

EU lunchtime briefing on multilateral disarmament and non-proliferation regimes

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Speaking notes

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BTWC

- no regime building
 - trying to capture science and technology developments
 - focus on actionable items by individual states parties
 - these kinds of approaches preclude discussions on transparency and confidence in compliance (a stated EU ambition)
 - suggestion: research projects (e.g. five) with a request to come up with a novel and innovative ideas (cf VERTIC's verification project in nuclear field). This could, for example, be done via the EU Non-Proliferation Consortium.
- assistance via council decisions
 - try novel ways for organising different types of activities
 - use them as tools to pursue EU goals
- finances pose an acute problem; the future of the ISU is in peril
 - can the EU undertake bilateral the marshes
- current MX: concern about new formula
 - fast pace
 - procedural battles
 - how to ensure that outcomes are reflected in the MSP final document or in the final document of the review conference in 2021?

CWC

- Challenges to the investigative and verification mechanisms
 - the attacks on procedures and scientific analysis go to the hard of the CWC credibility
 - the battle is waged in the court of public opinion
 - there is a need to build a counter narrative
 - this is important for the EU and its members
 - there is a need to expand the capacities of the technical Secretariat
- The trend towards majority voting in the executive Council and the special Session of the conference of the States Parties is a source of concern
 - what will be the longer term implications?
 - The EU and the West should enhance diplomatic engagement with other regional groups
 - the current abstainers will become a battleground
- another major issue is the transition to post-destruction
 - one aspect for the future will be verification. The decision taken in June at the special conference includes the opportunity for enhancing verification under the CWC
 - there is a need for longer term views and ambitions with regard to the CWC
- budget:
 - at the special session of the CWC new tasks were identified for the Technical Secretariat.
 - This has budgetary implications and new money to support the Technical Secretariat's activities needs to be provided.