

EDITOR'S NOTE

The plight of child soldiers, the widespread use of landmines and small arms, and images of children lined up in refugee camps awaiting food or medical care have helped to sensitize the international community to the suffering inflicted on children during armed conflict. The protection and security of children is traditionally approached from a human rights perspective, focusing on treaties and conventions such as the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Surprisingly, it is only recently that the question of child protection has been approached from a 'security-oriented' perspective. Efforts such as Security Council resolutions 1261, 1314 and 1379 are helping to raise awareness and reframe child protection as a human security issue.

Ensuring the security of children in armed conflicts demands new thinking and partnerships that combine the expertise and action of disarmament, human rights, humanitarian and development specialists. In this *Disarmament Forum* we introduce our readers to the special needs and circumstances of children and their security in times of conflict. We study the promises made by the United Nations and the international community to protect children, investigate the impact of small arms on children, and present the urgent topic of juvenile justice in relation to counter-terrorism operations.

The next issue of *Disarmament Forum* will look ahead to the first review conference of the Chemical Weapons Convention. We will be exploring some of the key topics to be addressed at the review, as well as examining institutional issues emerging from the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons.

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- read or download full-text UNIDIR publications and articles from *Disarmament Forum*;
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- participate in our 'Roundtable' through e-di@logue mailings and 'for comment' papers;
- learn about the Institute, its background, funding, personnel and mandate; and
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The Secretary-General's Expert Group on Disarmament and Non-proliferation Education has wrapped up its two-year study. The Group was tasked with assessing the current state of disarmament and non-proliferation education at all levels, and recommending ways to promote disarmament education and training. The study reflects consultations with a range of actors—from civil society,

NGOs, advocacy groups, international organizations and governments, as well as activists, artists and educators—who shared their experiences and helped to establish the groundwork for future collaboration and partnerships.

UNIDIR participated in the preparation of the study and will be working with our partners to implement its recommendations and encourage further work on this subject. The study, its annexes and background materials are available on-line at < <http://disarmament.un.org/education/study.html> > .

Against a background of unresolved missile defence and missile non-proliferation issues, increasingly intensive use of space technologies, and lack of progress on PAROS in the Conference on Disarmament, there is a renewed interest in outer space issues. The Institute, in cooperation with Project Ploughshares and the Simons Centre for Peace and Disarmament Studies, will host the seminar *Outer Space and Global Security* on 26–27 November 2002. Sponsored by the Simons Foundation of Canada, the seminar will address the current and future uses of outer space, as well as measures to preserve space for peaceful purposes. The first issue of *Disarmament Forum* in 2003 will also address outer space security issues.

In response to widespread concerns about how to respond to the threat of nuclear terrorism, radiological weapons and ‘dirty bombs’, UNIDIR will host the conference *International Cooperation in the Combat against Nuclear Terrorism and the Role of Nuclear Arms Control* on 17–18 December 2002. Jointly organized by UNIDIR, Peace Research Institute Frankfurt, and Germany’s Federal Foreign Office in Berlin, the meeting will analyse the potential threat and technical capacities of terrorists, and how arms control, verification and transparency can combat these threats.

UNIDIR Resident Senior Fellow Jozef Goldblat has fully revised and updated his well-known 1994 reference work on disarmament. *Arms Control—the new guide to negotiations and agreements*, a joint publication of PRIO and SIPRI, surveys all major agreements of the last half century. Its accompanying CD-ROM contains full texts and excerpts from over 150 relevant arms control and disarmament treaties and agreements. Available from Sage Publications.

Lastly, we welcome Geoffrey Mugumya, Project Leader, and Shukuko Koyama, Project Assistant, to the Institute. Together they will analyse select small arms and light weapons collection programmes, identify the criteria for and characteristics of successful programmes and incentive schemes, and seek to identify best practice for the project ‘Weapons for Development: Lessons Learned from Weapons Collection Programmes’.

Kerstin Vignard