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### Review and implementation of the Concluding Document of the Twelfth Special Session of the General Assembly

## United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific

### Report of the Secretary-General

#### *Summary*

The present report provides an overview of the activities undertaken by the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific from 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024, in line with General Assembly resolution [78/58](#).

During the reporting period, the Regional Centre worked with Member States, international and regional organizations, and civil society to deliver a wide range of programming and technical assistance activities. This included providing technical and substantive support to the universalization and implementation of multilateral disarmament, arms-control and non-proliferation instruments at the regional and subregional levels. The Centre also promoted and facilitated dialogue for Member States of the Asia-Pacific region, including at three high profile events: by supporting implementation in South Asia of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction in Kathmandu, Nepal (August); supporting the delivery of the twenty-second United Nations-Republic of Korea Joint Conference on Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Issues focused on the military applications of artificial intelligence (November); and convening 23 Member States in Kathmandu, Nepal, to prepare for the Fourth United Nations Conference to Review Progress Made in the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects (January).

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\* [A/79/50](#).



The Regional Centre depends solely on voluntary financial contributions to implement its programme of activities. The Secretary-General wishes to express his gratitude to Member States, in particular the host country, Nepal, and other partners that have provided support for the operations and programmes of the Centre with financial and in-kind contributions. The Secretary-General calls upon those in a position to do so to make voluntary contributions to the Centre in order to sustain and further develop its activities in response to the continuing requests for assistance and cooperation from Member States in the region.

## I. Introduction

1. In its resolution [78/58](#), the General Assembly reaffirmed its strong support for the role of the Regional Centre in the promotion of activities of the United Nations at the regional level to strengthen peace, stability and security among its Member States. It also expressed its gratitude to the Government of the host country, Nepal, for its cooperation and financial support. The Assembly requested the Secretary-General to report to the Assembly at its seventy-ninth session on the implementation of the resolution.
2. The present report is submitted pursuant to the above-mentioned request and covers the activities of the Regional Centre during the period from 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024. A financial statement on the status of the trust fund for the Centre for the year 2023 is contained in the annex to the present report.

## II. Function and mandate

3. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution [42/39 D](#), the Regional Centre, located in Katmandu, Nepal, is mandated to provide, upon request, substantive support for initiatives and other activities mutually agreed upon by Member States in Asia and the Pacific for the implementation of measures for peace and disarmament.

## III. Main areas of activity

### A. Weapons of mass destruction

4. The risk of nuclear conflict is once again part of the public discourse, while rapidly advancing and converging technologies have showcased their potential to revolutionize conflict dynamics. Against that backdrop, the Regional Centre has worked to contribute to creating a strengthened toolbox for networked multilateralism in the Asia-Pacific region and to promoting the implementation of measures for peace and disarmament in line with the Secretary-General's policy brief *A New Agenda for Peace*.
5. In that regard, the Regional Centre organized, supported and participated in a number of activities promoting the elimination of nuclear weapons, upholding the norms against chemical and biological weapons and ensuring the prevention of the emergence of new domains of strategic competition and conflict.
6. The Regional Centre provided substantive support to Member States of the Asia-Pacific region on a number of elements related to nuclear disarmament. They included initiating dialogue with the Government of Timor-Leste and providing guidance on the process of ratifying the Treaty on the Southeast Asia Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone; and providing advocacy and support for Member States in the region, including Nepal, Papua New Guinea and Sri Lanka, to consider the ratification of major nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation treaties, including the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, and the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism.
7. The Regional Centre participated in a regional workshop on strengthening the nuclear non-proliferation regime held in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, from 7 to 9 September, organized by the Center for Energy and Security Studies. The Centre also delivered an introductory lecture about the substantive support that the Office for Disarmament Affairs provides to Asia-Pacific countries in the area of the elimination of weapons of mass destruction at the Nuclear Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Training

Programme for diplomats from the region, which was held on 7 February by the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) at its office in Hiroshima, Japan.

8. The Regional Centre also partnered with the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research and the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute to hold a workshop on regional perspectives on nuclear risk reduction in outer space on 19 and 20 February. The participants explored the impacts of developments in technology on nuclear confidence-building measures.

