



Statement to the First Committee of the General Assembly

*Follow-up of resolutions and decisions
adopted by the First Committee at its past session
Presentation of reports*

By

Angela Kane

High Representative for Disarmament Affairs



United Nations Headquarters
16 October 2013

Excellencies, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen.

I welcome this opportunity to address the First Committee on the implementation of resolutions requesting reports by the Secretary-General. This is the tenth consecutive year that the Secretariat has been asked to address this issue.

Each year, this Committee typically adopts over 50 resolutions on issues of great concern to Member States. These resolutions are important in setting global priorities, in identifying worthy objectives, and in contributing to the development of multilateral norms, principles, and standards in the field of disarmament. They are a fundamental part of the General Assembly's mandate under Article 11 of the Charter to consider the general principles governing disarmament and to make recommendations in this field.

These resolutions are never regarded as ends in themselves. They are an important part of a process spanning many years for advancing collective interests of the Member States. As a means to assist in gauging progress in achieving their goals, many of them request the Secretary-General to report to the next session of the General Assembly on their implementation.

Typically, about half of these resolutions request the Secretary-General to seek the views of Member States. This serves the useful purpose of providing some feedback that can be useful both in assessing what is being achieved and in identifying persisting challenges in implementation.

It would be a disservice to the Member States that voted for these resolutions if the Committee should simply take note of the delivery of reports from the Secretary-General on their implementation, while paying no attention to their content. It is after all the content of these reports that establishes their potential usefulness. Of course, the opposite is also true: reports that lack much substantive content give rise to legitimate questions about the merits of maintaining a requirement for such reports.

In recent years, the Committee has undertaken various measures to improve the efficiency of its work. One of these has involved efforts to reduce the number of resolutions, through consolidating them or adopting them on a multi-year basis. Unfortunately, these efforts have had only limited success. While the Committee in 2011 was able to adopt eight fewer resolutions than in the previous year, last year the Committee adopted six more than in 2011, with more reports being required.

What we are witnessing, in short, is an expansion of the number resolutions and requirements for reports, with little attention being given either to the content of these reports or to their implications for resources required to prepare them.

Last year, the Secretary-General submitted 30 reports in this field. Ten of these reports consisted of compiled views of Member States. Two separate reports contained

information submitted by Member States relating to military expenditures and the UN Register of Conventional Arms. There were also two reports issued for two new resolutions adopted last year, concerning a treaty banning production of fissile material, and women in disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control. And there was also a report submitted for the triennial resolution dealing with the seabed. Together, these fifteen reports are the focus of Tables I and II in the annex to my statement today.

Concerning the remaining two tables, Table III identifies those reports containing substantive text prepared by the Office for Disarmament affairs, while Table IV lists those additional reports on the activities of three groups of governmental experts and several multilateral disarmament institutions.

I would now like to survey some of the highlights of these reports containing views or information of Member States.

There were some significant and welcome increases in the number of Member States submitting information relating to the two UN transparency instruments, for military expenditure and the Register of Conventional Arms—though the total number of participants still represented less than a third of all Member States. There were also some small increases in the reports relating to measures to prevent WMD terrorism, information and telecommunications, disarmament and development, conventional arms control, and the ICJ Advisory Opinion.

There were however decreases in contributions to reports dealing with environmental norms, regional confidence-building measures, security in the Mediterranean region, the Middle East nuclear-weapon-free zone, multilateralism in disarmament, and the seabed.

One general point concerning these reports is the surprisingly low number of participation even by the sponsors of resolutions. It is not at all uncommon, for example, for only one or even none of the sponsors to submit their views pursuant to their own resolutions. Readers of Table I will be struck by the huge disparity between the large number of co-sponsors of certain resolutions versus the tiny fraction of States that respond to the Secretary-General's requests for their views.

By and large, those Member States that have provided their views have done so within the established deadlines, although there have been instances with significant numbers of late submissions—for example, the reports relating to information and telecommunications and to the Middle East nuclear-weapon-free zone.

The Office for Disarmament Affairs has been doing all it can to encourage a higher response rate to the requests by the Secretary-General. We deliver *notes verbales* early each year and we post in the Journal reminders of such requests and the deadlines. Upon request by Member States, we are also ready to post submissions on the ODA website. And we also work with other international and regional organizations to promote implementation of these

resolutions, including through such activities as organizing seminars or workshops addressing the relevant issues.

