



CENTRE FOR SECURITY COOPERATION

Cooperative Security Environment with Focus on Arms Control Pillar

**Online “Arms Control Symposium”
9 July 2020**

Introduction

The first online RACVIAC “Arms Control Symposium” was held on 9 July 2020. It was supported by the Federal Republic of Germany. The purpose of this event was to present the latest developments in arms control as well as in non-proliferation, with the aim of revealing new perspectives on confidence-building measures in Europe. This year the event aimed at both exploring the area of nuclear non-proliferation and investigating the matter of the latest developments of arms control in general as well as the regional aspects in particular.

The Symposium was attended altogether by 34 participants, lecturers, speakers and RACVIAC staff. The participants came from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Germany, Italy, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Romania, Turkey and Kosovo*.

Execution

The Symposium started with the Opening remarks by Major General (ret.) Jeronim Bazo, RACVIAC Director. Major General (ret.) Bazo emphasized that the “Arms Control Symposium”, is a flagship event of CSE Pillar and although the focus had been on very different issues in the word recently, non-proliferation and arms control do remain very significant issues to which we should redirect our attention to prevent the further deterioration of global security as

there may be actors who can use the present stalemate to their own benefit.

The Symposium was divided into two panels: the morning panel focused on nuclear non-proliferation issues, while the afternoon panel was built around arms control including regional issues.

The first presenter in the nuclear panel was Ambassador Marjolijn van Deelen, Ambassador for the Non-Proliferation Treaty, Head of Division Non-Proliferation, Disarmament and Nuclear Affairs Division, Security Policy Department (DVB), Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Ambassador van Deelen was delivering a scene-setting presentation offering a range of topics encompassing the main issues of non-proliferation, nuclear non-proliferation as well as related arms control and disarmament issues. She addressed the issue of the upcoming NPT Review Conference as well. Her underlying message was that disarmament and non-proliferation were very much interlinked and confidence was the pine of the area, just as it is a focal point of RACVIAC, while dialogue was a must. Unfortunately, the pandemic has set back the dialogue and there is currently a “very little appetite for disarmament”.

Ambassador van Deelen’s presentation was followed by Dr Zoltán Gálik, Associate Professor, Corvinus University, Budapest who provided an introduction on The

* 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.)

Realities and Perspectives of Nuclear Non-proliferation: National Policies/the Recent Developments of the INF and START Treaties.



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

Dr Gálik presented both the historic background of the treaties and the present status quo and in addition, he also gave some insights into the nuclear related policy of the Soviet Union/Russia and the USA. He finalised his presentation with outlining some options for the future regarding the treaties as well as pointing out the probability that by 2021, first time since 1951, the World will be left without legally binding limits on the nuclear arsenals of the US and Russia.

The next presenter taking the screen was Dr Erzsébet Rózsa Nagyné from the National University of Public Service, Hungary, who focused on Nuclear Non-proliferation Issues in Light of the Upcoming NPT Review Conference. In the course of her presentation, she provided a detailed explanation of the review process in general and the perspectives regarding upcoming review conference including the most burning issues to be addressed: inter alia the new START extension; disarmament verification; ratification of the pending NWFZ Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones arrangements; the confirmation of the testing moratorium and the declaration of a negative security assurance to NNWS (Non-Nuclear Weapon States) by the P5 (five NPT Nuclear-weapon States). Professor Rózsa Nagyné completed her presentation with some insights into Iran related nuclear issues including the Iran Nuclear Deal.

The nuclear panel of the Symposium was closed by Mr Andrew Dolan, Consultant to the Defence Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA) with his presentation titled Arms Control in a Dynamic Threat Environment: Challenges for European Security. Mr Dolan elaborated on the recent developments in the field of nuclear non-proliferation focusing on some of the new emerging threats in the field as well as devoting some thoughts to the European nuclear perspective and to the possibility of formulating a common European nuclear policy. The nuclear panel was closed by a panel discussion.

In the afternoon, the arms control panel of the Symposium took place, which was devoted to Arms Control issues per se including regional arms control issues.

The first presenter, Colonel Ali Kul, Consultant in Permanent Mission of Turkey to the OSCE, focused on the outcomes of the OSCE 2020 Annual Security Review Conference. Colonel Kul provided an extremely thorough insight into the issues that were on the agenda of the Conference and summarized the main ideas of the event's keynote speakers as well as the issues raised. He also elaborated on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the arms control related issues underlying that the pandemic was not only a set-back but also could be regarded as a circumstance opening up new opportunities.

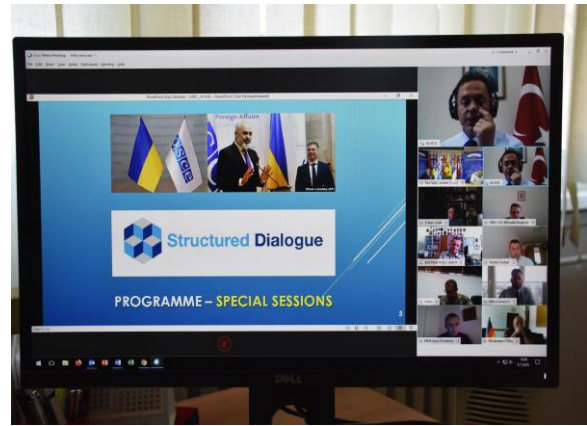
He was followed by Lieutenant Colonel Mike Lamesch, Director, BENELUX Arms Control Agency (BACA), Luxembourg Senior National Representative, delivering a presentation on the BACA approach, how the BENELUX Arms Control Agency is striving to make the best of the current arms control framework. In the course of his presentation he introduced BACA, their particular way of cooperation through which they managed to develop from synergy to symmetry. The cooperation among the BENELUX states can be taken as a role model for regional cooperation. In addition, he outlined the historical background as well as the current status of the conventional arms control treaties.

Arms Control Symposium

Next in row was Mr Lawrence Guisti, Regional Engagement Analyst, PSI Program Coordinator, DTRA, outlining the role of the Proliferation Security Initiative (PSI) in the Global Arms Control Architecture. Mr Guisti guided the participants through the history and the goals of PSI adding a very particular and interesting segment to arms control/non-proliferation issues.

Mr Momir Brajić, Minister Counsellor, Head of Department for NATO and PfP, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina, addressed regional arms control issues drawing the attention to the fact that this year was the year of the 25th anniversary of the Dayton Peace Agreement for peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Finally, Col Robin Mossinkoff (Ret.), Head FSC Support Section, provided a detailed overview on CSBMs and Current State of Arms Control Affairs within the OSCE including the goals of CSBMs as well as the challenges for CSBMs (Confidence and Security Building Measures) and for CAC (Conventional Arms Control). He also elaborated on the status quo of the Structured Dialogue.



Conclusion

The Symposium was a successful ground-breaking online event in the realm of non-proliferation and arms control. The excellent speakers raising thought-provoking topics highly contributed to the success of the event.

Compiled by Beáta Varga, AM, CSE Pillar
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