

Disarmament Machinery

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Disarmament and UNIDIR

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A Changing Disarmament Environment

- Renewed hope for nuclear disarmament and nonproliferation
 - US-Russian START follow-on could lead to greater cuts
 - Improved prospects for CTBT ratification and entry into force
 - Potential for FMCT negotiations at the CD first time in more than a decade
 - NPT Rev Con in 2010
- Progress in the area of conventional arms
 - Successful conclusion in 2008 of Convention on Cluster Munitions
 - 22 States ratified out of 30 required for entry into force
 - Considerable interest and progress toward ATT
 - BMS4 on PoA for small arms in 2010

But much work remains to be done!

Complex New Challenges

- Security problems characterized by complex links between civil and military aspects and use of high technology
 - Containing arms trafficking/combating terrorism in a networked world
 - Difficulties implementing BWC
 - 2011 Review Conference to look at CSBMs
 - Growing potential for a space arms race
 - Increasing potential for militarization/weaponization of cyberspace
 - Potential for widespread insecurity/conflict due to climate change
 - Potential emergence of nanotechnology weapons

UNIDIR's Role

- Based on its mandate, UNIDIR
 - Serves as a **trusted** source of **objective** information on disarmament, arms control and security for the UN Family, **all** Member States, and the international community writ large
 - Serves as a bridge among UN entities and between the UN and civil society
 - Provides action-oriented, forward looking research on the broad array of international security issues for use by decision-makers
- UNIDIR is thus **unique** within UN Disarmament Machinery

Background

- UNIDIR is a “child” of the General Assembly
 - Proposed at 1978 First Special Session on Disarmament
 - Created in 1980 as a Trust Fund under its own Statute
 - Deliberately mandated as an **independent, largely extra-budgetary** organization to ensure freedom to provide objective, apolitical research
 - Only the Director and core-staff to be funded by UN general budget
 - » In reality, only the Director is funded
 - Research activities funded by **voluntary donations** of national governments and charitable foundations

Mandate

- **Providing the international community with more diversified and complete data on problems relating to international security, the armaments race and disarmament in all fields ... to facilitate progress ... towards greater security for all States and towards the economic and social development of all peoples;**
- Promoting **informed participation by all States** in disarmament efforts;
- **Assisting ongoing negotiations on disarmament and continuing efforts to ensure greater international security ...** by means of objective and factual studies and analyses;
- **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.**

UNIDIR's Work

- UNIDIR research covers the gamut of security issues
 - Disarmament and arms control in all aspects, from – small arms to WMD to space weapons
 - The linkages between disarmament and human security
 - Improving processes for and the implementation of security treaties, agreements and instruments such as GA Resolutions
- UNIDIR provides research, information and assistance on security challenges and concerns for and to **ALL** UN Member States
 - Despite receiving consistent financial support from only about a dozen Member States

UNIDIR's Work

- UNIDIR's outputs are varied in scope and in type
 - Scope: Lessons learned, clarifying issues, gathering and providing objective data, “food for thought,” reframing and forwarding ongoing debate, raising emerging security questions, assisting negotiators, educating diplomats and the next-generation of security thinkers
 - Type: Books, studies, background and issue papers, the quarterly journal *Disarmament Forum*, electronic publishing, audio files, in-depth seminars, briefings, discussions with diplomats and many stakeholders

30 Years of Making a Difference

- UNIDIR's 30th Anniversary Year begins this month
 - Longevity shows the value of the Institute to **all** Member States
- UNIDIR **has impacted** global security thinking
 - One of the first research organizations to focus on the myriad security problems created by small arms
 - Broke ground a decade ago in linking disarmament to human security and development
 - Upcoming: “The Road from Oslo: Analysis of negotiations to address the humanitarian effects of cluster munitions.”
 - Coined the term “disarmament as humanitarian action” (DHA, 2004) that now pervades UN thinking:
 - The Mine Convention “is a classic case of disarmament as humanitarian action,” Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, 24 Nov 2008

30 Years of Making a Difference

- A consistent voice in promoting nuclear disarmament and nonproliferation
 - Working our Way Toward Nuclear Disarmament: Promoting Multilateral Approaches to the Nuclear Fuel Cycle
 - Working our Way Toward Nuclear Disarmament: Regional Organizations and the Implementation of UN Resolution 1540
- In the forefront of efforts regarding small arms and light weapons
 - Geneva Forum/Geneva Process
 - International Assistance for Implementing the UN Programme of Action on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons
- Instrumental in keeping up dialogue around the agenda of the stalled Conference on Disarmament
 - Seminar on: From CTBT to FM(C)T: Unfinished business with lessons learned for the Conference on Disarmament
 - Annual Outer Space Security Conferences

30 Years of Making a Difference

- UNIDIR continues to look ahead to emerging challenges
 - Forward looking thinking on new dimensions of disarmament
 - The proliferation threat tied to nuclear energy
 - Need for an Arms Trade Treaty
 - Arms race in outer space
 - Misuse and weaponization of the cyber-sphere
 - Improving processes for security-building and multilateral engagements
 - Protocols/processes for transmitting local security needs to donor capabilities (SNAP)
 - Creative ideas for progress within the CD
 - Improving implementation of multilateral and regional instruments

The Next 30 Years

- UNIDIR will continue to work closely with Member States on the international security agenda
 - UNIDIR is open to discussing with any Member State issues related to disarmament, arms control, peace and security
- UNIDIR hopes to grow its capacity, improve its delivery of timely and user-friendly research, and expand its outreach

With your continued support, UNIDIR will continue to serve, and thrive, for the next 30 years and beyond!

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