financial uncertainty, no increase has yet been made or budgeted for in 2026. Combined with the financial uncertainties engendered by the UN80 Initiative process, the declining value of the salaries of Geneva-based UNOPS contractors remains a challenge, in particular with regard to the Institute's ability to retain the best talent.

78. As well giving similar leave entitlements to those for United Nations staff, allowing for relocation costs to be covered and providing Swiss residence permits for family members, UNOPS consultancy contracts cost less than staff contracts offered by the United Nations Office at Geneva. In 2025, UNOPS support enabled 55 personnel contracts to be issued at a total cost of \$378,571 (see annex I, table 4), compared with \$390,226 in 2024. After-service liabilities, which are applicable only for staff on United Nations contracts, are accounted for in standard staff costs, with an amount regularly set aside by United Nations payroll. A further amount of \$1 million has been set aside since 2015 for staff liabilities in case of unexpected termination costs.

79. UNIDIR continued to work with the United Nations Office at Geneva for procurement, human resources, information technology, facilities management and financial services. The total cost of these services, including rent, came to \$608,785 in 2025, up from \$484,122 in 2024 (see annex I, table 4). This increase in service costs is attributable to an increase in annual rent from \$60,000 to \$130,000 and a

larger number of transactions due to implementation of International Public Sector Accounting Standard 47: Revenue, which required the creation of multiple grants.

III. Programme of work and financial plan for 2026 and 2027

80. The Institute's programme of work for 2026 was approved by the Board of Trustees at its meeting in June 2025 (see [A/80/240](#)). The Board endorsed the substantive direction and continuation in 2026 of the five core research programmes and two projects. Following a granular budgeting exercise, and projecting available financial resources, two budget scenarios – a conservative budget of \$12.6 million and an aspirational budget of \$16.9 million – were approved for 2026 and communicated to the Board at its January 2026 meeting:

81. These scenarios reflect the updated workplans of the Institute's research programmes, which are clustered around the three core areas of excellence laid out in the Institute's Strategic Framework 2026–2030: (a) advancing efforts to curb the development, proliferation and use of weapons of mass destruction while also mitigating the significant effect of illicit and misused conventional arms; (b) working to prevent conflict at multiple levels, thereby reducing risks of escalation, reinforcing resilience, empowering communities and making space for new perspectives; and (c) helping to shape policies and decision-making frameworks that contain the risks of emerging technologies while allowing their opportunities to be harnessed for the benefit of all. In line with its mandate, UNIDIR will emphasize long-term, forward-looking research and will consider the wider linkages between disarmament and arms control, conflict prevention, development and global security.

82. In order to ensure provision of high-quality research outputs and results-oriented management, the Strategic Framework 2026–2030 includes goals for four key enabling factors: partnerships, management, communications and funding. UNIDIR also operates a rolling review process that includes quarterly implementation reviews and continuous impact monitoring. The Institute will develop research agendas for individual programmes in the first half of 2026.

83. Demand for the Institute's work is expected to increase even further in 2026 because of prevailing geopolitical trends. However, structural shifts and heightened uncertainty in the global funding environment suggest that further cost-containment measures may be required in 2027. Exceptional levels of volatility in the prevailing funding environment limit the predictive value of traditional donor-revenue trend analysis for 2026 and beyond. Accordingly, projected income and expenditure are presented in annex I, table 1, based on a conservative planning scenario. The programme of work for 2027 will be approved by the Board of Trustees in June 2026.

84. In order to enhance financial resilience and preserve strategic flexibility, the Institute will maintain an operational liquidity reserve equivalent to 15–20 per cent of its annual budget. This reserve will be composed of unearmarked funds, including funds accumulated in previous years, and interest income earned on the reserve. In line with instructions from the Controller, a mandatory reserve of 20 per cent is also maintained in the programme support fund. These reserves are monitored continuously and reviewed during quarterly financial briefings. Any unearmarked funds that are in excess of the limits of a prudent buffer, which has been put in place for times of financial uncertainty, will be available for allocation to substantive priorities and core functions in 2026 and 2027.

IV. Conclusion

85. As UNIDIR marked its forty-fifth anniversary in 2025, the Institute took the opportunity to reflect on its history and to chart a clear course into the future. Its Strategic Framework 2026–2030 places renewed emphasis on three areas that are essential to global stability: strengthening arms control and disarmament; preventing conflict to build brighter futures; and advancing the governance of emerging technologies. These areas reflect the lessons of the Institute’s four and a half decades of experience and the realities of a multilateral system that is under serious strain.

