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SCRAP WEAPONS PRESENTS

WITH THE INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION

# ACTIVATING A UN SPECIAL SESSION ON DISARMAMENT

6 SEPTEMBER 2022

Brunei Gallery Lecture Theatre  
SOAS, University of London, WC1H 0XG

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# PROVISIONAL CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

## 9.30 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

**Dan Plesch**, Conference Chair and Director, SCRAP Weapons.

## 9.40 INTRODUCTORY MESSAGE OF SUPPORT

**Izumi Nakamitsu**, United Nations Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for Disarmament Affairs.

## 9.50 PRESENTING THE GLOBAL WEAPONS TRACKING PORTAL AND DRAFT TREATY ON GENERAL AND COMPLETE DISARMAMENT

**Dan Plesch**, Director, SCRAP Weapons;

**Henrietta Wilson**, Researcher, SCRAP Weapons;

**Nancy Ehrenberg-Peters**, Project Assistant, SCRAP Weapons.

Q&A.

## 10.20 SPEECHES BY GOVERNMENT DELEGATIONS TO THE UN

**Government Delegations Speeches;**

Q&A.

## 11.05 COFFEE BREAK

## 11.30 THE ROLE OF INTERRELIGIOUS DIALOGUE FOR PEACE AND DISARMAMENT

**Chair: Eloisa Romani**, Project Coordinator, SCRAP Weapons;

**Gita Dharampal**, Dean of Research, Gandhi Research Foundation (India);

**Jong Chun Park**, President, World Methodist Council;

**Malcolm Deboo**, President of the Zoroastrian Trust Funds of Europe;

**Mohammad Sammak**, Secretary-General, Lebanon's Committee for Christian-Muslim Dialogue;

**Paulin Batairwa Kubuya**, Under-Secretary of the Vatican Dicastery for Interreligious Dialogue.

## 12.20 SPEECHES BY GOVERNMENT DELEGATIONS TO THE UN

**Government Delegation Speeches;**

Q&A.

### 13.05 LUNCH

*Provided by SCRAP Weapons.*

### 14.00 PRESENTATIONS FROM DISARMAMENT ACTIVISTS AND ORGANISATIONS

**Chair: Martin Butcher**, OXFAM International;

**Binalakshmi Nepram**, Founder-Director, Manipur Women Gun Survivors Network and Convenor of Global Alliance of Indigenous Peoples, Gender Justice and Peace;

**Dhananjayan Sriskandarajah**, Executive Director, OXFAM International;

**Francesco Lenci**, Pugwash Conferences on Science and World Affairs;

**Grace O'rao**, Executive Director, Women Volunteers for Peace (WOVOP) Kenya;

**Lucy Tiller**, Founding Member, Youth for TPNW;

**Reiner Braun**, Executive Director, International Peace Bureau;

**Inter-Parliamentary Union;**

**United Nations Association-UK.**

### 15.10 KEYNOTE ADDRESSES FROM SCRAP WEAPONS' COMMITTEE MEMBERS

**Chair: Dan Plesch**, Director, SCRAP Weapons;

**Kennette Benedict**, Senior Advisor to the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists;

**Randy Rydell**, Former Senior Political Affairs Officer, UN Office for Disarmament Affairs;

**Chaired discussion:** What actions should we take next to encourage establishment of the next Special Session on Disarmament?

### 15.55 ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION

SCRAP Weapons' Project Assistants.

### 16.25 CLOSING REMARKS

**Dan Plesch**, Director, SCRAP Weapons.

### 16.30 COFFEE

*Do stay for an informal chat!*



# CONCEPT NOTE

The threat of global war looms, yet there is no practical strategy for weapons control. It is unrealistic to believe that the world can spend \$2,000,000,000,000 each year on the military without weapons controls and not end in a world at war. The UN has agreed to hold a Fourth Special Session of the General Assembly devoted to Disarmament, but it has not been held yet. Now is the time to do so. The United Nations' 2022 meetings should consider convening this Session in the near future.

SCRAP Weapons invites collaborations to support these processes, and is organising a hybrid conference on 6 September 2022 to consider how best to move forward.

Debates on general disarmament are stalled in global fora, including in the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) review process. This is despite the NPT Article VI commitment to negotiate 'a treaty on general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control', as well as the disarmament pledges in the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons preamble and the UN's founding documents.

General and complete disarmament has long been a goal of the Non-Aligned Movement, recognised as contributing to its wider aim of preventing humanitarian disasters. Article VIII of the Atlantic Charter, a foundational document of both NATO and the UN, also promulgates the realist case for weapons controls and the end of the use of military force in international affairs.

UN Special Sessions devoted to Disarmament were held in 1978, 1982, and 1988, but a fourth never transpired, even though this was expected and prepared for through the work of an Open-Ended Working Group. UN High Representative for Disarmament Affairs Izumi Nakamitsu welcomed the reaching of consensus by the Working Group in 2017, noting that 'Special Sessions on Disarmament present the unique opportunity to advance our



shared goal of general and complete disarmament under effective international control' (UNODA, 2017). SCRAP Weapons wishes to build a global constituency to support the Working Group in convening the Fourth Special Session on Disarmament and take its agenda to the UN General Assembly.

At SCRAP Weapons we conduct research on disarmament, verification, and emerging technologies and hope to mobilise governmental, non-governmental and expert forces to address the problems that cause humanitarian disasters. As part of this, we have developed a draft treaty for the realisation of the legal commitment to nuclear and general disarmament in the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, as well as prototypes of a global weapons tracking system. We are fully committed to the global movement which is striving to enhance female participation and ensure the inclusion of feminist perspectives on disarmament and non-proliferation. We also aim to involve representatives from a wide range of world religions to build a coalition that promotes both interreligious dialogue and tangible peace-building efforts.

In the light of recent geo-political developments, we consider the convening of the long-planned UN Fourth Special Session to be overdue. This is an urgent and necessary step to give the world a realistic chance for peace. The UN Fourth Special Session on Disarmament must become a more effective weapons equivalent of the UN Framework on Climate Change process to address climate chaos.

