

## SPECIAL COMMENT

As the new Director of UNIDIR, I'm pleased and proud to welcome you to the 10th anniversary issue of *Disarmament Forum*. For the past decade, *Disarmament Forum* has been serving the international community by providing insightful, and often prescient, articles by distinguished academics, scientists, political leaders and field practitioners in disarmament, arms control and human security. From small arms to nuclear weapons, from enabling women as peacemakers to securing outer space, from regional issues such as arms control in the Middle East to global problems such as the need for economic investment in security, *Disarmament Forum* has been at the forefront of thought and debate. Just as importantly, it was designed—and will continue—to be one of the few journals on disarmament-related issues published in both English and French.

In a change from the journal's traditional format, for this issue we have asked a range of experts to briefly describe realistic and achievable measures that would make an immediate contribution to security and disarmament. As you will see, these range from suggestions of specific next steps on, for example, space security, to more holistic thinking about the role, purpose and reputation of arms control in today's strategic environment. The contributions in this issue look back to draw lessons from both successes and failures, and look ahead to hopeful prospects for disarmament in the near term.

Under the capable stewardship of Editor in Chief Kerstin Vignard, I am certain that *Disarmament Forum* will continue to prove a valuable resource. Indeed, at a time of cautious optimism about the possibilities for progress on multilateral tools not only to prevent the spread but actually to reduce the threat of nuclear weapons, to prevent an arms race in outer space, and rein in the scourge of illicit trade in conventional weapons, the in-depth analyses and creative thinking showcased in *Disarmament Forum* are even more important. And, as always, we invite your comments, suggestions and ideas for future coverage. We at UNIDIR consider fostering dialogue across the disarmament community as one of our primary missions, and *Disarmament Forum* is a key tool for achieving that goal.

***Theresa Hitchens***

Director, UNIDIR

