

Promoting Non-Proliferation and Disarmament with Patience and Courage



Opening Speech by High Representative Federica Mogherini at the Seventh EU Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Conference Brussels, 18 December 2018 - Excerpts

I would like, first of all, to thank the EU Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Consortium and all the think tanks that are part of it because I think that your commitments and your ideas, your work have contributed to shaping our policies and our strategies to a large extent. Today, the European Union is recognised as a global point of reference for non-proliferation and disarmament. I say this with some pride but also with some worries, because sometimes you become a point of reference when others are not anymore. Still, we exercise our role. We have an unparalleled diplomatic and technical expertise in this field - and this is also thanks to your work to understand the challenges we face, how they evolve and to come up with solutions, and sometimes innovative solutions. (...)

I believe that the more serious the challenge is in terms of security, the more it is a diplomatic and political solution that is needed - like we have done in the case of the Iran nuclear programme and I come back to that later. Unfortunately, this idea is less popular today than it used to be just a few years ago and I believe this entails a very serious risk. (...)

We all know that the post-Cold War security architecture is far from perfect and most international agreements are also far from perfect, like everything in life, like any human thing. But this is no reason to move backwards and dismantle what we have achieved so far. The INF [Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces] Treaty, for instance, is one of the key agreements which ended the Cold War, contributed to making our continent Europe more secure. Now we have serious concerns about Russia's compliance with the [INF] Treaty. These have been reiterated very clearly recently by the NATO Foreign Ministers on the 4 December. (...)

These concerns need to be addressed in a very substantive and transparent way - not by words but by deeds. We do not need a new arms race in Europe, some of us still remember the one in the early 1980s. So let us try to turn this current crisis that we would not like to see develop in a negative manner into an opportunity - and not to dismantle but to strengthen the [INF] Treaty and to move forward on the path towards disarmament. The only way forward on all non-proliferation and disarmament issues is to enforce the existing agreements, to modernise and universalise the current architecture and to expand it with better rules and better guarantees. This is somehow the translation in the nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament fields of our attachment to the rules-based global order. (...)

This is why the European Union and its Member States are a driving force - and will continue to be - to preserve and strengthen the implementation of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons as the cornerstone of the global non-proliferation architecture. This is also why I have tried over these years to keep, and I will continue, a constant focus on the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test Ban Treaty and its entry into force. The [Comprehensive Nuclear-Test Ban] Treaty is already contributing today to our collective security because it has created a global monitoring system for nuclear tests that no single country could have set up alone and it could play a crucial role as we work towards the full verifiable and irreversible denuclearisation of the Korean Peninsula. (...)

Bilateral agreements can represent an essential step in the right direction but the only way to guarantee non-proliferation in the long term, in a sustainable manner, is through multilateral agreements that are agreed and recognised by all and are endorsed and monitored by the relevant international organisations - just like our nuclear deal with Iran where its implementation has been verified 13 times by the International Atomic Energy Agency, and I would like to thank the Agency for an excellent work they have been doing over the years. (...)

As a European Union, we definitely want to address Iran's ballistic missiles and we want to address the arms proliferation in the region. To do so, we need the nuclear deal to be preserved. Thanks to the nuclear deal we now have new channels to engage, and engage even in a constructive manner, as some recent developments in Yemen have shown, with Iran to discuss regional issues, to discuss also security matters. With no nuclear deal any negotiation with Iran would be much more difficult, not easier. We would risk, on top of everything, a nuclear arms race in the region and this is, I believe, a nightmare scenario that everyone, I hope, wants to avoid. Dismantling the nuclear deal with Iran would not make us more secure, just like dismantling all multilateral frameworks for non-proliferation and disarmament can do no good. (...)

We are not naïve - I know that sometimes the Europeans are perceived to be naïve - on the contrary, we are pragmatic. We have experienced on our own skin the wounds of war and destruction. And this is why we know that the most pragmatic thing to do in difficult times is to keep working in a stubborn manner, towards the most ambitious of goals that is today a world free of nuclear weapons. Now, I know that it certainly does not look likely today. It may seem even impossible but a deal with Iran also seemed impossible. Negotiations with North Korea seemed impossible. And let me add, peace in Europe after centuries, thousands of years of war seemed impossible just one hundred years ago.

So let me conclude by quoting Nelson Mandela that used to say: "It always seems impossible until it is done". So maybe this is the way forward also for our work.

