

## 12 BRIEF LESSONS

# ON DISARMAMENT

**1** Disarmament, mainly via **TREATIES**, reduces the number of troops and weapons. It plays a decisive role in the prevention of nuclear war.

**2** Arms control also reduces the risk of war breaking out. Treaties between the opposing parties set **LIMITS** for weapons and permit mutual **MONITORING**.

**3** Conversion is the process of realizing disarmament. The aim is to **REDUCE** military **EXPENDITURE**, cut arms production, and use land for civilian purposes.

**4** The UN Charter permits member states to use conventional weapons when this complies with **INTERNATIONAL LAW**. For this reason, “arms control” and “arms limitations” are used more frequently than “disarmament” when it comes to conventional weapons.

**5** The **NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY** obliges the nuclear powers to disarm and non-nuclear states to refrain from arming themselves with nuclear weapons.

**6** The Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe created the basis for destroying heavy weapons in Europe. Its goal was to achieve a **BALANCE** of conventional forces at a **LOWER LEVEL**, making surprise attacks impossible.

**7** The end of the Cold War smoothed the way for a convention that forbids the use, production, possession and transfer of **CHEMICAL WEAPONS**, and mandates the destruction of existing stocks.

**8** The concept of security has shifted its focus from being State-centred to protecting humans. Many agreements today contain provisions for the **PROTECTION** of civilians, **SUPPORT** for victims, and gender-specific aspects.

**9** The Ottawa Convention on the Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Landmines has set new standards for **DISARMAMENT FROM BELOW** because it was created through a collaboration between several states and civil society.

**10** The Arms Trade Treaty obliges signatory states to clarify for each sale that the weapons will not be used to commit serious **VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS**.

**11** A new international declaration aims to protect civilians better from the use of **EXPLOSIVE WEAPONS** in populated areas. Bombs, artillery shells and rockets that hit villages and towns are the main cause of **CIVILIAN CASUALTIES** in armed conflicts.

**12** Disarmament functions when it prioritizes **HUMAN SAFETY**, channels resources into development, defuses conflict and promotes global cooperation. Its aim is to create a safer and **MORE PEACEFUL WORLD** for current and future generations.