

How Can International and Regional Conventional Arms Regulation Efforts Help in Achieving Stability and Security?

Dr Dan Plesch,
Director, the Centre for International Studies and Diplomacy
SOAS/GCSP Seminar, 9 July 2008



Disarmament and Globalisation: Strategic Concept for Regulation and Removal of Arms and Proliferation



SCRRAP

Significance of Disarmament

- As important to sustainable human survival as climate change
- Collective security as realism
- The Globalisation of Security-the UNO

- “All of the nations of the world, for realistic as well as spiritual reasons must come to the abandonment of the use of force.”

Declaration by 26 United Nations 01/01/1942

The Drift to War

- Balance of power and national competition have always produced war over the last 5,000 of history
- Collapse of collective security and disarmament measures since 2000
- Re-emergence of regional and global rivalry, corporate wars
- Millions dead: Congo, Iraq ...

Disarmament: Forgotten issue

- Not discussed in Western politics
- The Non Aligned Movement demand a timetable for disarmament
- What is “Human Security” without Disarmament?

Building Blocks for SCRRAP

- Existing treaties on WMD and conventional (Golden Decade)

→ regional application of CFE-style CSBMs

or

→ wholesale international timetabled approach with production control

Achievements to build on

- End of the Cold War treaties –managing core military systems at a regional level
- Post-Cold War at margins of state capacity
 - Post-Cold War agreements and proposals:
 - Landmines ban
 - SALW
 - Cluster munitions convention
 - Arms Trade Treaty
 - DDR and SSR
- Stocks and production?
 - A globalised business

SOAS Project Agenda

- The nexus of big ideas (e.g. globalisation of CFE) with the SSR-DDR interface
- With London International Development Centre: mapping data from defence economics on arms market, health effects of weapons and war.

Renaissance in Disarmament

- Summits for Climate and Development, but Disarmament?
- Timetable for Climate Change but Disarmament?
- Globalised problem requires global response.



CENTRE FOR INTERNATIONAL
STUDIES AND DIPLOMACY

The Centre for International Studies
and Diplomacy, SOAS,
research programme on
'Disarmament and Globalisation'

www.cisd.soas.ac.uk