I hope that the information I am submitting today will be useful to all delegations and that it will in some way encourage Member States to expand their participation in this reporting process. It may well be that some of these reporting requirements can and should be eliminated—or perhaps consolidated or converted into multi-year resolutions—especially in the case of reports that annually contain the views of less than 10 Member States. Far from underscoring the priority of an issue in the world community, such low-reporting resolutions have come to symbolize the lack of international interest in the issues they address.

I would also like to see the substantive content of these reports to be reflected more in the deliberations of this Committee, which would help in strengthening the value and impact of those reports. These reports deserve to be read, not placed on the shelf. Finally, I hope that drafters of future resolutions would consider the financial and personnel implications of implementing requirements for new reports. We are reaching a point in the Secretariat where the rising number of reporting requirements—combined with the lack of additional resources for processing them—may hinder our ability to perform our other work.

Assuming that delegations remain committed to improving the Committee's methods of work, I would suggest that the issues concerning the number and content of these reports might deserve a higher priority. This offers the greatest prospects for ensuring that the reporting process will produce the feedback desired by Member States in assessing the implementation of their resolutions.

Thank you for this opportunity to brief the Committee on this important issue.

TABLE I

**Reports of the Secretary General containing views of Member States
at 68th session of the General Assembly as compared to the 67th session**

Resolution No.	Title of Report	67 th session		68 th session		Increase/ Decrease in reporting
		Replies	Participation of Main Sponsors	Replies	Participation of Main Sponsors	
67/27	Developments in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security [A/67/167 & A/68/156 and Add.1]	6	2(24)	12	3 (36)	+6
67/28	Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East [A/67/139 (Part I), Add.1 and Add.2 & (Part II and A/68/124 (Part I))]	13	1 (1)	12 ²	1 (1)	-1
67/38	Promotion of multilateralism in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation [A/67/131 and Add.1 & A/68/152 and Add.1]	7	4 (1 ¹)	6	4 (1 ¹)	-1
67/37	Observance of environmental norms in the drafting and implementation of agreements on disarmament and arms control [A/67/130 and Add.1 & A/68/118 and Add.1]	8	6 (1 ¹)	4	4 (1 ¹)	-4
67/61	Confidence-building measures in the regional and sub-regional context [A/67/114 , Add.1 and Add.2 & A/68/99]	10	0 (10)	6	1 (10)	-4
67/62	Conventional arms control at the regional and sub-regional levels [A/67/129 and Add.1 & A/68/133 and Add.1]	9	0 (8)	11	0 (6)	+2
67/60	Follow-up to the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the Legality of the Threat or Use of Nuclear Weapons [A/67/133, Add.1 and Corr.1 & A/68/137]	4	1 (52)	5	1 (38)	+1
67/44	Measures to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction [A/67/135 and Add.1 & A/68/164 and Add.1]	6	2 (56)	15	5 (49)	+9
67/75	Strengthening of security and cooperation in the Mediterranean region [A/67/134 and Add.1 & A/68/132]	7	2 (41)	3	3 (39)	-4
67/40	Relationship between disarmament and development [A/67/186 and Add.1 & A/68/119 and Add.1]	4	4 (1 ¹)	9	5 (1 ¹)	+5
Reports containing information provided by Member States at 68th session of the General Assembly as compared to the 67th session						
66/20	Objective information on military matters, including transparency of military expenditures A/67/128 and Add.1 & A/68/131 and Add.1]	36	26(55)	53	44 (55)	+17
66/39	United Nations Register of Conventional Arms [A/67/212, Add.1 and Add.2 & A/68/138 and Add.1]	45	32 (71)	58	38 (71)	+13

Resolution No.	Title of Report	67 ^h session		68 th session		Increase/Decrease in reporting
		Replies	Participation of Main Sponsors	Replies	Participation of Main Sponsors	
Responses of Member States in response to request for views as stipulated in GA resolutions 67/53 and 67/48						
67/53	Treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices (A/68/154)	N/A	N/A	37	1 (1)	-
67/48	Women, disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control (A/68/166)	N/A	N/A	12	4 (34)	-
Triennial resolution 65th session of the General Assembly as compared to the 68th session						
44/116 O	Further measures in the field of disarmament for the prevention of an arms race on the seabed and the ocean floor and in the subsoil thereof [A/65/128 and Add.1 & A/68/96]	3		2		-1

