



*Second Anniversary of the launch of the
Secretary-General's Agenda for Disarmament*

**Message by Ms. Izumi Nakamitsu
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Two years ago, the Secretary-General launched his Agenda for Disarmament out of concern that the world was letting itself drift toward unconstrained arms competition, disrespect for the principles of humanity and failure to adapt to risks posed by rapidly developing technology.

Since the launch of *Securing Our Common Future: An Agenda for Disarmament*, the response has been encouraging. More than a dozen-and-a-half entities from across the United Nations systems and beyond are partnering to implement the 40 actions contained within the Agenda. Twenty-two Member States and one regional organization have stepped forward as Champions and Supporters for most of these actions. We continue to make progress toward completing the implementation plan for the Agenda.

The unprecedented crisis that is gripping the entire planet underscores the critical importance of this Agenda and why the tools of disarmament remain both indispensable and underutilized. The international arms control architecture continues to be eroded as tensions among major powers increase. The use of explosive weapons in populated areas has left healthcare systems of entire societies bereft of the means to combat the pandemic. Global military spending reached record highs this year, as governments face an urgent need to redirect resources to economic recovery and effective job creation. And our new reliance on technology to carry out our regular activities has exposed pre-existing vulnerabilities, which have been exploited by malicious actors.

The lessons we learn from this moment will serve as a wake-up call to reinvigorated action. And I hope that this understanding will guide our future steps toward fully implementing the Secretary-General's Agenda for Disarmament. Already through this crisis, we have been able to find new ways to stay connected and to carry on with many aspects of our work, including on many activities under the Agenda, even as some of the more substantial multilateral processes have been delayed for now.

We therefore remain fully committed to realizing the commitments set forth by the Secretary-General, in partnership with all interested entities, governments, parliamentarians, organizations, civil society, youth and the private sector. I look forward to renewed engagement in the months and years ahead toward sustainable peace and security for all.