



Reviving and Globalising Conventional Disarmament and Confidence Building

Outline and Rationale for an International Initiative

A response to new international opportunities intended to:

- Develop new ideas with which to engage a wide range of stakeholders in practical consideration of a widened and accelerated disarmament process to move in parallel with efforts towards a global nuclear zero, to remove military impediments to strengthened regional security, and to assist economic and political development
- Begin re-creating a connected epistemic community across the disarmament field where general disarmament is again an item on the agenda of the international community
- Re-establish Confidence and Security Building Measures (CSBMs) and conventional weapons disarmament on the international agenda to facilitate, but not condition, nuclear and other WMD disarmament, and build on humanitarian campaigns on specific weapons and on the Arms Trade Treaty will stop
- Examine ‘best-practice’ for design and implementation of existing disarmament agreements-in particular the potential for globalisation of UNMOVIC/CFE and bi-lateral US-USSR missile disarmament mechanisms. Best practice can also include the speed of effective implementation of CFE/INF for example
- Address the need to securitize the nuclear energy renaissance debate through interviews, seminars and technical studies
- Support public education and advocacy of conventional disarmament and confidence building via the web as a means of offering the public, opinion formers and policy-makers alike a challenge to engage with this road-map to general disarmament a realistically foreseeable timescale measured in a few decades at most, rather than as a pious indefinitely long-term aspiration

One practical focused outcome might be fostering international support and advocacy for further initiatives such as the ambitious and far reaching Strategic Concept for Regulation of Arms Possession and Proliferation (SCRAP) proposal (<http://www.cisd.soas.ac.uk/index.asp-Q-Page-E-scrap--66814822>), though this need not necessary condition the rest of the project.

Outputs

- As a realistic starting proposition 6 seminars to develop epistemic communities especially from the developing world relating to the above topics , partly in London, as well as two in Geneva and one in Jordan, with a Middle East focus.
- An international London conference on the Middle East WMD Free Zone
- Web-based dissemination of the ideas resulting from the above
- A policy proposals document resulting from the seminars, including consideration of how far arrangements and practices might have to vary to fit different regional circumstances.
- A report on stakeholder and media attitudes to the securitisation of nuclear energy
- A report on the impact of conventional warfare on civil nuclear plants proposed in the Middle East
- Promoting consciousness of the set of policy options represented by the SCRAP concept, through web-based public outreach involving social networking sites

Key Features

- Aimed at *establishing an updated, balanced, comprehensive and globally extensive* understanding of the range of possibilities for disarmament, arms control and confidence building: addressing WMD, conventional weaponry, and strategic stability.
- *Focused on new technological possibilities* (e.g. affordable and publicly exploitable surveillance methods)
- Open to examination of *potential interlinkages* with evidence gathering for international humanitarian and human rights law, reliable

information for civil society, Security Sector Reform, or legal action against illicit arms trading.

- Incorporating a deliberate *Middle Eastern dimension*, in view of the interest expressed by certain regional experts and the gravity of the security issues in the region-but not to the exclusion of possibilities in Africa, South and South-East Asia or Latin America and a focus on their different requirements and constraints.,
- *An ambitious but flexible work programme based upon an inclusive and expanding set of partnerships* with experts and institutions widely spaced around the world, (initially envisaged possibilities include Kings College London War Studies Department, the LSE's Centre for the Study of Global Governance, the UK Defence Academy, VERTIC, The Science Applications International Corporation in the US, the Belfer Centre or other institutes at Harvard, SIPRI, UNIDIR, The Centre on International Cooperation at New York University etc: ideally with Middle Eastern (the Jordanian Crown Prince's institution? Cairo University, Bilkent University? a sympathetic Israeli institution?) Africa (University of the Witwatersrand ?) and Australia

Initial Staff and Nucleus of Partners

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