The Department of Global Communications continued to engage the broader public in an effort to educate and raise awareness on the issue of arms control and non-proliferation and related fields. This was accomplished by promoting the work of the United Nations, including at meetings, events and observances, at the global and local levels, through the Department's 59 United Nations information centres (UNICs) covering 139 countries, during the reporting period.

UNIC Tokyo continued to create videos profiling a university student who uses artificial intelligence (AI) technology and interviews with hibakusha (atomic bomb survivors) that spotlight how the lives of ordinary people have been destroyed by the atomic bomb. The videos are accessible on different social media platforms of the UNIC.

On UN Day, 24 October 2022, the Director of UNIC Tokyo spoke on the importance of peace and disarmament and introduced the Secretary-General's message at Sophia University in Tokyo. The Centre also produced its newsletter, Dateline UN, in Japanese with the aim of strengthening the Japanese public's awareness on the role and work of the UN, including highlighting the Secretary-General's visit to Japan and his calls for solidarity in Hiroshima.

In September 2022, the Centre, while doing a series on Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) initiatives in Japan, featured a man who had been exposed to radiation while still in his mother's womb in Hiroshima on 6 August 1945, to shed light on the often-overlooked reality of individuals who became hibakusha before birth. It also highlighted his work as an activist helping to bridge the gap between generations. The episode was released in commemoration of the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons.

In April 2023, the director of the United Nations Information Service (UNIS) Vienna, opened the Budapest Model UN Conference. The event, attended by approximately 220 students from Europe as well as Turkey and Iran, covered topics related to disarmament and international security.

UNIS Vienna, also collaborated with a shopping centre, Westfield Donauzentrum, in October 2022, to organize an information fair which displayed the work of Vienna-based UN entities. In addition to UNIS, CTBTO, IAEA, UNHCR, UNOOSA, the Austrian Foreign Ministry participated to help promote the 17 UN Sustainable Development goals.

In May 2023, the United Nations in Azerbaijan and the National Mine Action Agency (ANAMA) organized a conference on “Mine Action - the path to reaching the Sustainable Development Goals,” bringing together over 160 participants from 50 countries to discuss the challenges related to mine action, exploring new partnerships and ways to accelerate a mine-free world.
The United Nations Office in Baku helped to promote the event through social media channels and coordinated interviews for UN officials.

UNIC Warsaw promoted an activity organized by UN Office for Disarmament (ODA) and the Government of Japan on its social media platforms. The activity provided young people between the ages of 18 to 29 with knowledge, skills and networks to become future leaders in the global effort to eliminate nuclear weapons for the Youth Leader Fund for a World Without Nuclear Weapons—a programme organized by the two entities.

News and Media

DGC also promoted disarmament and non-proliferation activities through its multi-platform media, including UNTV, WebTV, UN Photo, UN News, Media Accreditation and Liaison Unit (MALU), providing live and on-demand multilingual streaming coverage of intergovernmental meetings, news and features, many in the six UN official languages as well as Hindi, Kiswahili and Portuguese. UN News and Media also distributed video packages to broadcasters and maintained related websites.

Events covered included the annual Conferences on Disarmament, Security Council and General Assembly meetings, speeches and statements of senior UN officials, including messages by the UN Secretary-General, press conferences, briefings and stakeouts with UN experts on the topic.

In December 2023, the team also covered the first meeting of the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs’ Youth Leader Fund for a World without Nuclear Weapons and produced a multimedia feature on a young Japanese peace activist from Hiroshima, who launched a project called “Rebooting Memories”.

The Department maintained a number of branded and fully multilingual websites mandated by the General Assembly related to disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control:

- International Day for Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Awareness (5 March)
- International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action (4 April)
- International Day against Nuclear Tests (29 August)
- International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons (26 September)

Social Media

UN Social Media accounts, which comprise more than 71 million followers, featured disarmament activities and explainer content in the six official languages, as well as in Hindi, Kiswahili, and Portuguese, throughout the reporting period. The Department also continued to
advise the UN system entities on how to create impactful social media messaging in an effort to foster greater understanding of the importance of disarmament.

Outreach

In August 2022, the UN Academic Impact (UNAI) in the Department promoted and participated in an event organized by Green Hope Foundation entitled “Securing the Future: Disarmament Education as a Transformative Tool for Youth Empowerment,” which was held on the margins of the 10th Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

Visitor Services

During the reporting period, there were 352,315 visitors to UN Headquarters in New York, two-thirds of whom were students and youth. They were educated on the UN's role and actions on disarmament while taking an in-person guided tour. Another 2,564 visitors were briefed using virtual tours.

In Vienna, where the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO) and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) are headquartered, the United Nations Visitor Service welcomed more than 70,000 people on guided tours, including more than 50,000 schoolchildren and university students. The United Nations Visitors Service in Vienna collaborates closely with CTBTO, IAEA and UNODA to inform young audiences of disarmament and non-proliferation issues through guided tours and lectures.

At the United Nations Office at Geneva (UNOG), close to 40,000 visitors were educated about the history, structure and related mechanisms and agreements of the Disarmament Conference in Geneva.

In August 2022, the Exhibits Unit in New York facilitated the display of a show entitled, “Three Quarters of a Century after Hiroshima and Nagasaki,” which relayed the stories of the decades-long effort of the hibakusha to achieve a nuclear weapons-free world.

In April of 2023 and 2024, the Exhibits Unit organized in-person and online exhibitions in connection with the International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action. The 2023 exhibit, “Mine Action Cannot Wait,” promoted the urgency of completing the task. The 2024 exhibit, “Witnessing a Way Forward,” invited visitors to hear from those directly involved in, and affected by, mine action around the world.

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