



## Secondment

### Senior Researcher P4/Researcher P3 United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR)

The United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) is a voluntarily funded, autonomous institute within the United Nations. One of the few policy institutes worldwide focusing on disarmament, UNIDIR generates knowledge and promotes dialogue and action on disarmament and security. Based in Geneva, UNIDIR assists the international community in developing the practical, innovative ideas needed to find solutions to critical security problems.

UNIDIR's Conventional Weapons Programme (CWP) examines and promotes ideas and action to prevent or mitigate the negative impact of unregulated proliferation and misuse of conventional arms and ammunition and thus lay the foundations for peace, security, and sustainable development. In cooperation with partners across the United Nations system, States, regional organizations, and the international security expert community, the Programme undertakes action-oriented field research and convenes multi-stakeholder dialogues to deliver advisory support and practical tools to prevent, mitigate, and address the uncontrolled proliferation and misuse of conventional arms and ammunition, thereby supporting efforts to build peace and foster sustainable development. The Programme's research is organized into two pillars and an exploratory research cell, while an "on demand" advice, support, and capacity-building facility helps ensure that research findings, recommendations, and tools are widely used (see table below).

| Objectives                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Programme structure                                                   |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. States and other relevant actors use CWP research findings and tools to effectively manage weapons and ammunition, thereby fulfilling their international obligations and commitments to prevent diversion, uncontrolled proliferation, and destabilizing accumulation to contribute to efforts to prevent human suffering and ensure sustainable peace and development. | Research Pillar 1.<br>Strengthening Weapons and Ammunition Management |
| 2. CWP-generated knowledge increases understanding of the context-specific drivers of demand for illicit and destabilizing accumulations of conventional arms and ammunition, which is used to design and undertake evidence-based interventions to prevent armed conflict and armed violence.                                                                              | Research Pillar 2.<br>Preventing Armed Conflict and Armed Violence    |
| 3. CWP identifies ways in which conventional arms control measures and new technologies can contribute to local-level efforts to address global development and security challenges confronting humanity.                                                                                                                                                                   | Exploratory Research Cell                                             |
| 4. CWP is able to provide "on-demand" advice, support, and capacity-building for its partners on a wide range of conventional arms and ammunition control issues, learning and drawing lessons from efforts to tackle uncontrolled conventional arms and ammunition proliferation and prevent armed conflict and armed violence.                                            | Advice, Support, and Capacity-Building Facility                       |

For more information on the Programme's research and advice, support, and capacity-building activities, please visit <https://unidir.org/programmes/conventional-arms>.

The selected Researcher / Senior Researcher will contribute to the work of the research pillar "Preventing Armed Conflict and Armed Violence" (PACAV). The successful candidate will play a key role in CWP's efforts to gather information on the context-specific drivers of demand for illicit and destabilizing accumulations of conventional arms and ammunition, to inform the design of effective conventional arms control measures as part of broader preventive responses to armed conflict and armed violence. Its research will directly contribute to efforts to operationalize the prevention shift called for in the Secretary-General's New Agenda for Peace and the Pact for the Future.

#### Tasks and responsibilities:

The Researcher / Senior Researcher to be seconded to CWP will be actively engaged in strengthening the reciprocal integration of conventional arms control and violence prevention and peacebuilding. This will include examining and further strengthening relevant guidance and toolkits for identifying and addressing arms-related risks in fragile and conflict-affected settings, as well as gathering lessons learned on successful intervention strategies for reducing or mitigating the threat posed by illicit arms as part of protection of civilians, peace, security, and sustainable development in such settings. The research findings will be shared with UN entities, as well as other international and regional organizations, Member States, and non-governmental organizations, engaged in violence prevention, peacebuilding and sustainable development, to inform and strengthen their ability to address arms-related threats.

**1. Conduct research and analysis:**

- Contributing to the development and implementation of research and analysis for the Programme's "Preventing Armed Conflict and Armed Violence" Research Pillar, including by conducting desk and field research, as well as dialogue activities for relevant stakeholders on integrating conventional arms control into violence prevention and peacebuilding and vice versa. This includes conducting research and analysis on lessons learned on successful intervention strategies for reducing or mitigating the threat posed by illicit arms to the protection of civilians, peace, security, and sustainable development in fragile and conflict-affected settings;
- Leading the overall direction for research and analysis for the "Lomé Initiative" on armed violence prevention and weapons and ammunition management in West and Central Africa, which is conducted jointly with Switzerland and the UN Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa;
- Building and maintaining relationships with key partners and relevant stakeholders, ensuring buy-in for Programme publications and activities;
- Producing meeting summaries, reports, briefs and analysis papers from consultations, meetings and events held or attended by the Programme and the Institute;
- Supporting research and analysis for the Programme's other research areas by engaging with the WAM Research Pillar and Exploratory Research Cell, as directed by the Programme Head; and
- Drafting, reviewing, and/or editing written materials produced by the Programme.