¹ Indonesia on behalf of the States of the UN that are members of the Non Aligned Movement

² Including Libya on behalf of the Arab Group

TABLE II

Comparison of reports containing views of Member States for the 67th and the 68th sessions of the General Assembly

Title of Report	67 th session of the General Assembly				68 th session of the General Assembly			
	Member States who submitted views	Timeliness	Participation of Main Sponsors	Regional distribution	Member States who submitted views	Timeliness	Participation of Main Sponsors	Regional distribution
Developments in the field of information and telecommunication in the context of international security (resolutions 67/27; reports A/67/167 & A/68/156 and Add.1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Colombia • Cuba* • Panama • Qatar • Turkey* • Ukraine* 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On time • On time • On time • On time • On time • On time 	2 (24)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Latin America & Caribbean States: 3 • Asian States: 2 • Eastern European States: 1 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Armenia • Canada • Cuba* • Germany • Iran • Japan • Netherlands • Oman • Spain • Turkey* • Ukraine* • United Kingdom 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Late • Late • On time • Late • Late • Late • Late • Late • On time • Late • On time • On time 	3 (36)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Latin America & Caribbean States: 1 • Eastern European States: 2 • Western European & other States: 5 • Asia States: 4
Establishment of a nuclear-weapons-free zone in the region of the Middle East (resolutions 67/28; reports A/67/139 Part I, Add.1 and Add.2 & Part II & A/68/124 (Part I) and Add.1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Australia* • Austria • Colombia* • Cuba* • Egypt* • Israel • Japan • Lebanon • Mexico • Norway* • Panama • Syrian Arab Republic* 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On time • On time • On time • On time • On time • Late • On time • On time • On time • On time • On time • On time 	1 (1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Western European & other States: 4 • Latin America & Caribbean States: 4 • African States: 1 • Asian States: 3 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Australia* • Colombia* • Cuba* • Egypt* • Iran • Iraq • Jordan • Libya (on behalf of the Arab Group) • Norway* • Portugal • Syrian Arab Republic* • Ukraine 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Late • Late • On time • Late • Late • On time • On time • On time • Late • Late • On time • On time 	1 (1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Latin America & Caribbean States: 2 • Asian States: 4 • African States: 2 • Eastern European States: 1 • Western European & other States: 3

*Member States reported to both 67th and 68th sessions

Title of Report	67 th session of the General Assembly				68 th session of the General Assembly			
	Member States who submitted views	Timeliness	Participation of Main Sponsors	Regional distribution	Member States who submitted views	Timeliness	Participation of Main Sponsors	Regional distribution
Promotion of multilateralism in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation (resolutions 67/38; reports A/67/131 and Add.1 & A/68/152 and Add.1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cuba* • Mexico • Norway • Panama • Qatar • Spain • Turkmenistan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On time • Late • On time • On time • On time • On time • On time 	4 (1 ¹)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Latin America & Caribbean States: 3 • Asian States:2 • Western European & other States: 2 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • China • Colombia • Cuba* • Iraq • Mauritius • Uruguay 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On time • On time • On time • On time • Late • On time 	4 (1 ¹)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Asian States: 2 • Latin America & Caribbean States: 3 • African States: 1
Observance of environmental norms in the drafting and implementation of agreements on disarmament and arms control (resolutions 67/37; reports A/67/130 and Add.1 & A/68/118 and Add.1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Colombia* • Cuba* • Iraq • Lebanon* • Qatar* • Spain • Syria • Turkey 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On time • On time • On time • On time • On time • Late • On time • On time 	6 (1 ¹)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Latin America & Caribbean States: 2 • Asian States: 5 • Western European & other States: 1 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Colombia* • Cuba* • Lebanon* • Qatar* 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Late • On time • On time • On time 	4 (1 ¹)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Latin America & Caribbean States: 2 • Asian States: 2

¹ Indonesia on behalf of the States of the UN that are members of the Non Aligned Movement

