

AGENDA

MONDAY, 4 DECEMBER 2023

14:00 *Welcome Coffee and Registration of Participants*

INTRODUCTORY SESSION – OSLO ROOM

15:00 **Welcome Addresses**

***Ettore Greco**, Executive Vice-President, Istituto Affari Internazionali (IAI), Rome*

***Sibylle Bauer**, Chair, EU Non-proliferation and Disarmament Consortium /Director of Studies, Armament and Disarmament, Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI)*

15:15 **Opening Speech**

***Josep Borrell**, High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy*

FIRST PLENARY SESSION

15:30 **EU'S NON-PROLIFERATION AND DISARMAMENT AGENDA**

In the 2003 Non-Proliferation Strategy the EU spelled out its guiding principles and main objectives in non-proliferation and disarmament. It has since conducted a vast diplomatic action to advance those principle and objectives within the various international forums and through its partnerships. However, 20 years after the adoption of the strategy, the EU's non-proliferation efforts are increasingly contested by other actors. Moreover, major divergences persist within the EU over key issues, notably nuclear disarmament. Against this backdrop: What are the EU's core strengths and limitations in the non-proliferation and disarmament field? How can the EU enhance its role in preserving and strengthening the existing arms control regimes and laying the groundwork for new agreements? What should be the EU's position on proliferation issues in conflictual regions such as Africa, the Middle East and Asia?

Chair:

***Steven Everts**, Director, EU Institute for Security Studies (EUISS), Paris*

Speakers:

***Carlos Aragón Gil de la Serna**, Deputy Director General for Non-Proliferation and Disarmament, Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation, Madrid*

***Karla Mae G. Pabeliña**, Head of the Strategic, Territorial, and Maritime Issues Section, Center for International Relations and Strategic Studies (CIRSS) of the Philippine Foreign Service Institute (FSI) & Associate Fellow, Asia-Pacific Leadership Network (APLN), Manila*

***Peter Wagner**, Head of Service of Foreign Policy Instrument (FPI), European Commission*

***Megan Dee**, Senior Lecturer in International Politics, University of Stirling*

Q&A

16:45 **KEY NOTE SPEECH SESSION**

Chair:

Manuel Herrera, Research Fellow, Istituto Affari Internazionali (IAI), Rome

Speaker:

Robert Floyd, Executive Secretary of the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO), Vienna

Q&A

17:15 *Break*

17:45 **NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION AND DISARMAMENT CHALLENGES**

The nuclear non-proliferation regime has been under stress for more than a decade. The last two NPT Review cycles were particularly disappointing, as shown, inter alia, by the failure of the last two NPT Review Conferences (2015 and 2020/2022) to adopt a final document. The key fault line in the NPT is the lack of progress towards nuclear disarmament. Proliferation risks have also deepened as a result of the conflicts or growing tensions in several areas, notably in the Middle East and East Asia. Moreover, with Russia's invasion of Ukraine and its nuclear threats to prevent NATO and the West direct involvement in Ukraine, increased the salience of nuclear weapons and reliance on them for national and collective security in Europe and other regions. Constraints on access to peaceful uses of nuclear energy continue to be of concern and frustration for many countries, particularly LMCs. Based on the results and discussions during the 2023 NPT Preparatory Committee meeting and current developments, what are the key issues, areas of concern and disagreements to dominate the next NPT PrepCom meeting and the current review cycle? What steps should be taken to address the concerns expressed by non-nuclear weapons states? And how can the EU contribute to this goal? What are potential areas of progress across all three pillars of the NPT? Recommendations of the Working Group on Strengthening the NPT Review process were not adopted. Yet many recommendations were widely supported. How can we move forward with their implementation/incorporation in the work of the NPT?

