

UNIDIR FOCUS

NEW PUBLICATION

Unfinished Business: The Negotiation of the CTBT and the End of Nuclear Testing

The Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty remains a key piece of unfinished business of the nuclear age. As a growing number of governments and decision makers put forward ideas to move the world toward abolishing nuclear weapons, much can be learned from how the CTBT was fought for, opposed and finally negotiated between 1994 and 1996. The treaty's necessity was underlined when the Democratic People's Republic of Korea conducted a nuclear test explosion in 2006, but more than a decade of political and institutional obstacles has prevented the CTBT from entering into full legal effect.

New opportunities exist today for the CTBT entry into force. Understanding the story of the treaty will enable civil society, governments and diplomats to assist in this process and to develop more effective strategies and tools to bring about future disarmament agreements.

Unfinished Business: The Negotiation of the CTBT and the End of Nuclear Testing

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In each issue of *Disarmament Forum*, UNIDIR Focus highlights one activity of the Institute, outlining the project's methodology, recent research developments or its outcomes. UNIDIR Focus also describes a new UNIDIR publication. You can find summaries and contact information for all of the Institute's present and past activities, and download or order our publications, online at <www.unidir.org>.

PROJECT UPDATE

EC–UN Cooperation in Peacebuilding

This six-month project, which began in April 2009, aims to examine cooperation between the European Commission (EC) and the UN with regard to peacebuilding. It uses both quantitative and qualitative analysis to identify trends in the EC's funding relationship with the UN; to examine the coherence of the EC and the UN's peacebuilding concepts and policies; and to explore ways in which the EC might further support UN-led peacebuilding reforms. This assessment is intended to inform policy debates on the EC–UN partnership and system-wide coherence in peacebuilding. It is particularly timely in view of the current evaluation of the UN's peacebuilding policies and architecture (including the *Report of the Secretary-General on Peacebuilding in the Immediate Aftermath of Conflict* published in June 2009 and the 2010 review of the Peacebuilding Commission).

The project will result in the publication of a research report during the Swedish Presidency of the European Union (EU) in 2009, which will be discussed in the European Council's United Nations Working Party. The report will be designed to address the central research question "How has the European Commission contributed to UN peacebuilding efforts?" and to provide policy options for how the EC–UN partnership might be strengthened. More specifically, the report will identify trends in EC funding for the UN, including in fragile states, and provide a comparative overview of EC and UN policies relevant to peacebuilding. It will also provide a narrative account of the history of the EC's support for the UN's peacebuilding architecture and will examine EC–UN operational cooperation in the Peacebuilding Commission's focus countries. It aims to highlight opportunities and obstacles to policy and programming alignment both at headquarters and in the field and to suggest ways in which the EU might better support ongoing UN peacebuilding reform efforts.

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