REPORT TO THE UNITED NATIONS SECRETARY-GENERAL
In reference to the 73rd Session of the General Assembly on the Implementation of the
Recommendations of the 2002 UN Study on Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Education.
Our implementation of the recommendations to civil society and non-governmental organizations.
2022-2024

Executive Summary

The Disarmament and Security Centre (DSC) is a non-profit charitable organisation based in
Christchurch, New Zealand, specialising in disarmament and peace issues and carrying out research
and disarmament education in these areas. We operate primarily as a virtual Centre connecting
disarmament experts, lawyers, political scientists, academics, teachers, students and disarmament
proponents. The Centre is committed to supporting disarmament and non-proliferation education by
sharing information and raising awareness through in-person and online events, as well as
contributing to the tertiary sector via guest lecturing and seminars. In addition, the DSC works to
foster the disarmament community by collaborating with other groups throughout the country.

Full Report

Our focus remains disarmament education delivery to encourage a deeper understanding of
disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control grounded in the principles laid down in the 2002
UN Study on Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Education with a focus on the tertiary level. We
continued to build our relationship with university student clubs: UCDisarm and Te Ao o
Rongomaraeroa Students Club at the National Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies across the
University of Canterbury and University of Otago campuses. Our engagement with high schools
and community groups within the Canterbury region continued as did our on-going peace heritage
work with the Christchurch City Council through the Intangible Heritage Fund Project.

Through our Tertiary Scoping Project (2018-2020) we identified significant gaps across New
Zealand universities in disarmament and non-proliferation education. We have since engaged with
academics across Aotearoa New Zealand universities creating new relationships and building on
those we had already established. These relationships have fed into our Disarm Kōrero sessions
(2020-present), our bi-monthly online discussion series where we address a topical disarmament
issue. In these sessions we have tried to strike a balance between having a more senior academic or
expert and an upcoming researcher. To date, topics have covered Nuclear Weapons, Peace History,
the Ukraine War, the Israel-Palestine conflict, Autonomous Weapons Systems, regional security alliances, military technology, International Humanitarian Law, and other disarmament and non-proliferation issues.

We continue to foster awareness of disarmament and opportunities through engagement with tertiary students. Our team engages with and supports the University of Canterbury’s UCDisarm campus club which has seen a growing number of members. The DSC held an information session for students on campus to talk about career opportunities in the disarmament field which received good engagement. Through this club, and engagement with other student organisations for peace, the DSC team welcomed a Palestinian professor from Bethlehem University to discuss the history of the Israel-Palestine conflict and the ongoing war in Gaza attended well by students, faculty, and the public.

Our work reaches beyond our organisation’s education programme. We are active within Aotearoa civil society disarmament networks such as the Peace and Disarmament Collective Aotearoa and we contribute an Aotearoa perspective on disarmament to international civil society campaigns such as the International Peace Bureau and the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN). Members of our team sit on the New Zealand Public Advisory Committee for Disarmament and Arms Control (PACDAC) which engages with the responsible Minister, and on the Working Group on Autonomous Weapons Systems providing advice to the government. The DSC also stays committed to contributing to New Zealand’s disarmament diplomacy by attending or observing disarmament treaty conferences, online or in-person where able to and by engaging government officials such and representatives from international organisations on disarmament issues.