Chair:

Elena Sokova, Executive Director, Vienna Center for Disarmament and Non-Proliferation (VCDNP)

Speakers:

Jarmo Viinanen, Chair-designate of the first session of the Preparatory Committee of the NPT Review Conference

Jacek Bylica, Chief of Cabinet at the Director General's Office, International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Vienna

Stephan Klement, Special Adviser for the Iranian Nuclear Issue, European External Action Service (EEAS), Brussels

Jina Kim, Dean of Language and Diplomacy Division at Hankuk University of Foreign Studies

Jo-Ansie van Wyk, Professor of International Politics, Department of Political Sciences at the University of South Africa, Pretoria

Q&A

19:00 *End of First Day*

TUESDAY, 5 DECEMBER 2023

PARALLEL SESSIONS – OSLO I-II & BERGEN ROOMS

08:30 *Registration of participants*

9:00 **CHEMICAL DISARMAMENT AFTER THE FIFTH REVIEW CONFERENCE OF THE CWC**

In July the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) announced that all declared and verified chemical weapons stockpiles had been irreversibly destroyed. What does this mean for the OPCW? What focus its activities should

have in the future, particularly after the 5th CWC RevCon? Despite that announcement, there are still concerns about the use of chemical weapons as shown by the cases of Russia and Syria, which was suspended from OPCW membership in 2021. Moreover, technological developments allow the production of new warfare agents. What are the main emerging challenges in the field of chemical disarmament? And how can the EU contribute to addressing them with an eye to consolidating the CWC regime?

Chair:

María Garzón Maceda, Associate Researcher, WMD programme, United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR), Geneva

Speakers:

Mika-Markus Leinonen, EU Representative to the International Organisations in The Hague

Marcin Wróblewski, Director of the Office of Strategy and Policy, Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), The Hague

Elisa S. Orth, Professor at the Federal University of Paraná and leader of the 'Catalysis and Kinetics' Research Group

Alexander Ghionis, Research Fellow in Chemical and Biological Security, Science Policy Research Unit, Institute of Development Studies, University of Sussex Business School

Q&A

OUTER SPACE: REALM OF CONFLICT OR COOPERATION?

Outer space is the new frontier of international politics. The major powers, but also, increasingly, middle powers, are in an unbridled competition to gain a strategic advantage in outer-space technologies. If not managed, this competition could lead to potentially escalating conflicts. What are the key challenges and opportunities for collaboration in space exploration, technology development, and resource utilization? In an era of growing commercial space activities, what role do private companies play in shaping the space environment, and how can they contribute to peaceful cooperation? Are there opportunities for space diplomacy and peaceful resolution of disputes, and if so, how can they be exploited effectively? What is the prospect of new rules and codes of conduct to regulate space activities?

Chair:

Rajeswari Pillai Rajagopalan, Director, Centre for Security, Strategy & Technology (CSST), Observer Research Foundation, New Delhi

Speakers:

Carine Claeys, Special Envoy for Space, European External Action Service (EEAS), Brussels

Juliana Suess, Research Analyst and Policy Lead on Space Security, The Royal United Services Institute (RUSI), London

Marco Aliberti, Associate Manager and Lead on International Engagement, European Space Policy Institute (ESPI), Vienna

Giulia Pavesi, Researcher in International Space Law, Leuven Centre for Global Governance Studies, Institute of International Law, KU Leuven

Q&A

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND THE FUTURE OF WARFARE

Artificial intelligence, like any technology, can be used for peace or violence, for good or evil, for socially beneficial or harmful activities. The debates regarding AI and the future of warfare should be approached from this Janus-faced perspective. On the one hand our panel should focus on the implications of the rapid AI development and the use of it in the military sector. As we see a very broad use of AI ranging from logistics and training to battle management, target recognition and (maybe) even the autonomous decision to use force – what are the implications of these developments for warfare on a smaller scale, but also for global security and stability? How can we promote responsible and ethical AI employment – and is it needed on all levels, or only when it comes to critical functions? What steps could or should be taken to prevent AI-driven conflicts, or are these fears overblown? How can existing and new international agreements or rules be developed to ensure an effective governance of AI? On the other hand, we should also look at the positive impacts and opportunities, such as how AI can be

used to promote arms control or non-proliferation, or even be used for humanitarian purposes such as conflict prevention, disaster relief and peacekeeping operations.

