

EU Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Consortium

Promoting the European network of independent non-proliferation and disarmament think tanks

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Latest Publications



New Realities of AI in Global Security

Malte Göttsche, Kadri Reis, Christopher Daase, Peace Research Institute Frankfurt, November 2025

The CNTR Monitor is an annual open-access publication and the core product of CNTR's research. It highlights technological innovations and developments in the natural sciences that are relevant to peace and security. In addition to analyses of individual technologies and reports on research and development (R&D) activities, the Monitor also explores opportunities for arms control and outlines options for political regulation. This year's issue is called "New Realities of AI in Global Security" and focusses on the security-relevant impacts of AI in the here and now, as opposed to doomsday scenarios, and the need to rethink AI regulation.

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The Shield and the Sword: the Impact of Ballistic Missile Defence on Missile Proliferation

Stéphane Delory & Emmanuelle Maitre, Fondation pour la recherche stratégique, November 2025

This massive use of missile strikes on the ground, on the one hand, and the deterioration of strategic relations between major powers, on the other, are leading to a renewed interest in the acquisition of missile defence. The Trump administration has very visibly expressed this interest with the launch of the 'Golden Dome' programme. These investments are largely justified by the dissemination of missile technologies worldwide. Some of their promoters have asserted that they may bring stability or even contribute to curbing missile proliferation, as countries may refrain from developing weapons perceived as too vulnerable to defence. However, the spread and increased capacity of missile defence is also playing a role in missile proliferation. Indeed, countries operating missile forces are incentivised to increase their arsenals in the hopes of overcoming defensive architectures. Missiles are also becoming more sophisticated to avoid interception. Finally, the development of missile defence is leading to a negative spiral regarding the militarisation of space.

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Atomic responsiveness: How public opinion shapes elite beliefs and preferences on nuclear weapon use

**Michal Smetana, Lauren Sukin, Stephen Herzog and Marek Vranka,
European Journal of International Security, November 2025**

A recent wave of survey experiments has advanced scholarly understanding of public attitudes towards the use of nuclear weapons. In this article, we address the central question: can public opinion influence decision-makers' views on nuclear weapon use? We bridge this critical gap in the literature with a survey experiment conducted on samples of UK parliamentarians and US and UK government employees in official policy roles. We varied public support for nuclear strikes in realistic scenarios to examine participants' responsiveness to public preferences when considering nuclear first use, nuclear retaliation, and third-party nuclear threats. We show that high public support notably increases willingness to endorse nuclear first use against non-nuclear adversaries. Furthermore, public backing shapes beliefs about national leaders' willingness to order nuclear strikes. However, the effect of public opinion is weaker in nuclear retaliation contexts, suggesting that different considerations become prominent when the 'nuclear taboo' has been breached. Importantly, sympathetic public opinion strongly influences perceptions of the credibility of third-party nuclear threats, carrying implications for the practice of nuclear deterrence.

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EU News

EU Statement – UN Security Council Open Debate: Small Arms and Light Weapons

Statement on behalf of the European Union and its Member States by Mr. Quentin Weiler, Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations, at the UN Security Council Open Debate on Small Arms and Light Weapons.

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Network News

Wars, Women, and Nuclear Weapons: The Politics of Peace and Proliferation

On 7 November 2025, Gaukhar Mukhatzhanova, Japan Chair for a World without Nuclear Weapons, and Federica Dall'Arche, Senior Research Associate, joined Valentina Cassar, Senior Lecturer in the Department of International Relations at the University of Malta in a public event aimed at engaging students and young scholars and raising awareness about arms control, non-proliferation, and disarmament issues.

[More info here](#)

14th EU Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Conference

On 10-11 November 2025, the Istituto Affari Internazionali (IAI), on behalf of the EU Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Consortium, hosted the 14th EU Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Conference in Brussels. EUNPDC25 brought together many distinguished speakers, including IAEA Director General Rafael Grossi and UN Under-Secretary-General Izumi Nakamitsu, for an interdisciplinary programme covering WMD and conventional arms, space security, emerging technologies, and regional dynamics across Europe, the Middle East, South Asia, and East Asia.

[More info here](#)

Podcast



In the latest episode of the Arms Control Primer podcast, host Dr Alexander Bollfrass is joined by Professor Anna-Mart van Wyk and Dr Robin E. Möser to discuss the unique case of South Africa, as the only country to build its own nuclear arsenal - consisting of six gun-type nuclear weapons - and to voluntarily relinquish it in the 1990s. In this episode, they discuss South Africa's story of secrecy, politics and transformation, and how the verification of South Africa's nuclear disarmament turned the country from a pariah into a non-proliferation poster child.

[Listen here](#)

Network Calls

AMC Multidisciplinary Conference 2026 – Call for Proposals Open

The Alva Myrdal Centre for Nuclear Disarmament (AMC) is excited to announce the fifth AMC Multidisciplinary Conference: Building Blocks for Disarmament. The conference will take place in Uppsala on 9-10 June 2026.

The application deadline is **30 November 2025**.

[More info here](#)

SIPRI to co-host intensive online course on evolving challenges of WMD non-proliferation and disarmament

The Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) and the European Union Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Consortium (EUNPDC) are pleased to announce an intensive online course on the impact of contemporary geopolitical challenges and novel technologies on the proliferation, development, and risk of use of weapons of mass destruction (WMD), and mechanisms to address these, including towards arms control and disarmament. The course will be held online from 20–23 January 2026, between 14:00 and 18:00 Central European Time (CET).

The deadline for applications is **1 December 2025**.

[More info here](#)