

UNIDIR ACTIVITIES

Weapons for Development

The project 'Weapons for Development' analyses select weapons collection programmes in order to assist policy makers, donor countries, United Nations agencies and NGOs devise better strategies to collect weapons. Using specific programmes in Albania, Cambodia, Congo, Mali and Papua New Guinea as case studies, the criteria for success for weapons collection will be determined in conjunction with identifying 'best practices' in collection methods, locations and storage facilities. Beneficiaries of collection programmes are placed at the centre of the research through Participatory Monitoring and Evaluation (PM&E) techniques.

The project will result in country-specific publications, an overall synthesis publication and a publication highlighting 'best practices' and policy recommendations.

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Strengthening the Role of Regional Organizations in Treaty Implementation

UNIDIR, in collaboration with the Monterey Institute for International Studies, 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.

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The project was launched with a small workshop in Geneva in June 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 were selected and a series of consultations have started with diplomats (in Geneva, Vienna and the Hague), academics, officials from multilateral treaty-implementing organizations (such as the IAEA, CTBTO and OPCW), and experts in the field of verification. Interviews with key experts on the operational capabilities and roles of their regional organizations 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 both regional 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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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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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. Various aspects of this project are carried out in cooperation with the Monterey Institute of International Studies and the Peace Research Institute Frankfurt.

UNIDIR's latest publication on TNWs is *Tactical Nuclear Weapons: Time for Control*. This book 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.

Additionally, UNIDIR recently published *Tactical Nuclear Weapons: Options for Control* and *Tactical Nuclear Weapons: A Perspective from Ukraine* (see publications section).

For the ten-year anniversary of the 1991 unilateral declarations UNIDIR held a seminar at the United Nations Headquarters on 24 September 2001. The meeting generated a stimulating discussion and was extremely well attended. A seminar report is available on our website. This summary was also distributed at the 2002 NPT PrepCom in New York. More detailed proceedings will be published in 2002.

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Visiting Fellowship Programme

UNIDIR's 2002 visiting research fellowship programme on regional security focused on the Middle East. Four researchers were invited to Geneva for six months. The researchers working collectively on a single research paper, focusing on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The paper, entitled *The Roles of Civil Society and Governments in Building Trust and Confidence Among the Israeli and Palestinian Peoples*, will be published by UNIDIR.

The visiting research fellowship programme helps generate regional cooperation and confidence building by bringing together researchers who might not have the opportunity to work collaboratively in other circumstances. The fellowship also provides an opportunity to interact with the UN Secretariat, government delegations, international organizations and non-governmental institutes, and contribute to UNIDIR's wider research programme.

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Fissile Materials

The UNIDIR publication *Fissile Material Stocks: Characteristics, Measures and Policy Options* by William Walker and Frans Berkhout is intended to support the Conference on Disarmament in its thinking on the range of options available to deal with stocks of fissile material. UNIDIR has also 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. In March 2001, the Institute (in collaboration with the German Delegation to the Conference on Disarmament) held a meeting on the verification of a fissile material cut-off 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.

A recent publication, *Costs of Disarmament—Rethinking the Price Tag: A Methodological Inquiry into the Costs and Benefits of Arms Control*, outlines the methodological basis of the research.

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Peace-building and Practical Disarmament in West Africa

UNIDIR's West Africa project focuses on promoting the role of West African civil society in the fight against the proliferation of small arms and light weapons.

The project seeks to:

- Inform and raise awareness on the problem, notably security and humanitarian threats;
- Undertake locally based research with civil society groups and produce collaborative publications;
- Organize national and regional debates in West Africa to stimulate discussion on people-centred security and small arms proliferation;
- Build local capacities for peace and security research and light weapons monitoring regimes;
- Work for transparency and facilitate participation in decision-making and policy implementation;
- Enhance confidence-building and strengthen regional stability through community-based and cross-border arms control and peace-building; and
- Assist in the establishment of a culture of peace and disarmament.

The project operates in partnership with local non-governmental and community-based organizations. For the last two years the project has been working mainly in Sierra Leone and Liberia. For the coming two years, the project will enlarge its scope to Guinea, Côte d'Ivoire, Mali, Niger and Burkina Faso. Specific categories of people with high peace-building potential, such as women, young

people, religious and traditional leaders, and the media, will be targeted as partners. Police forces and customs services will also be included.

Cooperating for Peace in West Africa: An Agenda for the 21st Century and *Bound to Cooperate: Conflict, Peace and People in Sierra Leone*, two recent publications of the project, are described in detail in the publications section.

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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.

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.

The Geneva Forum has produced the *Media Guide to Disarmament in Geneva*—a succinct and practical tool to facilitate the work of media professionals by linking them with key sources of information. The *Media Guide to Disarmament in Geneva* includes contact information for hundreds of experts in disarmament, arms control and security issues who have agreed to act as points of reference for media enquiries. The guide is available on our website.

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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, fissile materials, and next steps for nuclear disarmament and arms control. Speakers at recent meetings have included: Jonathan Dean, Daryl Kimball, Soren Jessen-Petersen, Martin Griffiths, Randall Forsberg, Rebecca Johnson, Tariq Rauf, Mutiah Alagappa, Graham Andrew, Anatoli Diakov, Annette Schaper, Tom Shea, Alain Munier, Seiichiro Noburu, Munir Akram, Thomas Markram, Christopher Westdal, Yuri Kapralov, Fu Zhigong, Robert Grey, William Potter, Lewis Dunn, Paolo Cotta-Ramusino and Harald Müller.

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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 inclusion 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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