86. In 2025, the Institute’s value became clearer than ever. Engagement grew on multiple fronts, research reached stakeholders in every sector and at every level and financial support came from every permanent member of the Security Council and States from every region of the world. With great Power tensions undermining inclusive governance and constructive dialogue becoming a scarce commodity, the impartial bridge-building role of UNIDIR, its evidence-driven advice and its practical tools have only become more vital. By offering accessible resources that help to reduce tensions, build confidence and open up viable paths forward, the Institute demonstrates that creative, agile thinking can keep collective action on track, even when traditional channels falter.

87. The world faces renewed nuclear risks, the rapid spread of emerging technologies and unprecedented levels of military spending, all at a time when the international community’s ability to anticipate and contain crises is being seriously challenged. Restoring confidence in global peace and security will require not only a bold collective commitment, but also institutions capable of turning that commitment into concrete, workable solutions. The Institute’s achievements in 2025 show that its independent, innovative contributions remain essential to the international community’s shared efforts to build a more secure world.

Annex I

An explanatory note to this annex is available at <https://unidir.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/03/DR26-note.pdf>.

Table 1

Actual revenue and expenses for 2025 and the first quarter of 2026, and projected revenue and expenses for 2026 and 2027

(Thousands of United States dollars)

<i>Description</i>	<i>2025</i>	<i>First quarter 2026</i>	<i>2026</i>	<i>2027</i>
Opening balance	11 464	10 562	10 562	10 617
Revenue				
Voluntary contributions	11 067	8 725	13 085	9 228
Other transfers and allocations	1 085	154	771	771
Investment revenue	449	—	200	200
Other revenue	117	—	—	—
Total revenue	12 718^a	8 879	14 056	10 199
Expenses				
Employee salaries, allowances and benefits	3 175	849	3 239	3 336
Other expert contracts and fees	6 153	607	6 276	6 464
Grants and other transfers	307	47	350	361
Travel	1 236	302	1 298	1 337
Other operating expenses	1 383	180	1 452	1 496
Programme support costs	1 366	266	1 386	1 428
Total expenses	13 620	2 251^b	14 001^c	14 422
Surplus/(deficit) for the period	(902)	6 628	55	(4 223)
Closing balance	10 562	17 190	10 617	6 394

^a This amount includes contributions pledged in 2021–2024 that were for 2025 and excludes those that were pledged in 2025 for future years.

^b First quarter expenditures are lower and implementation is expected to have increased from the second quarter.

^c The projected increase of approximately \$400,000 in 2026 compared with 2025 reflects increased staffing capacity and higher operational delivery. This includes \$200,000 for additional staff costs and \$200,000 for non-staff costs, in line with programme workplans.

Table 2
Programme support costs, revenue and expenses, 2025
 (United States dollars)

Revenue^a	1 379 948
Expenses	
Institutional personnel^b	987 311
Employee salaries, allowances and benefits	912 452
Other expert contracts and fees	74 859
United Nations Office at Geneva services^c	368 646
<i>Other operating expenses</i>	
Central support services	6 453
Financial services	307 186
Human resources	8 264
Information and communications technologies	46 743
Total expenses	1 355 957
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	23 991

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

^b Cost of staff providing operational support, such as preparation of budget proposals, financial reports, resource mobilization and strategic communications.

^c Cost of United Nations Office at Geneva services charges covered from programme support costs.

Table 3
Allocation and utilization of the 2025 regular budget subvention
 (United States dollars)

Allocation	786 442
Utilization	
Director (D-2)	400 626
Executive Officer (P-5)	317 956
Quarterly briefings	17 023
3 non-OECD events	42 592
Total, utilization	778 197

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

Table 4
Breakdown of service charges by the United Nations Office at Geneva and the United Nations Office for Project Services, 2025
 (United States dollars)

<i>Service description</i>	<i>United Nations Office at Geneva</i>	<i>United Nations Office for Project Services</i>
Central support services	139 643	—
Human resources	92 757	378 571
Financial services	203 144	—
Information and communications technology	161 304	—
General management services	11 937	—
Total expenses	608 785	378 571

Table 5
Details of voluntary contributions for 2025 and the first quarter of 2026
 (United States dollars)

<i>Description</i>	<i>2025</i>	<i>First quarter 2026^b</i>
A. Voluntary contributions^a		
Australia	139 897	808 352
Austria	10 649	21 298
Cameroon	620	—
Canada	751 949	254 368
China	20 000	—
Czechia	6 996	—
European Union	2 026 287	3 222 514
Finland	166 989	109 649
France	201 266	—
Germany	1 966 585	345 000
India	15 000	—
Ireland	327 004	—
Italy	920 408	699 301
Japan	—	86 666
Luxembourg	11 509	—
Malta	17 000	35 570
Netherlands (Kingdom of the)	575 000	300 000
New Zealand	12 019	—
Norway	930 462	400 000
Pakistan	5 000	—
Philippines	20 000	—
Republic of Korea	453 400	424 564
Russian Federation	100 000	100 000
Singapore	15 000	121 000
Slovenia	11 351	—
Spain	595 556	—