* Member States reported to both 67th and 68th sessions

Title of Report	67 th session of the General Assembly				68 th session of the General Assembly			
	Member States who submitted views	Timeliness	Participation of Main Sponsors	Regional distribution	Member States who submitted views	Timeliness	Participation of Main Sponsors	Regional distribution
Confidence-building measures in the regional and sub-regional context (resolutions 67/61; reports A/67/114 , Add.1 and Add.2 & A/68/99)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Armenia • Azerbaijan • Colombia • Germany* • Mexico* • Portugal • Qatar • Spain • Turkey • Viet Nam 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On time • Late • Late • On time • On time • Late • On time • On time • On time • On time 	0 (10)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eastern European States: 2 • Western European & other States: 2 • Latin America & Caribbean States: 3 • Asian States:3 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • China • Cuba • Germany* • Jordan • Mexico* • Ukraine 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On time • On time • On time • On time • On time • On time 	1 (10)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Asian States: 2 • Latin America & Caribbean States: 2 • Western European & other States: 1 • Eastern European States: 1

<p>Conventional arms control at the regional and sub-regional levels (resolutions 67/62; reports A/66/154 and Add.1 & A/67/129 and Add.1 & A/68/133 and Add.1)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Armenia* • Azerbaijan* • Burkina Faso* • Colombia • Germany* • Panama • Spain* • Turkey • Turkmenistan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On time • Late • On time • On time • On time • On time • On time • On time • On time • 	<p>0 (8)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eastern European States:2 • African States: 1 • Latin America &Caribbean States: 2 • Western European & other States: 2 • Asian States:2 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Argentina • Armenia* • Azerbaijan* • Burkina Faso* • China • Czech Republic • Germany* • Jordan • Madagascar • Montenegro • Spain* 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On time • On time • Late • On time • On time • On time • On time • On time • On time • Late • On time • On time 	<p>0 (6)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Latin America & Caribbean States:1 • Eastern European States: 4 • African States:2 • Asian States: 2 • Western European & other States: 2
--	--	---	--------------	--	--	--	--------------	---

*Member States reported to both 67th and 68th sessions

Title of Report	67 th session of the General Assembly				68 th session of the General Assembly			
	Member States who submitted views	Timeliness	Participation of Main Sponsors	Regional distribution	Member States who submitted views	Timeliness	Participation of Main Sponsors	Regional distribution
Follow-up to the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the <i>Legality of the Threat or Use of Nuclear Weapons</i> (resolutions 67/60; reports A/67/133 and Add.1 and Corr.1 & A/68/137)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Austria* • Cuba* • Portugal • Turkmenistan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On time • On time • Late • On time 	1 (52)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Western European & other States: 2 • Latin America & Caribbean States: 1 • Asian States: 1 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Austria* • Cuba* • Iraq • Mexico • Qatar 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On time • On time • On time • On time 	1 (38)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Western European & other States: 1 • Latin America & Caribbean States: 2 • Asian States: 2
Measures to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction (resolutions 67/44; reports A/67/135 and Add.1 & A/68/164 and Add.1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Colombia • Georgia • India • Lebanon • Mexico* • Norway* 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On time • On time • Late • On time • Late • On time 	2 (56)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Latin America & Caribbean States: 2 • Eastern European States: 1 • Asian States: 2 • Western European & other States: 1 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Australia • Canada • Cuba • Iraq • Jordan • Lebanon • Mexico* • Norway* • Paraguay • Poland • Portugal • Qatar • Slovenia • Ukraine • Uruguay 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On time • Late • On time • Late • On time • On time • On time • Late • Late • On time • Late • On time • On time • Late • On time 	5 (49)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Western European & other States: 4 • Latin America & Caribbean States: 4 • Asian States: 4 • Eastern European States: 3

* Member States reported to both 67th and 68th sessions.