9. In addition to those efforts, the Regional Centre deepened partnerships with the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) and the Biological Weapons Convention Implementation Support Unit over the course of the reporting period. In August, the Centre and the Support Unit jointly hosted a subregional workshop on enhancing the implementation of the Biological Weapons Convention in South Asia in Kathmandu, Nepal, from 28 to 30 August. The Centre worked with OPCW to raise awareness of the Chemical Weapons Convention in the Pacific. The Centre also participated in and contributed to the discussions at the OPCW Twenty-second Regional Meeting of National Authorities of States Parties in Asia held in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, from 29 to 31 May.

## **B. Conventional arms and ammunition**

10. The region has continued to focus on improving arms control by aligning itself with the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects and its International Instrument to Enable States to Identify and Trace, in a Timely and Reliable Manner, Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons (International Tracing Instrument), as well as efforts to strengthen physical stockpile management practices and mainstream gender in disarmament policies.

11. During the reporting period, the Regional Centre began implementation of activities under a three-year global programme funded by the European Union and managed by the Conventional Arms Branch of the Office for Disarmament Affairs. The project is aimed at supporting implementation of the Programme of Action, including by supporting Member States in the Asia-Pacific region to prepare for and participate meaningfully in the Fourth United Nations Conference to Review Progress Made in the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects. The Centre delivered a number of substantive and technical assistance activities in support of those objectives, including embedding gender considerations and promoting women's participation and involvement in decision-making processes across each of its programmatic pillars, activities and initiatives.

12. In October, the Regional Centre organized virtual meetings of national points of contact in the Asia-Pacific region, and government officials working on the Programme of Action. The meeting brought together 50 government officials and national authorities from 21 countries, comprised of 18 women and 32 men. That meeting reinforced the central role of the national point of contact in national efforts to implement the Programme of Action.

13. Following that first meeting of national points of contact, the Regional Centre and the Government of Nepal hosted in January in Kathmandu, Nepal, the regional preparatory meeting for the Fourth Review Conference of the Programme of Action and its International Tracing Instrument. The meeting brought together 88 government officials, comprising 34 women and 54 men from 23 Member States in the region, as well as leading experts from regional and international organizations

and civil society. High-level participants included the Foreign Minister of Nepal, the Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, and the President-designate of the Conference.

14. The Regional Centre delivered two additional activities including a virtual joint event with the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research on fostering gender-responsive arms control, with perspectives from the Asia-Pacific region on the Programme of Action and the Arms Trade Treaty, on 15 February. The Centre also partnered with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to deliver a side-event on Sustainable Development Goal target 16.4 during the Eleventh Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development.

15. The Regional Centre also delivered targeted assistance to Member States in the region. The Government of Sri Lanka received targeted training and technical support on physical security and stockpile management, including the formal handing-over of a containerized armoury for Sri Lanka Police in February. In April, the Centre conducted a similar set of activities in Papua New Guinea, including a national workshop on small arms and light weapons attended by high-level dignitaries such as the Deputy Prime Minister and other ministerial-level senior officials, followed by physical site assessments in Papua New Guinea.

16. One of the key elements of technical and substantive support that the Regional Centre provided to Member States in implementing the provisions of the Programme of Action was reporting assistance. On 4 April, the Centre hosted a virtual online regional briefing on national reporting on the Programme of Action, which included reviewing each provision of the reporting template of the Programme of Action. The Centre team then followed up with targeted bilateral assistance to countries in the region, including active support for the national points of contact to prepare drafts, and to secure institutional approvals for submission of the draft report. Those efforts resulted in 19 Member States submitting their national Programme of Action reports as at 10 June 2024 – the largest number of reports submitted by countries in the region in a single round of reporting.

17. All of the activities delivered were intended to strengthen and enhance the engagement of Member States from the Asia-Pacific region with the Fourth Review Conference of the Programme of Action. The Regional Centre actively supported delegations from the Asia-Pacific region, including by providing thematic and substantive briefings; procedural guidance; and support for sponsored participants to engage in deliberations on the outcome document; and facilitating opportunities for representatives of Member States to engage in high-level meetings and side events.

