

Strengthening the role of regional organizations in treaty implementation

UNIDIR, in collaboration with the Monterey Institute for International Studies (MIIS), has undertaken a project that focuses on strengthening the role of regional organizations in non-proliferation and arms control treaty implementation. Regional organizations could play a significant role in addressing questions of compliance related to WMD agreements.

The project will be launched with a small workshop in Geneva to discuss the existing verification system for WMD treaties and the gaps that regional organizations could potentially fill. Based on the findings from the workshop, authors will be selected and a series of consultations will take place with diplomats (in Geneva, Vienna and the Hague), academics, officials from multilateral treaty-implementing organizations (such as IAEA, CTBTO, OPCW), and experts in the field of verification. Interviews with key experts on the operational capabilities and roles of their regional organization will assist to round out the research.

The preliminary findings will be presented at an international meeting where academics, multilateral arms control and disarmament experts, non-governmental organizations, diplomats, and representatives from regional organizations and treaty-implementing organizations will be invited to discuss the papers. The Ploughshares Fund has generously contributed to the establishment of this project.

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Visiting Fellowship Programme

To better address issues of regional security and to help promote regional co-operation and development of indigenous research capacity, UNIDIR's Visiting Fellowship Programme hosts four

researchers from a single region to work together at UNIDIR for four to six months per year. Researchers are chosen from different countries that form the region of study. The focus of their research is a particularly difficult aspect of regional security and it is hoped that the resulting research paper will feed into policy debates on the security of their region.

In November, UNIDIR welcomed the current Visiting Fellows from South Asia. They are Shiva Hari Dahal (Nepal, specialist in human rights), Haris Gazdar (Pakistan, political economy), Soosaipillai Keethaponcalan (Sri Lanka, ethnic relations and conflict resolution) and G. Padmaja (India, military and state security). The four fellows will be working together until April on a co-operative research project and jointly producing a monograph, as well as presenting their findings at a UNIDIR workshop in April.

The fellowships are allocated on a competitive basis, taking due care to obtain regional representation. The exact details of the research topic are collectively decided between UNIDIR and the four fellows. The current Fellowship Programme focuses on South Asia. In subsequent years, fellows will be attracted from other regions, such as West Africa, Latin America, the Middle East, North East Asia, Southern Africa, Central Europe, East Africa and so on.

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Tactical Nuclear Weapons

To support efforts to address and curb the problem of TNWs, UNIDIR has launched a long-term project that includes a series of seminars, and publications as well as attempts to raise the problem of TNWs in the eyes of the wider public through the international media.

In March 2000, UNIDIR held a seminar in Geneva on TNWs. Experts from different institutions presented papers on various aspects of TNWs. Recommendations drawn from this seminar were distributed to policy-makers at the 2000 NPT Review Conference.

UNIDIR recently published two research reports on TNWs: *Tactical Nuclear Weapons: Options for Control* and *Tactical Nuclear Weapons: A Perspective from Ukraine* (see publications section). A press conference on TNWs was held in Geneva on 23 January, which resulted in a number of newspaper articles as well as television and radio interviews.

UNIDIR's TNW project continues in 2001 with a study based on the recommendations presented in *Tactical Nuclear Weapons: Options for Control*. This report examines in detail and advances recommendations on codification as well as transparency and confidence-building measures related to the 1991 parallel unilateral declarations issued by the Presidents of the United States of America and the Russian Federation. UNIDIR also plans to organize a seminar for the ten-year anniversary of the 1991 unilateral declarations. Various aspects of this project are carried out in co-operation with the Monterey Institute of International Studies and the Peace Research Institute Frankfurt.

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Handbook on Verification and Compliance

Successful arms control in the Middle East — an essential component of the peace process — will require a thorough examination of the means to determine compliance and of the implications of regional verification mechanisms. In order to assist the process of ascertaining the necessary level and the approach to compliance monitoring in the Middle East, UNIDIR and VERTIC are producing a compendium of agreements and terms, in-depth analyses of approaches to verification, methods and technologies and practical experiences. The book will be published in English and Arabic in hard copy and electronic format (with hyperlink text).

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Fissile Materials

In April 1999, UNIDIR published *Fissile Material Stocks: Characteristics, Measures and Policy Options* by William Walker and Frans Berkhout. The publication is intended to support the Conference on Disarmament in its thinking on the range of options available to deal with stocks of fissile material. Additionally, UNIDIR has commissioned a report on fissile material inventories to provide an up-to-date account of fissile materials, assess national policies related to the production, disposition and verification of fissile materials, and identify facilities and locations which might be subject to safeguards under a treaty.