Title of Report	67 th session of the General Assembly				68 th session of the General Assembly			
	Member States who submitted views	Timeliness	Participation of Main Sponsors	Regional distribution	Member States who submitted views	Timeliness	Participation of Main Sponsors	Regional distribution
Strengthening of security and cooperation in the Mediterranean region (resolution 67/75; reports A/67/134 and Add.1 & A/68/132)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lebanon Netherlands* Panama Portugal Qatar Spain* Turkey 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On time On time On time On time 	2 (41)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Asian States: 3 Western European & other States: 3 Latin America & Caribbean States: 1 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Malta Netherlands* Spain* 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On time On time On time 	3 (39)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Western European & other States: 3
Relationship between disarmament and development (resolutions 67/40; reports A/67/186 and Add.1 & A/68/119 and Add.1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Colombia* Cuba Panama Qatar* 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On time On time On time Late 	4 (1 ¹)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Latin America & Caribbean States: 3 Asian States: 1 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Armenia Burkina Faso Burundi Colombia* Iraq Mexico Portugal Qatar* Spain 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On time On time On time On time On time Late On time On time On time 	5 (1 ¹)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eastern European States: 1 African States: 2 Asian States: 2 Latin America & Caribbean States: 2 Western European & other States: 2

¹ Indonesia on behalf of the States of the UN that are members of the Non Aligned Movement

* Member States reported to both 67th and 68th sessions

Responses of Member States in response to request for views as stipulated in GA resolution 67/48

Title of Report	68 th session of the General Assembly							
	Member States who submitted views	Timeliness	Participation of Main Sponsors	Regional distribution				
Women, disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control (resolution 67/48; report A/68/166 and Add.1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Argentina • Australia • Colombia • Cuba • Italy • Jamaica • Lithuania • Netherlands • Portugal • Switzerland • Trinidad and Tobago • Ukraine 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On time • On time • On time • On time • Late • On time • On time • On time • On time • On time • On time • On time 	4 (34)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eastern European States: 2 • Latin America and Caribbean States: 5 • Western European and other States: 5 				

Responses of Member States in response to request for views as stipulated in GA resolution 67/53

Title of Report	68 th session of the General Assembly							
	Member States who submitted views	Timeliness	Participation of Main Sponsors	Regional distribution				
Treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Algeria • Australia • Austria • Brazil • Canada • China • Congo 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On time • On time • On time • On time • On time • On time • On time 	1 (1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • African States: 5 • Asian States: 9 • Eastern European States: 4 • Latin America and Caribbean States: 6 • Western 				

Responses of Member States in response to request for views as stipulated in GA resolution 44/116 O – Triennial Resolution

Title of Report	65 th session of the General Assembly				68 th session of the General Assembly			
	Member States who submitted views	Timeliness	Participation of Main Sponsors	Regional distribution	Member States who submitted views	Timeliness	Participation of Main Sponsors	Regional distribution
Further measures in the field of disarmament for the prevention of an arms race on the seabed and the ocean floor and in the subsoil thereof (resolution 44/116 O, reports A/65/128 and Add.1 & A/68/96)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bulgaria • Lebanon • Qatar* 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On time • Late • On time 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Asian States: 2 • Eastern European States: 1 • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oman • Qatar* 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On time • On time 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Asian States: 2

* Member States reported to both 65th and 68th session

Table III

Reports of the First Committee containing ODA's substantive contributions
68th Session of the General Assembly

Resolution No.	Title of Report
38/183 O	Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters [A/68/206]
67/40	Relationship between disarmament and development { <i>also includes views from Member States</i> } [A/68/119 and Add.1]
67/41 & 67/58	Consolidated report on: - Assistance to States for curbing the illicit traffic in small arms and light weapons and collecting them - The illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects [A/68/171]
67/66	United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean [A/68/134]
67/65	United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific [A/68/112]
67/69	United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa [A/68/114]
65/85	Conference on Disarmament (A/68/27 (Supplement No. 27))
67/234 B	The Arms Trade Treaty (A/68/272)

Table IV

Other Reports of the First Committee
68th Session of the General Assembly

Resolution No.	Title of Report
45/62 G	Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) [A/68/182]
67/76	Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty [A/68/136]
54/280	Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the annual report of the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO) [A/68/139]
55/283	Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the annual report of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) [A/68/160]
67/71	Disarmament Commission [A/68/42 Supplement No. 42]
66/24	Report of the Group of Governmental Experts on developments in the Field of Information and Telecommunications in the Context of International Security (A/68/98)
66/39	Report of the Group of Governmental Experts on the continuing operation of the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms and its further development (A/68/140)
65/68	Report of the Group of Governmental experts on Transparency and confidence-building measures in outer space activities (A/68/189*)