18. The Regional Centre has also been one of the implementing agencies for the strategic partnership between the Office for Disarmament Affairs and the United Nations Development Programme and their joint Saving Lives Entity fund. In Asia and the Pacific, that initiative was implemented in two countries, Papua New Guinea and Kyrgyzstan. The Centre co-led the scoping mission to Papua New Guinea in July, which resulted in the development of a joint proposal of activities to be implemented jointly by the United Nations Resident Coordinator Office in Papua New Guinea, the Centre, the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Population Fund. Implementation of the Saving Lives Entity fund in Papua New Guinea began with the inception workshop in April, with high-level engagement from the Office of the Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea and senior representatives of the international community in the country. Those activities also contributed to the delivery of the Programme of Action project activities in Papua New Guinea, ensuring complementarity across the two programmes.

19. The Saving Lives Entity fund planning phase was also initiated in Kyrgyzstan, with a high-level delegation conducting a scoping mission in December and the first

meeting of the Project Board convened on 23 April. The inception workshop is scheduled for July 2024 and project activities such as a national survey were initiated in June 2024. In addition, the Saving Lives Entity fund partners sponsored and supported the participation of two officials from the Government of Kyrgyzstan in the Fourth Review Conference of the Programme of Action in June 2024.

20. The Regional Centre also worked with the Implementation Support Unit for the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects (Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons) by supporting universalization activities in the Asia and the Pacific region. That included supporting the delivery of a regional workshop on achieving the universalization of the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons in the Pacific, held in Manila, Philippines, on 11 and 12 December. That meeting served as a good opportunity for the Centre to develop partnerships with Pacific Island countries on conventional arms issues. The Centre was also invited to attend a workshop on achieving the universalization of the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons, held in Geneva, Switzerland, on 11 and 12 April. Universalization efforts for the Convention remain an important work stream for the Centre.

21. Advocating and supporting the universalization of conventional arms treaties in the region has also been a substantive priority for the Regional Centre. Over this reporting period, the Centre worked with Pacific Island countries to submit requests for support to the Arms Trade Treaty voluntary trust fund. The Centre also attended the Ninth Conference of States Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty in August and supported the substantive engagement of countries from Asia and the Pacific. On the margins of the meeting, the Centre delivered presentations in side-events on perspectives from the Asia-Pacific region. The Centre also collaborated with several civil society organizations across the region to promote and advocate for the universalization of the Arms Trade Treaty and other conventional arms agreements, treaties, frameworks, and declarations.

### **C. Science and technology**

22. States in the Asia-Pacific region are increasingly concerned at the prospect of new emerging technologies enabling the design and acquisition of new weapons technologies with unclear or potentially dangerous applications. A wide range of issues of concern have been discussed in the region, including issues related to artificial intelligence, cyber security, means of delivery and others. The Regional Centre has continued to work with States in Asia and the Pacific to raise awareness and to promote and encourage responsible innovation and application of new technologies in the region. The Centre also worked to encourage regional States to actively participate in global discussions to ensure that regional priorities and challenges are reflected.

23. In that regard, the Regional Centre continued to promote discussions and dialogue among States in the region on the impact of advancing science and technology on disarmament, arms control and non-proliferation. On 4 and 5 December, the Centre, in partnership with the Government of the Republic of Korea, organized the Twenty-second United Nations-Republic of Korea Joint Conference on Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Issues. The Conference was hosted in Geneva, Switzerland, was focused on the theme of governance of artificial intelligence in the military domain and was attended by 150 participants, 55 women and 95 men, including 36 experts. Participants explored risks and opportunities associated with military applications of artificial intelligence and policy recommendations around the governance of military artificial intelligence. The

outcomes from the Conference have also served as a guide for the upcoming second Responsible Artificial Intelligence in the Military Domain (REAIM) Summit to be held in the Republic of Korea in September 2024. The discussions and debate also contributed to the development of an UNODA Occasional Paper, which was published in June 2024.

24. The Regional Centre was also invited to contribute to the Global Technology Summit organised jointly by the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace India and the Ministry of External Affairs of the Government of India, which was held in New Delhi, India, from 4 to 6 December. The Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for Disarmament Affairs attended the meeting and delivered a keynote address. The High Representative joined a panel discussion and spoke on the centrality of international humanitarian law as a starting point for the military applications of artificial intelligence. The Centre also participated in the Manila Meeting on Indo-Pacific Perspectives on Autonomous Weapons Systems on 13 and 14 December. The Centre conducted bilateral meetings on the margins of that meeting to assess the substantive and technical assistance required by the Member States of the region.

