



SCRAP Weapons' ideas to include SSOD-IV into the New Agenda for Peace

Following discussions in Brussels, Geneva, Hiroshima, London, New York, Vienna and Washington DC

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Chapeau

The Strategic Concept for the Removal of Arms and Proliferation (SCRAP Weapons) suggests support for the United Nations General Assembly's mechanism of Special Sessions Devoted to Disarmament (SSOD), to advance an agenda of comprehensive disarmament for the full and effective implementation of a programme of Peace and Prevention, as detailed in the recommendations of the High-Level Advisory Board on Effective Multilateralism in the Report for the New Agenda for Peace.

An effective programme of peace and prevention needs to take into account the complex relationship existing between global development and disarmament, the reduction of investments into the military-industrial complex, the prioritisation of humanitarian needs, and the inclusion of voices of women and girls as well as all marginalised communities. An SSOD-IV would contribute to re-energising the debate around disarmament and place it as a key part of the UN peace and security architecture. The effectiveness of such measures even in the current environment can be highlighted by awareness of the reduction of missiles and other weapons available to Russia for its war in Ukraine, as a result of the INF and OSCE Treaties in eliminating and governing weapons.

SSOD-IV would also be a critical forum to consider reforms of the wider disarmament machinery which has not been upgraded to incorporate contemporary concerns, such as cyber/AI and space, the long-term and immediate effects of nuclear as well as conventional arms, particularly small arms and light weapons, on women and girls and more vulnerable communities, especially those located in the Global South, including indigenous groups.

With global humanitarian crises ranging from a recent pandemic, increasing poverty, and climate change, an equivalent of the COP process must be developed for disarmament, so that financial and human resources can be redirected to peacebuilding efforts and to ensure we live in a safer world. A SSOD-IV would be particularly instrumental in advancing all the six objectives of the New Agenda for Peace as outlined in Our Common Future agenda, in synergy with PK, PKO and Counterterrorism:

1. Reducing strategic risks

An SSOD-IV would comprehensively assess the disarmament machinery and the broader international security field. It would offer a holistic approach to implementing the provisions of the UN Charter, building on the principles and priorities set out in the Final Document of SSOD-I (1978), focusing on the elimination of Weapons of Mass Destruction, including missiles, through the control of non-WMD armaments and the development of Confidence and Security Building Mechanisms (CSBMs).



2. Strengthening international foresight and capacities to identify and adapt to new risks

SSOD-IV would re-enhance UN support for universal access to Open Source Investigations (OSINT) tools and best practices, considering the numerous possibilities to conduct open source investigations in the age of Google and to advance and synergise initiatives in bio-tech risks, space and autonomous weapons.

3. Reshaping responses to all forms of violence

Responses to violence and gender related issues may fall primarily in areas of Political Affairs, Peace-Keeping and Peace-Keeping Operations, however it is vital to keep in mind that firearms small and large are essential tools of the violent. Strengthening disarmament policies, especially regarding Small Arms Light Weapons (SALWs), can better tackle most forms of gendered and household violence that affect the unaccounted everyday lived realities of marginalised groups around the world, especially in conflict areas. A SSOD-IV would provide for a global applicability of the Kinshasa Convention for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons in Central Africa, the Silencing the Guns in Africa agenda, or the Code of Conduct of the Central American States relating to Transfers of Arms, Ammunitions, Explosives and other Related Materials, among others, as strategies to control, reduce and eliminate arms and any instruments of violence in a more effective and comprehensive way.

4. Investing in prevention and peacebuilding

War afflicts the world and the threat of global war looms, yet there is no practical strategy for comprehensive weapons control. An SSOD-IV would contribute to consider proposals for a framework for an agreement on comprehensive disarmament grounded on multilateral norms already agreed at the UN, including transparency, verification, irreversibility, universality, and legal bindingness. The UNFCC COP process provides an (imperfect) example of a continuous high level multilateral policy process.

5. Supporting regional prevention

An SSOD-IV would provide opportunities for cross-fertilisation of the experiences, policies and best practices developed for the successful implementation of regional processes such as in the Kinshasa Convention and the OSCE as well as nuclear weapons free zones, including those in the regions of South America, Africa, Southeast Asia, Central Asia and the South Pacific. Efforts developed by the three UN Regional Centres for Peace and Disarmament in Asia, (Kathmandu, Nepal), Africa (Lomé, Togo), and Latin America (Lima, Peru) as well as from civil society should be synergised.

6. Putting women and girls at the centre.

Conflict is a highly gendered activity. From the use of sexual violence as a weapon of war, to enduring any economic burdens, women are always disproportionately affected by conflicts. Disarmament is a key area of action to tackle the patriarchal structural inequalities that normalise the status of women and girls, as well as



people with non-binary identities, as passive recipients of the culture and practice of war, particularly supported by the military-industrial complex that drives economies in the Global North. We believe that an SSOD-IV would significantly facilitate furthering discussions about these issues that have often been sidelined.

Disarmament has been part of the UN's identity throughout its existence from the Atlantic Charter and UN Declaration of 1942 onwards, and must remain so.