**2. Provide Advice, Support, and Capacity-Building:**

- Contributing to the development, socialization, management, maintenance, and monitoring of the Programme's Advice, Support, and Capacity-Building tools and guidelines. This includes the management and further development of interdisciplinary communities of practice on integrating conventional arms control into conflict prevention and peacebuilding.
- Representing CWP in external engagements and outreach activities with relevant stakeholders, including presenting CWP research findings, tools, and guidelines to a variety of audiences. There will be particular responsibility for promoting CWP's research findings on integrating conventional arms control into violence prevention and peacebuilding;
- Raising awareness, providing training and advice, and promoting policy uptake on CWP's research findings in relation to the Lomé Initiative;
- Undertaking daily communication with relevant stakeholders, including participating in United Nations system working groups; and
- Providing support and advice for multilateral processes on issues relating to disarmament, conventional arms control, conflict prevention and peacebuilding, and sustainable development.

**3. Support Programme planning and organization, including (but not limited to):**

- Contributing to the development of research agendas, concepts and strategies, as well to the strengthening of the Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning system for the PACAV research pillar and the Programme;
- Managing and organizing events (e.g. meetings, seminars and workshops) for the Programme, covering the full lifecycle of event management;
- Ensuring the delivery of high-quality activities and outputs for the "Lomé Initiative";
- Coordinating with the Programme Assistant on administrative tasks, including on procurement, travel, and human resources;
- Contributing to the delivery of the Programme's goals and objectives, as directed by the Programme Head; and
- Organizing and maintaining documentation and records.

**4. Assist in other duties as assigned by the Institute's management.**

The position requires regular interaction with the following:

Within UNIDIR: Head of the Conventional Weapons Programme, PACAV Research Pillar Coordinator, and the Programme's staff, counterparts in other programmes, Directorate, Communications Team and Finance, Budget and Administration Team.

Outside of UNIDIR: Counterparts, senior officers and technical staff in relevant Secretariat units and in UN funds, programs and other UN specialized agencies; representatives and officials in national governments and intergovernmental organizations; partners in academia, civil society and private sector.

## **Qualification and Experience**

### **1. Education**

- Required: Master's degree in international affairs, political science, peace or conflict studies, or a related field is required.
- Desirable: A doctorate or equivalent qualification in international affairs, political science, peace or conflict studies, or a related field.
- Advanced university in international affairs, political science, international law, public administration, disarmament and arms control, international security, peace studies, conflict studies, or a related field is required.

### **2. Work Experience**

- A minimum of 5 / 7 years of professional experience in the field of disarmament and arms control, international security, peace, conflict or defence studies or a related field is required.
- A proven track record of drafting written outputs and producing policy-relevant publications is required.
- A successful track record in project management is required, including in the following areas: designing project activities; monitoring timelines and milestones; implementing activities within budget and on time; coordinating stakeholders; conducting follow-up on project activities.
- Experience examining arms control and security challenges from a policy or practitioner perspective is desirable.
- Experience working in, and building strong relationships with, United Nations field missions, international, regional organizations, government and/or specialized NGO and academia in the fields of conventional arms control or conflict prevention and mitigation is desirable.
- Knowledge of gender issues or experience with gender mainstreaming in a field relevant to the position is desirable.
- At least 5 years of progressive experience in leadership and people management is desirable.
- A proven track record in resource mobilization/fundraising is desirable.

### **3. Language**

- Fluency in English and French is required, knowledge of another official United Nations language is strongly desirable.
- Passive knowledge of an additional Swiss national language for communication with the Swiss Federal Administration is required.

### **4. Security and Safety:**

- Physical and mental fitness to work in this context (Assignments are subject to successfully meeting the medical standards);
- Possession of a valid automobile driving license.

### **5. Nationality**

- Swiss nationality

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|-------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| Duty station:                                   | Geneva, Switzerland                       |
| Start of assignment:                            | 1 January / February 2027                 |
| Duration of contract:                           | 1 year, with the possibility of extension |
| Deadline for applications or application period | 27 October 2026                           |
| Interviews are scheduled to take place on:      | 5 / 6 October 2026                        |

Click here to learn more about the organisation: <https://www.unidir.org/>

**Assignment:**

The assignments take place within the framework of the Swiss Expert Pool for Civilian Peacebuilding. The seconded expert receives a contract from the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs for the duration of the deployment (The benefits are in line with those of a local appointment in accordance with the Federal Personnel Ordinance).

Please apply through the Swiss Federal Administration recruitment system

<https://www.stelle.admin.ch/stelle/it/home/stellen/stellenangebot.html>

A complete application contains:

- an application letter in English;
- a CV in English;
- diplomas and work certificates;
- the completed Personal History Form PEP (see:  
<https://www.eda.admin.ch/content/dam/eda/en/documents/aussenpolitik/menschenrechte-menschliche-sicherheit/stellenangebote-expertenpool/personal-history-form.docx>)<sup>1</sup>

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**<sup>1</sup> Swiss Expert Pool for Civilian Peacebuilding**

The deployment of civilian experts within the scope of Switzerland's policy on peace, human rights, and humanitarian issues is a long-standing tradition. Depending on specific needs, civilian experts are made available for temporary civilian peace projects as election monitors, police advisers or specialists in fields such as constitutional law and practice, mediation, the rule of law, human rights and humanitarian law ([www.eda.admin.ch/expertenpool](http://www.eda.admin.ch/expertenpool)).