#### **D. Strengthening partnerships for disarmament**

25. The Regional Centre continued to strengthen and diversify its partnerships to ensure the full and effective participation of stakeholders in the implementation of its mandate. To that end, the Centre continued and furthered its collaboration with national, subregional and regional organizations, various United Nations entities, agencies, funds and programmes, as well as civil society organizations, think tanks, academia and youth networks in the region.

26. The Regional Centre also actively reached out to multilateral and intergovernmental organizations in Asia and the Pacific, including developing partnerships with the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific. The Centre is also the liaison point for the Office for Disarmament Affairs with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

27. The Regional Centre strengthened its partnerships with United Nations agencies, funds and programmes across the region, seeking the integration of disarmament and arms control considerations in the work of the respective United Nations country teams. The Centre facilitated the establishment of a regional cooperation mechanism on small arms and light weapons and conventional ammunition in Asia and the Pacific in October 2023. The membership includes United Nations agencies and civil society organizations that deliver technical support to countries in Asia and the Pacific.

28. The Regional Centre developed close linkages specifically with resident coordinator offices in China, India, Indonesia, Kyrgyzstan, Nepal and Papua New Guinea. That paved the way for systems alignment and joint activities, be that operational and substantive engagement with the United Nations Country Team in Nepal, the start of Save Lives Entity fund activities in Kyrgyzstan and Papua New Guinea or facilitating visits of the High Representative on Disarmament in China, India, Indonesia and Nepal. The Centre has also established programmatic links with the United Nations Development Programme's offices in Kyrgyzstan, Nepal and Papua New Guinea; the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) in Nepal – by collaborating on the development and implementation of the second national action plan on women and peace and security; the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research – including on the Programme of Action project deliverables, outer-space and nuclear

risk reduction and mainstreaming gender in disarmament, arms control and non-proliferation; and the United Nations Office for Drugs and Crime – by working together on the regional cooperation mechanism, and delivering joint events on Sustainable Development Goal target 16.4. The Centre has also developed partnerships with the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization and OPCW, and has supported both organizations with their universalization efforts in the region.

29. The Regional Centre continued to collaborate and deepen ties with civil society organizations across the region. That included developing close partnerships to facilitate project delivery, as the Centre did with the Mines Advisory Group in initiatives in Sri Lanka and Papua New Guinea. Similarly, the Centre worked closely with The Prajnya Trust (India) to organize and deliver the flagship Disarmament Toolkit online training course. The content was developed jointly, as was the facilitation of the course. The Centre also continued to deepen ties with networks such as the International Action Network on Small Arms and the Asia Pacific Leadership Network for Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament, inviting them to deliver expert perspectives at numerous regional and global forums, and in the case of the International Action Network to share their experiences on feminist leadership for the social media campaign to celebrate International Women's Day 2024. The Centre also contributed to the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace's portfolio of work on military applications of artificial intelligence, and to explore further opportunities to do joint activities.

30. The Regional Centre significantly strengthened its activities to amplify and promote the voices and engagement of young people across each of its initiatives. Through a global project funded by the Government of Germany, the Centre added a United Nations Youth Volunteer to its team in December 2023. The Centre contributed to the selection of the cohort of Youth Champions for Disarmament, which included four young people from Asia and the Pacific. The Centre has worked closely with that cohort to amplify their voices and facilitate their engagement in disarmament events and processes in the region and beyond. For example, the four Youth Champions delivered presentations at a workshop on achieving the universalization of the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons. One Youth Champion from the Republic of Korea participated in the One Young World Nagasaki Summit which was held from 10 to 12 May. The Youth Champion from India attended the Fourth Review Conference of the Programme in June 2024, and took part in several events, including by addressing a high-level meeting of the Saving Lives Entity initiative.

31. The Regional Centre also organized outreach sessions in partnership with primary and secondary schools and universities throughout the region and beyond, including lectures at The British School Kathmandu (Nepal), the Foreign Trade University (Viet Nam), Hankuk University of Foreign Studies (Republic of Korea) and Sciences Po (France). The Centre also hosted an interactive stall featuring disarmament and non-proliferation materials at the twenty-fifth World Scout Jamboree in the Republic of Korea in August.

32. As part of the Regional Centre's efforts to promote disarmament, arms control and non-proliferation, and following the delivery of the second flagship Disarmament Toolkit online training course in the previous reporting year, the Centre – in partnership with The Prajnya Trust (India) – delivered the course's third iteration in June 2024. The event featured expert presenters from across academia, civil society, and international organizations, and had over 400 registered participants.