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Participatory Approaches to Evaluating the Implementation of Humanitarian Landmine Action

Evaluating mine action programmes in terms of cost-effectiveness and efficiency has its merits in a donor community concerned with value for money in project implementation. But humanitarian mine action is by definition a qualitative process. It is designed to enhance human security, provide victim assistance and encourage ownership of mine action programmes in affected communities and regions. Traditional evaluation and monitoring techniques do not readily lend themselves to assessments of such qualitative goals and objectives. Participatory monitoring and evaluation techniques (PM&E) are more appropriate to this task. PM&E involves key stakeholders in identifying their needs and assessing the most appropriate options for meeting those needs. Experience has shown that participatory approaches improve the quality, effectiveness and sustainability of donor programmes' actions and outcomes. By placing people at the centre of the monitoring and evaluation process, mine action efforts are guaranteed to empower local communities and encourage local ownership. The proposed pilot study is not only designed to pioneer PM&E approaches within the landmine community, but also to provide a unique opportunity for UNIDIR to help innovate bottom-up approaches to arms control implementation.

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The Costs of Disarmament

In order to present the cost-benefit analysis of disarmament, UNIDIR proposes to take key countries as examples and carefully research what their commitments to disarmament treaties mean to them in terms of financial and resource costs. In addition, the project will try to ascertain what each country perceives are the benefits brought to them through their participation in the agreements and whether there is consensus that there is a net gain to the state in question. The aim of the project is to achieve a better understanding of the costs and benefits of disarmament agreements with a view to assisting policy-makers decide how money is spent on such commitments, which budget lines are best structured to handle such spending and how states could approach this aspect of negotiations in the future.

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Peace-building and Practical Disarmament in West Africa

UNIDIR is currently running a project on peace-building and practical disarmament in West Africa. The project aims at strengthening the necessary participation of West African civil societies in the control of small arms and light weapons. The broad objective is to build grass-root capacities through research on peace and security issues and to empower ordinary citizens in such a way that civil society organizations become determinant constituencies for disarmament and arms control.

After several tours of the region by the Project Manager, a first collection of papers by selected authors from Sierra Leone has been published. A second set of papers focusing on Liberia has been commissioned.

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UNIDIR Handbook on Arms Control

UNIDIR is producing a handbook that will explain the major concepts and terms relating to arms control. The handbook will be used as both a primer for an audience with limited familiarity with arms control and as a reference for students, scholars, diplomats and journalists who are more experienced in arms control matters.

The handbook will be organized as a thematically structured glossary of approximately 400 terms relating to arms control. Each term is situated within its wider context so that, on the one hand, a specific term can be looked up quickly, and on the other hand, an entire issue can be covered. Cross-references to other terms and concepts will point the reader to relevant related issues. The researcher designing and drafting the handbook will be assisted by an editorial committee consisting of regional and arms control experts.

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Geneva Forum

Together with the Programme for Strategic and International Security Studies of the Graduate Institute of International Studies and the Quaker United Nations Office, UNIDIR organizes an ongoing discussion series called the Geneva Forum.

The Geneva Forum is an intellectual space in which expertise on a broad range of disarmament issues is shared among government delegates, United Nations personnel, NGOs and academics. Experts from various fields of disarmament are regularly invited to share their knowledge in briefings, seminars and workshops. Such meetings provide disarmament negotiators with valuable opportunities to benefit from in-depth research and to interact with one another in a relatively informal atmosphere. The issues dealt with in Geneva Forum meetings reflect the priorities of the disarmament agenda at any given time. The aim is to provide negotiators with relevant information that will assist them in their disarmament work.

Now in its third year, the Geneva Forum is expanding its work thanks to a generous grant from the Ford Foundation. New areas of activity will include increased networking between Geneva's disarmament, human rights and humanitarian communities in order to discuss mutual interests in security and disarmament issues and to explore possibilities for coordination and collaboration. Also, in recognition of the important role that public opinion plays in advancing disarmament, the Geneva Forum will intensify its interaction with international media covering disarmament issues in Geneva.

In 1998 and 1999, the Geneva Forum focused mainly on the issue of small arms and light weapons. Recently, the first volume of collected Geneva Forum papers on this subject has been published (see the publications section).

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UNIDIR Disarmament Seminars

UNIDIR occasionally holds small, informal meetings on various topics related to disarmament, security and non-proliferation. These off-the-record gatherings allow members of the disarmament community, missions and NGOs to have an opportunity to discuss a specific topic with an expert. Recent topics covered include: verification of nuclear disarmament, restoring momentum to nuclear disarmament, missile defences, disarmament as humanitarian action, deadlock at the Conference on Disarmament, and fissile materials. Speakers at recent meetings have included: Trevor Findlay, Suzanna van Moyland, George Palocz-Horvarth, Tom Milne, Jonathan Dean, Daryl Kimball, Soren Jessen-Petersen, Martin Griffiths, Randall Forsberg, Rebecca Johnson, Tariq Rauf, Mutiah Alagappa, Graham Andrew, Anatoli Diakov, Annette Schaper and Tom Shea.

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DATARIs

In cooperation with SIPRI (Stockholm International Peace Research Institute), UNIDIR has developed an online database of disarmament, arms control, security and peace research institutes and projects around the world. The database can be accessed through UNIDIR's website and institutes can update their information via a password. A new feature allows the addition of the names of the director and research staff.

If you would like your institute to be included in DATARIs, please contact:

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