FACT SHEET

DISARMAMENT AND NON-PROLIFERATION EDUCATION

The overall objective of disarmament and non-proliferation education and training is to impart knowledge and skills to individuals to empower them to make their contribution, as national and world citizens, to the achievement of concrete disarmament and non-proliferation measures and the ultimate goal of general and complete disarmament under effective international control.

Different groups require different pedagogical approaches and methods. What a school-age child in a refugee camp needs to know about disarmament is not the same as what is required for a border guard, or a civil servant or high school teacher.

“[…] the Secretary-General’s Agenda for Disarmament seeks the establishment of more education and training opportunities, in order to create a platform for the sustainable entry of young people from all parts of the world into this field.”

Izumi Nakamitsu
High Representative for Disarmament Affairs
New Delhi, 14 January 2019

Disarmament education focuses on the reduction and elimination of all forms of armaments and warfare. Non-proliferation education is oriented towards the prevention of the further proliferation of all weapons, in particular weapons of mass destruction. Non-proliferation education contributes to the attainment of disarmament goals on a sustainable and global basis. Both disarmament and non-proliferation are mutually reinforcing processes.
United Nations study on disarmament and non-proliferation education

In 2002, the Secretary-General, with the assistance of a group of experts, published the results of a study on disarmament and non-proliferation education and training. The study recognized that civil society, NGOs and the media have in many ways taken the lead in providing both formal and informal disarmament and non-proliferation education and training.

It also called upon Member States, U.N. system organizations and other international organizations to do more by preparing, adapting and disseminating a wide range of user-friendly educational materials on disarmament and non-proliferation.

New technologies, especially the Internet, and social media tools such as Facebook and Twitter, create unprecedented opportunities in disarmament and non-proliferation education for both the academic audience and the general public.

The Role of the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs

The Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) promotes disarmament and non-proliferation education activities with Member States, non-governmental organizations and the general public through the Internet, print publications, dedicated courses, conferences and workshops, media and film screening events and public-speaking engagements.

In particular, since 2015, the Vienna Office of UNODA has initiated and continues to coordinate various projects related to disarmament, non-proliferation and international security aimed at raising awareness, increasing knowledge and strengthening skills, particularly for early career practitioners, with an emphasis on women. These projects have been conducted either independently by the Vienna Office or in cooperation with other organizations such as the annual joint project with the Organization for Security Cooperation in Europe.

In support of the various initiatives by UNODA, the Vienna Office of UNODA has developed an on-line training platform, the “Disarmament Education Dashboard”, containing learning modules on all aspects related to disarmament, non-proliferation arms control as well as cross cutting issues such as gender. It is meant to expand the number and quality of relevant training opportunities and has grown into an essential tool used by training course participants, partners, donors, as well as a growing number of organizations, and offers opportunities to create tailor-made training courses in accordance with audience demand.

1 Accessible through www.disarmamenteducation.org.

“Read, learn and become involved. Knowledge and information, and not weapons, are the true sources of power.”


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