33. During the reporting period, the Regional Centre accompanied the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs on her visits to China, India, Indonesia and Nepal, and actively facilitated opportunities for dialogue with academics and



educators in each country. In August, the Centre facilitated a roundtable in Beijing jointly with the China Arms Control and Disarmament Association for the High Representative to engage in in-depth dialogue with university academics and experts from think tanks. In October, the Centre worked with the Centre for Strategic and International Studies to host a round table in Jakarta for the High Representative to engage with local academics, think tanks and civil society organizations. In December the Centre worked closely with the Observer Research Foundation and the Office of the United Nations Resident Coordinator in India to facilitate two round tables in New Delhi for the High Representative to engage in dialogue with representatives of think tanks and universities. Similarly, in January, the Centre held a round-table meeting in Kathmandu for the High Representative to meet with civil society partners and academics. Those series of meetings provided an opportunity for civil society members to connect their work with the work of the United Nations, increase awareness of current discussions at the global level, and brief the High Representative and other United Nations officials on their assessment of disarmament, arms control and non-proliferation in their respective countries.

34. The Regional Centre also leveraged opportunities around key “International Days” to amplify disarmament and non-proliferation education messaging. In particular, the Regional Centre developed partnerships with four resident coordinators from across the region (Indonesia, Kyrgyzstan, Nepal and Papua New Guinea) to record short messages to commemorate the International Day for Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Awareness on 5 March.

## **E. Future activities**

35. The Regional Centre will continue its work to assist Member States in the region, upon request, to contribute to their national and regional efforts towards disarmament, arms control and non-proliferation, as well as to promote dialogue and confidence-building, and peace and disarmament education.

36. The Regional Centre has several long-standing priorities derived from its mandate, which will continue to form the basis of its workplan in the future. That includes providing technical and substantive support to Member States in the region upon request, and supporting their national and regional efforts towards disarmament, arms control and non-proliferation. In addition, the Centre will actively leverage its convening mandate to promote and facilitate dialogue and confidence-building. The Centre will also actively explore all avenues to mainstream peace and disarmament education opportunities and initiatives.

37. The Regional Centre will continue to provide practical assistance and support to build national capacity for effective implementation of key multilateral mechanisms on weapons of mass destruction. The Centre will also continue providing substantive and technical support to Member States in the region to effectively implement the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects. In addition, the Centre will continue to support universalization efforts for conventional arms instruments, including the Arms Trade Treaty; the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons; the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction; the Convention on Cluster Munitions; and the Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, their Parts and Components and Ammunition, supplementing the United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime (Firearms Protocol). The Centre will continue to promote and develop innovative opportunities around disarmament and non-proliferation education. And finally, the Centre will also continue to find and leverage every opportunity to empower women and strengthen

their participation and leadership in decision-making in disarmament and arms control.

38. During the next reporting period, the Regional Centre will co-organize with the Government of the Republic of Korea the twenty-third United Nations-Republic of Korea Joint Conference on Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Issues on 4 and 5 November 2024, and will engage with States to facilitate dialogue to build transparency and confidence in the region.

39. Furthermore, supported by the Save Lives Entity fund, the Regional Centre will work in partnership with United Nations country teams in Papua New Guinea and Kyrgyzstan to continue to support building the foundations for enhancing governments capacity to control small arms and light weapons and tackle their illicit trafficking. In Papua New Guinea, a small arms survey to collect and analyse the status of proliferation of illicit small arms will take place in the second half of 2024, followed by additional national discussions and consultations to validate its findings. In Kyrgyzstan, a series of capacity-building activities beginning with a national needs identification workshop will take place during the next reporting period.

40. The Regional Centre will further work to raise the awareness of Member States in Asia and the Pacific of the newly adopted Global Framework for Through-life Conventional Ammunition Management. In that regard, the Centre will organize a regional meeting of States in Asia and the Pacific to facilitate discussions and consultations in December 2024.

41. Continuing the Regional Centre's work to promote the full implementation of the Programme of Action, the Centre will also organize a regional workshop on converging agendas for small arms control and gender equality, conducted in collaboration with key regional partners such as the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, the Pacific Island Forum and civil society partners in January 2025.