Full address by High Representative/Vice-President Mogherini to the Conference [here](#)



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EU Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Conference

Statements

[Statement by United States Assistant Secretary of State, Bureau of International Security and Non-Proliferation, Christopher Ashley Ford](#)

[Statement by North Atlantic Treaty Organization \(NATO\) Deputy Secretary General, Rose Gottemoeller](#)

[Statement by the Director-General of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons \(OPCW\), Fernando Arias](#)

Resources

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EU NEWS

The EU Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Conference

The Seventh EU Non-proliferation and Disarmament Conference took place on 18 and 19 December 2018 in Brussels, gathering high-level speakers from public institutions, international organisations and civil society. The Conference, organised by the Istituto Affari Internazionali (IAI) on behalf of the EU Consortium of independent non-proliferation and disarmament think tanks has been, since 2012, one of the key events on non-proliferation and disarmament worldwide.

The conference addressed several key issues, notably preserving the norms against the use of chemical weapons; regulating the trade of conventional weapons; the challenges of autonomous weapons; nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament; arms control in outer space; cyber security challenges. Special sessions were devoted also to regional and horizontal issues such as non-proliferation and disarmament in North-East Asia and in the Middle East; the work of the EU CBRN Centres of Excellence and the implementation of the EU's non-proliferation and disarmament agenda.

The conference was attended by over 230 experts from some 50 countries and over 90 think tanks. A key-note speech was delivered by the Director-General of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), Fernando Arias. Further speakers included NATO Deputy Secretary-General Rose Gottemoeller, US Assistant Secretary of State Christopher Ford, Director of the Geneva Branch of UNODA Anja Kaspersen, International Atomic Energy Agency Chief Coordinator Cornel Feruță, NATO Assistant Secretary-General Antonio Missiroli, besides renowned academics, researchers and officials from around the world.

The EU Non-proliferation and Disarmament Conference demonstrated once again the strong EU commitment and support to multilateral non-proliferation and disarmament and the rules-based global order at large.

For more information about the Conference, please visit the [EU Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Consortium Website](#)

Network Calls

[CALL FOR PAPERS for the SCIENCE · PEACE · SECURITY 2019](#)

Conference, 26th-27th September 2019 - The conference aims at an accurate understanding and fruitful discussions of today's and tomorrow's peace and security challenges. Tracks will include: Cyber-Security, Cyber-War and Cyber-Peace; Nuclear Non-proliferation/Disarmament; Biological/Chemical Weapons; Future Arms Control.

Deadline: 01 April 2019

Location: Darmstadt, Germany.

More info: <https://sps.peasec.de>

[WMD COMPLIANCE AND ENFORCEMENT RESEARCHER](#)

The United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) is seeking a mid-level Researcher for the WMD programme.

Salary: TBD

Location: Geneva

More info: www.unidir.org

NETWORK NEWS

The EU Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Consortium Holds a Seminar on Man-Portable Air-Defence Systems (MANPADS)

On behalf of the EU Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Consortium, the International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS) organised an ad-hoc workshop in Brussels on 27 November on the diversion risks of man-portable air-defence systems (MANPADS), attended by approximately 55 government officials and non-governmental experts from Europe and elsewhere.

Jacek Bylica, European External Action Service Special Envoy for Disarmament and Non-Proliferation, who had initiated the workshop, noted that MANPADS exemplify the interactive nature of the key threats identified in the European Agenda on Security: in this case, terrorism, organised crime and proliferation. The workshop addressed the level of risk, the level of awareness and the actions needed to alleviate risks. A technical session explained the history, design, components, use, and variations of MANPADS, more than one million of which have been produced in the last 50 years. Over the past decade, about 20,000 have been transferred, often with insufficient transparency. Some of these weapons can be used with little training and they can last for decades in the right climate conditions. Trade and diversion trends were explained, and the export controls that have introduced, including best practices promoted by the OSCE and the authorization system introduced by one company to prevent illicit use of its weapons.

Briefings covered the situation in specific regions and conflict zones around the world, including northern Africa, the Levant, South America, eastern Africa, Southeast Asia, and Eastern Europe. While the situation in the Horn of Africa remains fraught, here are serious risks in Venezuela, where the unstable government has procured over 500 MANPADS launchers and dispersed them to 42 military units around the country, and in the Donbas region of Ukraine, where Russian-supported rebels have seized government stockpiles. Elsewhere, government secrecy is as much of a problem as capacity constraints in impeding the tracing of transfers.

Mark Fitzpatrick

International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS)/ EU Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Consortium