



CENTRE FOR SECURITY COOPERATION

Cooperative Security Environment with Focus on Arms Control Pillar

“Arms Control Symposium”
1-3 July 2019
Rakitje, Republic of Croatia

Introduction

The “Arms Control Symposium” was held on 1-3 July 2019 in Rakitje, Republic of Croatia. It was organized with the financial support of the Federal Republic of Germany. The Symposium aimed at building on the experience of the symposiums from previous years as well as presenting the latest developments in Arms Control. This year the aim was twofold: to reveal new perspectives regarding confidence-building measures in Europe as well as to go a little further, to explore the most recent developments in the bigger context of Arms Control development, i.e., in the area of non-proliferation.

The Symposium was attended by 38 participants, lecturers, speakers and RACVIAC staff. The participants came from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Greece, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Romania, Serbia, South Korea, Turkey, Kosovo* and the NATO School of Oberammergau.

Execution

The Symposium took place on July 2 and started with the Opening remarks by Major General (ret.) Jeronim Bazo, RACVIAC Director. Major General (ret.) Bazo

emphasized that the “Arms Control Symposium”, as a flagship event of CSE Pillar, aims at offering a range of topics which encompass the subject areas of the Pillar in their entirety. Issues include the most recent developments in the Arms Control domain, he said, as well as significant global trends in the field of non-proliferation in order to have a look at the other side of the coin as well. He added that there will be presentations on the ‘big guns’: the nuclear weapons-related issues, as well as on the ‘small guns’, the latest news related to Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW), and the global and regional developments concerning them.



*Welcome address by Major General (ret.) Jeronim Bazo,
Director of RACVIAC*

After the Opening remarks the first presenter to take the floor was Dr Zoltan Bács from the National University of PublicService, Hungary, on the topic of global Arms Control and non-proliferation trends and tendencies. Dr Bács, in his

* This Designation is without prejudice to positions on status and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of Independence. (In accordance with Arrangements regarding regional representation and cooperation.)

scene-setting presentation, addressed the global challenges in the areas of non-proliferation and Arms Control putting the topics of the Symposium into context and drawing attention to challenges related to new advanced military technology and to new circumstances in which the old protocols do not prevail anymore. He also warned about the new evolving arms race.

Following Dr Zoltan Bács Mr Andrew Dolan, Consultant to the Defence Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA), elaborated on the recent developments in the field of nuclear non-proliferation. Mr Dolan also focused on counter-proliferation issues to a great extent. He discussed the problems concerning the perception of WMD (Weapons of Mass Destruction), new risks in the field of proliferation, elaborated on the 'vulnerable world' hypothesis and pointed out that even cyber-attacks could pose a risk in terms of Arms Control.

Dr Erzsébet Rózsa Nagyné from the National University of Public Service, Hungary, delivered her presentation on WMD issues in the Middle East (MENA). Dr Rózsa Nagyné introduced the region in terms of non-proliferation and WMD issues in detail also elaborating on the realities/obstacles in terms of establishing a WMD-Free Zone. She put regional issues into the context of the global non-proliferation regimes. Dr Rózsa Nagyné elaborated on the latest developments as well in the area of (nuclear) non-proliferation including the Iran Nuclear Deal.

The morning session of the Symposium was closed by Dr Joung Hyun Choi from the Korea Institute for Maritime Strategy, who introduced the process of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea's (DPRK's) Nuclear Disarmament including the fundamental conditions for a successful agreement. He provided detailed information about the history of Pyongyang's Nuclear Program as well as about the current status of the WMD programs in North Korea. In his presentation he introduced a possible model of a verification regime for the Korean Peninsula.

While the morning session of the Symposium was more focused on the wider context of Arms Control and non-proliferation issues, the afternoon session was devoted to Arms Control issues per se including SALW.

Colonel Ewald Helmut Nau from the Verification Centre of the Bundeswehr delivered a presentation on the current aspects and developments in the field of conventional Arms Control (CAC) in Germany. He presented Germany's key priorities in this field such as addressing the numerous challenges, reinvigorating CAC in Europe, modernization issues, extending the territory of application, opening up of the Vienna Document (VD) for the inclusion of new weapon systems, issues concerning structured dialogue, WMD, means of delivery in international cooperation and training, etc. In terms of German priorities he introduced the present status of the Open Skies Platform 2020 and elaborated on the activities (SALW, WMD-related) of the Verification Center.

Colonel Robert Kordik from the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Serbia to the OSCE and Other International Organisations in Vienna focused on the outcomes of the OSCE 2019 Annual Security Review Conference. Colonel Kordik provided a very thorough insight into the issues that were on the agenda of the Conference and summarized the main ideas of the event's keynote speakers.

Mr Andrei Sarban from OSCE of BA provided an overview of the OSCE Arms Control activities in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BA) as well as of their support to BA with regards to the implementation of the "Roadmap for a sustainable solution to the illegal possession, misuse and trafficking of SALW in the Western Balkans" project. Mr Sarban introduced their past and ongoing projects as well as their future priorities.

Finally, Ms Bojana Balon, who represented SEESAC, elaborated on SALW and other aspects of Non-Proliferation. Ms Balon provided a detailed introduction on the Roadmap project as well as an insight into the process including the key findings in

terms of the Roadmap Reporting Framework as well as the updates concerning the project.



Group photo on 2 July

Conclusion

According to the feedback received both the academic as well as the administrative aspects of the Symposium were very highly rated. The excellent speakers, thought-provoking topics and motivated participants highly contributed to the success of the event.

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