



The Strategic Concept for the Removal of Arms and Proliferation (SCRAP Weapons)

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Chapeau

Calling for the commencement of preparations for the United Nations General Assembly's mechanism of a Fourth Special Session on Disarmament (UNSSOD-IV).

Chapter II. International peace and security

The Strategic Concept for the Removal of Arms and Proliferation (SCRAP Weapons) is grateful for the opportunity to make a valuable contribution to the upcoming UN Summit of the Future as a civil society representative.

SCRAP Weapons urges a strengthened call for the activation of a Fourth Special Session on Disarmament, in order to reduce global instability, and revitalise the machinery, to support effective processes capable of achieving goals of disarmament, peace and security.

The first UNSSOD was held in 1978 which established the multilateral disarmament machinery we see today. Subsequent UNSSODs were held in 1982 and 1988, but a fourth never occurred, and with that we have seen the gradual weakening of the disarmament machinery. As such, in his [New Agenda for Peace](#), UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres has recognized the need "to reform the disarmament machinery" and has called for the establishment of "an inter-governmental process to...consider the role, timing and preparations of a special session of the General Assembly on disarmament".

As a global conference on disarmament, UNSSOD-IV would be vital in bringing together ALL disarmament agendas to be discussed productively at one table, thereby revitalising the machinery and reinvigorating multilateral processes. UNSSOD-IV would contribute to re-energising the debate around comprehensive disarmament and open up the way to the development of a weapons control equivalent of the [UN framework on climate change](#) addressing climate chaos. It would facilitate progress towards the 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, taking into account the complex relationship existing between global development and disarmament, the reduction of investments into the military-industrial complex, and the prioritisation of humanitarian needs, as demanded by the Sustainable Development Goals. This would be an opportunity to promote the UN aim of achieving the least diversion of resources to the military, advance SDG 16 (peace, justice, and strong institutions), and realise the proposals made in the first round of civil society consultations for the Summit of the Future included in [the Interim People's Pact for the Future](#), namely:

- 1) Preventing war (including nuclear war), and strengthening international mechanisms through UN Charter Chapter VI for the peaceful resolution of disputes.
- 2) Implementing Article 26 of the UN Charter through plans and action for disarmament to release resources for economic and social development.

Although there has not been a UNGA Special Session on Disarmament since UNSSOD-III in 1988, there have been exploratory talks, including the 2016/17 Open Ended Working Group which has defined the objectives and agenda for a UNSSOD-IV. Furthermore, on December 6th 2021, the UN General Assembly adopted [Resolution A/Res/76/38](#) *Convening of the fourth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament* to encourage consultations between Member States on UNSSOD-IV, and decided to include the topic in debate in the 77th General Assembly in 2022, although this did not take place.

Therefore, to give effect to the clear political will for enhanced debate and progress towards disarmament, SCRAP Weapons identifies the need to set a date for UNSSOD-IV. Thus, with the support of [over eighty civil society representatives and signatories of SCRAP Weapons' Open Letter](#), we strongly urge the implementation of a resolution that would initiate, by 2025, a committee to oversee preparations for UNSSOD-IV.