As armed conflicts grow more deadly, destructive and complex, we need a new focus on disarmament that saves lives.

Mitigating the humanitarian impact of conventional arms

The United Nations and international community look to focus on new efforts to rein in the use of explosive weapons in populated areas, through common standards, the collection of data on collateral harm and the sharing of policy and practice. We also need better coordination to help Governments deal with the scourge of improvised explosive devices.

We must also remain on guard to prevent new technologies, such as armed drones, from tempting any reinterpretation of international law.

Addressing the excessive accumulation and illicit trade in conventional arms

International approaches to regulate arms need to be brought in line with the magnitude of these problems and integrated into broader work for prevention and sustainable development. This should start with a new approach for supporting action at the country level to end the illicit trade in small arms and their ammunition.

It must also include a deeper institutional understanding on the impact of the over-accumulation of arms in fueling and prolonging conflict. We must continue to ensure the security and physical protection of excessive and poorly maintained stockpiles.

And we must foster new cooperation and dialogue, especially at the regional level, to reduce military spending and build confidence.

Important actions for Disarmament that Saves Lives

- End the illicit trade in small arms and their ammunition
- Ensure the security and physical protection of excessive and poorly maintained stockpiles
- Efforts to rein in the use of explosive weapons in populated areas