<i>Description</i>	<i>2025</i>	<i>First quarter 2026^b</i>
Sri Lanka	626	–
Sweden	182 949	182 949
Switzerland	952 639	86 110
Türkiye	3 000	–
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	388 085	191 436
United States of America	149 589	100 000
Arms Trade Treaty secretariat	15 031	–
Protect.NGO	–	6 500
Foundation for the Adaptation of International Geneva	–	1 200 000
Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung	10 000	–
Global Forum on Cyber Expertise	35 594	–
Microsoft Corporation	250 000	30 000
International Organisation of la Francophonie	11 463	–
Organization of American States	45 000	–
Republic and Canton of Geneva	12 422	–
City of Geneva	1 248	–
World Federation of United Nations Associations	12 516	–
Refunds to donors ^c	(303 023)	–
Subtotal, A	11 067 086	8 725 277
B. Other transfers and allocations		
Office for Disarmament Affairs	191 020	–
Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary - General on Sexual Violence in Conflict	5 000	–
United Nations peace and development trust fund	102 146	–
Subvention from the United Nations regular budget	786 442	154 240
Subtotal, B	1 084 608	154 240
Total	12 151 694	8 879 517

^a The United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research records donor contributions in the year for which they are contributed, instead of on the basis of the International Public Sector Accounting Standards.

^b Additional voluntary contributions of more than \$4 million are expected during 2026, mainly from regular donors, including France, Germany, Ireland, Norway, Switzerland and other donors.

^c Includes \$299,830 refunded to the United States and \$3,193 to Liberia.

Annex II

2025 staffing table

<i>Programme/job title</i>	<i>Grade</i>	<i>Number of staff</i>
Institutional		
Director	D-2	1
Deputy Director	D-1	1
Executive Officer	P-5	1
Head of Communications	P-4	1
New York Liaison Officer	P-4	1
Finance and Budget Officer	P-3	1.5
Public Information Officer	P-3	1
Junior Professional Officer	P-2	2
Digital Communications Specialist	IICA-1	1
Team Assistant/Personal Assistant to the Director	G-5	1
Subtotal		11.5
Conventional arms and ammunition		
Head of Programme	P-4	1
Associate Administrative Officer	P-2	0.5
Senior Researcher	IICA-3	3
Researcher	IICA-2	3.5
Associate Researcher	IICA-1	6
Programme Assistant	IICA-1	1
Team Assistant	G-4	0.5
Subtotal		15.5
Weapons of mass destruction		
Head of Programme	P-4	1
Associate Administrative Officer	P-2	0.5
Senior Researcher	IICA-3	2
Researcher	IICA-2	2
Project Coordinator	IICA-2	1
Associate Researcher	IICA-1	2
Research Assistant	IICA-1	1
Team Assistant	G-4	0.5
Subtotal		10
Security and technology		
Head of Programme	P-4	1
Deputy Head of Programme	P-3	1
Finance and Budget Officer	P-3	0.5
Programme Management Officer	P-3	1
Senior Researcher	IICA-3	4.5
Researcher	IICA-2	7

<i>Programme/job title</i>	<i>Grade</i>	<i>Number of staff</i>
Project Coordinator	IICA-2	1
Associate Researcher	IICA-1	1.5
Programme Assistant	IICA-1	2
Team Assistant	G-4	1
Subtotal		20.5
Space security		
Researcher	IICA-2	1
Project Coordinator	IICA-2	1
Research Assistant	IICA-1	1
Programme Assistant	IICA-1	1.5
Subtotal		4.5
Integrated approaches		
Head of Programme	P-4	1
Researcher	IICA-2	1
Associate Researcher	IICA-1	0.5
Subtotal		2.5
Managing exits from armed conflict		
Head of Project	IICA-3	1
Senior Researcher	IICA-3	1
Researcher	IICA-2	1
Associate Administrative Officer	P-2	0.5
Associate Researcher	IICA-1	3
Associate Project Coordinator	IICA-1	1
Subtotal		7.5
A Middle East zone free of weapons of mass destruction		
Head of Project	IICA-3	1
Senior Researcher	IICA-3	1
Project Coordinator	IICA-2	1
Researcher	IICA-2	1
Associate Administrative Officer	P-2	0.5
Research Assistant	IICA-1	0.5
Subtotal		5
Total		77

Abbreviation: IICA, international individual contractor agreement.