

Preface

The United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR), which has been in existence since 1 October 1980, was established by the General Assembly as an autonomous institution within the framework of the United Nations to carry out independent research on disarmament and related international security issues.

The Institute's work, which is based on the provisions of the Final Document of the Tenth Session of the General Assembly, aims at:

1. Providing the international community with more diversified and complete data on problems relating to international security, the armaments race and disarmament in all fields, particularly in the nuclear field, so as to facilitate progress, through negotiations, towards greater security for all States, and towards the economic and social development of all peoples;
2. Promoting informed participation by all States in disarmament efforts;
3. Assisting on-going negotiations on disarmament and continuing efforts being made to ensure greater international security at a progressively lower level of armaments, particularly nuclear armaments, by means of objective and factual studies and analyses;
4. Carrying out more in-depth, forward looking and long-term research on disarmament so as to provide a general insight to the problems involved, and stimulating new initiatives for new negotiations.

In publishing this series of research papers, UNIDIR wishes to make available to the international diplomatic as well as scientific community analyses prepared by the staff of the Institute or persons working within its framework who express their personal points of view on current questions. The papers will deal with a very broad range of subjects and will vary in scope, depending on the evolution of security, disarmament and arms limitation problems, as well as on the specialization of the authors, although it will invariably be related to the Institute's programme of work.

UNIDIR takes no position on the views and conclusions expressed in these papers which are those of their authors. Nevertheless, UNIDIR considers that such papers merit publication and recommends them to the attention of its readers.

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