

TOWARDS A RESEARCH STRATEGY FOR THE ARMAMENT AND DISARMAMENT CLUSTER

May 2017

Overarching research question

- I. Developments in armament (conventional, NBC, cyber and spending on those issues). And more specifically, what are these developments:
 - Current trends (i.e. in terms of technological advancement, weapons' systems and life cycle)?
 - Political, institutional and technological drivers?
 - Their consequences in terms of peace opportunities, security and proliferation risks, elaboration of new military thinking/strategies and security arrangements (e.g. 'strategic stability')?
- II. What are current policy, institutional, legal-regulatory and self-regulatory and civil society responses to these developments, and how effective are they?

Comment |GM1|: Could it be of interest to refer to historical trends as well? I.e. whether developments in this field and of this nature follow a certain pattern which can be traced in different historical periods.

Comment |GM2|: I don't know where this can be exactly framed in this context but in this regard developments, production, transfer and disposal were mentioned as phases of this cycle. What about diversion and illicit trafficking as (regrettably) part of this cycle in some cases? Or can this be referred to in the proliferation 'box'?

(Potential) cluster research topics

1. Technology as a driver of peace/security risks
 - 1.1. Intersection/relationship between conventional, NBC, delivery systems, cyber and blurred boundaries between these areas
 - 1.2. Implications for doctrinal developments (esp. nuclear)
 - 1.3. Missiles (who has what; role in force structures; missile defence)
 - 1.4. Implications of increasing importance of intangibles
 - 1.5. Broadening of control rationale to human security/human rights considerations; evolving dual-use concept and blurred/shifting boundaries
 - 1.6. Technology as an opportunity (e.g. verification) vs. risk (e.g. lower threshold for military action), including role of availability of technology (e.g. satellite mapping)
 - 1.7. Changing nature of armed conflict: e.g. 'left of launch/pre-emption through cyber intervention – "The new pre-emptive right of way") and cyber
2. Future of arms control and disarmament (NBC and conventional)
 - 2.1. What are current policy, institutional, legal-regulatory and self-regulatory responses to armament trends and how effective are they?
 - 2.2. Increased legitimacy/reduced respect for nuclear weapons in political discourse or strengthened anti-nuclear norm (ban-treaty and humanitarian initiative)?
 - 2.3. Humanitarian arms control: landmines, cluster munitions, Yemen
 - 2.4. Effects of technology on spending (link to Issue 1)

Comment |GM3|: 2.3. could be linked to 2.1, more specifically to the question why or whether policy responses given in the field of Humanitarian Arms Control (e.g. the EU criteria) have been effective or not