42. In addition to those long-standing priorities, the Regional Centre will begin exploring new programmatic pillars on areas of international focus, such as emerging technology, military applications of artificial intelligence, space, and cybersecurity. The Centre will also continue to explore new ways of integrating, amplifying and leveraging the voices, experiences and ideas of young people in the region and beyond.

## **IV. Financial situation, staffing and administration**

### **A. Financial situation**

43. The Regional Centre was established pursuant to General Assembly resolution [42/39](#) D on the basis of existing resources and of voluntary contributions. In 2023, the Centre's trust fund received voluntary contributions in the amount of \$402,084. Information on the status of the trust fund for 2023 is contained in the annex to the present report.

44. The Secretary-General expresses his appreciation to the Government of Nepal for the long-standing financial and political support it has provided in its capacity as host country for the Regional Centre. The Secretary-General expresses his gratitude to the Member States that made financial and in-kind contributions to the Centre in 2023: Australia, Nepal, Thailand and the Republic of Korea.

45. The Secretary-General also expresses his gratitude to the European Union, through which the Regional Centre was able to implement project activities in the Asia-Pacific region.

46. The Secretary-General recognizes financial and in-kind contributions to the Regional Centre from Asian and Pacific States as a clear indication of the value that Member States attribute to its expertise and technical assistance, and therefore continues to encourage States in the region to provide such contributions.

47. The Secretary-General wishes to thank all Member States and partners for their generous contributions to and support for the Regional Centre and encourages their ongoing support to ensure that the Centre can continue to provide technical and capacity-building assistance to Member States in the region, at their request, in fulfilment of its mandate. Such financial and in-kind contributions remain essential to ensuring the sustainability of the operations, core activities and programmes of the Centre, which benefit Asia and the Pacific.

## **B. Staffing and administration**

48. The regular budget of the United Nations funds the posts of one Senior Political Affairs Officer/Director of the Regional Centre (P-5), one Political Affairs Officer (P-3) and one General Service staff member (G-7, Local level).

49. The Secretary-General thanks the host country, Nepal, which funded two additional local General Service staff members through its annual contribution. The Secretary-General also encourages Member States to support the Regional Centre by providing it with gratis staff.

## **V. Conclusion**

50. During the reporting period, the Regional Centre implemented a number of disarmament, arms control and non-proliferation initiatives and programmes for States in Asia and the Pacific, thereby contributing to enhanced awareness and capacity. The Centre also continued its partnership with Member States and other stakeholders by supporting their activities in Asia and the Pacific.

51. The Regional Centre actively promoted and facilitated dialogue among Member States and provided platforms for the inclusion of diverse voices such as women, young people and a broad range of civil society.

52. The Regional Centre increased its efforts to promote disarmament education, with a range of activities designed to ensure full and effective inclusion and participation of a broad spectrum of actors in decision-making processes.

53. During the reporting period, the Regional Centre leveraged synergies between cross-cutting issues, including advances in science and technology, promoting gender equality and empowering women in disarmament and arms control decision-making processes, assisting Member States in streamlining their efforts to reduce illegal arms flows, and enhancing the role of disarmament education with a special focus on young people.

54. The Secretary-General calls upon those in a position to do so to make voluntary contributions to the Regional Centre in order to sustain and further develop its activities in response to the continuing requests for assistance and cooperation by Member States in the region. The Secretary-General also encourages States to continue to fully utilize the Centre's expertise and experience in their joint efforts to promote peace and security, A New Agenda for Peace and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the Asia-Pacific region.

## Annex

### Status of the trust fund for the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific for 2023

(United States dollars)

<b>Accumulated surplus, 1 January 2023</b>	<b>715 929</b>
<b>Revenue</b>	
Voluntary contributions <sup>a</sup>	402 084
Other revenue	602
Investment revenue	39 898
<b>Total revenue</b>	<b>442 584</b>
<b>Less: Expenses and refunds</b>	
Operating expenses <sup>b</sup>	123 043
Refunds	—
<b>Total expenses and refunds</b>	<b>123 043</b>
Surplus/deficit for the year 2023	319 541
<b>Accumulated surplus/deficit as of 31 December 2023</b>	<b>1 040 159</b>

<sup>a</sup> Consists of voluntary contributions: from Australia (\$6,596), Nepal (\$335,302), Republic of Korea (\$57,186) and Thailand (\$3,000).

<sup>b</sup> Includes programme support cost.