Chair:

Niklas Schörnig, Chair of Research Council, Research Group Coordinator and Senior Researcher, Peace Research Institute Frankfurt (PRIF)

Speakers:

Tim Sweijs, Director of Research at The Hague Centre for Strategic Studies and Senior Research Fellow at the Netherlands' War Studies Research Centre

Aaron Shull, Managing Director & General Counsel, Centre for International Governance Innovation (CIGI), Waterloo

Yasmin Afina, Researcher, Security and Technology Programme, UNIDIR, Geneva

Q&A

10:30 Break

PARALLEL SESSIONS - OSLO I-II & BERGEN ROOMS

11:00 DIVERSION OF CONVENTIONAL ARMS

The illicit trade in conventional weapons is one of the most daunting security challenges. It is a major factor that fuels conflicts or contributes to escalating them. What are the main dynamics of arms diversion and how can they be addressed? How can countries and international organizations work together to mitigate the risk of diversion of conventional arms and better coordinate information sharing and the implementation of risk mitigation measures? How can the effective implementation of the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) help reducing the risk of diversion? What lessons can be learned from successful and failed attempts to prevent arms diversion? What role can civil society, non-governmental organizations, and the private sector play in this regard?

Chair:

Giovanna Maletta, Senior Researcher and Acting Programme Director for the Dual-Use and Arms Trade Control Programme at the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI)

Speakers:

Razvan Rusu, President of the Tenth Conference of States Parties (CSP10) to the Arms Trade Treaty

Damien Spleeters, Deputy Director of Operations, Conflict Armament Research, London

Michał Karczmarz, Chair of the Working Group on Conventional Arms Export (COARM), European External Action Service (EEAS), Brussels

Sarah Marie Grand-Clément, Researcher with UNIDIR's Conventional Arms and Ammunition Programme, Geneva

Q&A

CONFLICT DYNAMICS AND SECURITY COOPERATION IN EAST ASIA

The strategic importance of East Asia has grown considerably in the last decades. It has become, in many respects, the major centre of gravity of international politics. Any major destabilizing event in the region can indeed have far-reaching repercussions across the world. The deepening conflictual dynamics, notably those regarding North and South Sea and Taiwan, have the potential to trigger devastating wars. How do economic interdependencies and trade relationships influence the strategic calculus of regional players? Can a mix of mutual deterrence and cooperation work in the absence of effective institutional frameworks? What steps can realistically be taken to promote regional security and address emerging security challenges? Is there the prospect of introducing effective confidence-building measures to prevent military confrontations over territorial disputes? What role can play regional organizations such as ASEAN? How can the EU diplomacy contribute to the stability of East Asia?

Chair:

Benjamin Hautecouverture, Senior Research Fellow, Foundation for Strategic Research (FRS), Paris

Speakers:

Tongfi Kim, KF-VUB Korea Chair Senior Researcher, Centre for Security, Diplomacy and Strategy (CSDS) and Assistant Professor of International Affairs, VUB Brussels School of Governance

Amanda Gorely, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Australia to the United Nations and to the Conference on Disarmament, Geneva

Gudrun Wacker, Senior Fellow, Asia Division, German Institute for International and Security Affairs (SWP), Berlin

Hideshi Tokuchi, President of the Research Institute for Peace and Security (RIPS), Tokyo

Q&A

BIO-TECHNOLOGY AND WEAPONIZATION RISKS

Advances in the field of biological science and biotechnology represent both an opportunity and a threat. They are critical instruments to improve global health but could also be used for military purposes. What are the key developments and trends in biotechnology that pose security risks? How can international frameworks address those concerns? What measures can be implemented to strengthen biotechnology security and prevent misuse or accidental release of dangerous organisms or genetic materials? What role governments, international organizations, and the scientific community should play in monitoring and regulating biotechnology to prevent weaponization risks?

Chair:

Elisande Nexon, Senior Research Fellow, Foundation for Strategic Research (FRS), Paris

Speakers:

James Revill, Head of the WMD and Space Security Programmes at UNIDIR, Geneva

Rik Bleijs, Head of the Netherlands Biosecurity Office, National Institute of Public Health and the Environment (RIVM)

Tatyana Novosiolova, Research Fellow with the Law Program of the Center for the Study of Democracy (CSD), Sofia

Gigi Kwik Gronvall, Senior Scholar at the Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security and Associate Professor in the Department of Environmental Health and Engineering, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, Baltimore

Lijun Shang, Professor of Biomedical Sciences, School of Human Sciences, London Metropolitan University

Q&A

12:30 - 13:30 Lunch

SECOND PLENARY SESSION - OSLO ROOM

13:45 **TESTIMONIES OF NON-PROLIFERATION AND DISARMAMENT – A CONVERSATION WITH THE NEXT GENERATION**

Chair:

Federica Dall'Arche, Senior Research Associate, Vienna Center for Disarmament and Non-Proliferation (VCDNP)

Speakers:

Kristoffer Johannes Burck, PhD Candidate, Chair of Public Law and International Public Law, Justus-Liebig University Giessen - Speaker at the 2022 Next Generation Workshop

Veerle Moyson, Mentee, Young Women in Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Mentorship Programme (YWNGI)
2022 edition

Q&A

14:20 **THE WAR IN UKRAINE AND THE FUTURE OF ARMS CONTROL IN EUROPE**

Russia's aggression against Ukraine has disrupted the security order in Europe, with Russia dealing a fatal blow to the few remaining arms control and confidence building arrangements left in the Euro-Atlantic region. On 22 February 2024, the conflict will enter its third year and as of today, a decisive military victory by either side remains unlikely. Russia likely is counting on a lack of Western consensus and resolve in continuing its military support to Ukraine as the conflict continues. Russia is thus putting cohesion within the EU and in transatlantic relations to the test. How has Russia's war in Ukraine reshaped the security landscape in Europe, and what are the implications for regional and global arms control efforts? What lessons can be drawn from the conflict in Ukraine for past or future arms control agreements and their effectiveness in preventing or managing conflicts? What role can arms control play in the resolution or maintenance of a just and peaceful resolution to Russia's war on Ukraine? How can the EU contribute to laying the groundwork for a sustainable post-conflict Euro-Atlantic security order – especially regarding cooperation with the OSCE and NATO?

Chair:

William Alberque, Director of Strategy, Technology and Arms Control, International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS), Berlin

Speakers:

Wendin D. Smith, Director of NATO's Arms Control, Disarmament, and Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) Nonproliferation Centre (ACDC), Brussels

Malgorzata Twardowska, Deputy Director for Operations Services, CPC - Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) Secretariat, Vienna

Nils Duquet, Director, Flemish Peace Institute, Brussels

Polina Sinovets, Head and Founder of the Odesa Center for Nonproliferation (OdCNP)

Q&A

15:50 Break

16:20 **ARMS CONTROL AND GLOBAL POWER DYNAMICS**

The competition between big powers for global hegemony is leading the international community down dangerous paths. The collapse of several agreements and treaties have dealt hefty blows to the arms control architecture. The re-emerging nuclear rhetoric has heightened tensions and fears worldwide. As a result, scientific, academic and political communities are confronted with compelling questions. How do changes in the global power balance and the rise of new powers impact the prospects for non-proliferation and disarmament? In what ways have regional conflicts and tensions influenced the major powers' attitudes towards arms control and to what extent do these conflicts undermine global security? What steps can we take to safeguard and improve the Non-proliferation and Disarmament architecture in these circumstances? How can arms control agreements adapt to address the emerging security challenges?

Chair:

Marjolijn van Deelen, Special Envoy for Non-Proliferation and Disarmament, European External Action Service (EEAS), Brussels

Speakers:

Adedeji Ebo, Director and Deputy to the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA), New York

Bruce Turner, Permanent Representative, U.S. Delegation to the Conference on Disarmament, Geneva

Guillaume Ollagnier, Director of Strategic Affairs, French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, Paris

Rebecca Sagar, Head of the Counter Proliferation and Arms Control Center, and Deputy Director for Defence and International Security, Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO), London

Q&A

17:50 **CLOSING REMARKS**

Sibylle Bauer, Chair, EU Non-proliferation and Disarmament Consortium /Director of Studies, Armament and Disarmament, Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI)

18:00 *End of Second Day – Conference Adjourns*



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