



Forum on the Arms Trade 2023-2025 Strategic Plan - approved Sept 2023

Founded in 2015, the Forum on the Arms Trade is transitioning to being an independent 501c3 non-profit registered in the United States in 2023, after being a project fiscally sponsored by the Arms Control Association and the Center for International Policy. The primary work of the Forum is expected to remain consistent during this transition, but the moment provides a chance to clarify efforts and identify priorities for future work so as to strengthen the Forum's value and take advantage of support and partnership opportunities that arise in transitions.

At its core, the Forum is a network of civil society experts and a point of contact for strengthening public efforts to address the humanitarian, economic and other implications of arms transfers, security assistance, and weapons use. Forum-listed experts are located around the world and work on diverse topics including human rights, development, arms control, humanitarian disarmament, cybersecurity, arms and the environment, anti-corruption, and related fields. Headquartered in Washington DC, the Forum will continue to give special attention to the policies and actions of the United States, while maintaining global interests.

The Forum's primary value is that it is a network, and as such is able to rally and amplify the efforts of a community of experts, regardless of each expert's professional home. During 2023-2025, it will continue to work to grow that community and its voice (i.e. **community-building**) believing that in strengthening its own institutional capacity it will be better able to do so (i.e. **institution-building**) in order to impact on many peace and security challenges (i.e. **issues**).

Community-building

Internal facing

Goals:

- Continue to diversify and deepen the list of experts publicly identified by the Forum.
- Foster a new generation of experts.
- Enable experts to make connections and continue to develop professionally.

External facing

Goals:

- Provide a central location for finding experts and issue information.
- Amplify the voices of our community.
- Expand the knowledge and capacity of other communities (media, government, public)

Institution-building

Goals

- Successful transition to independent non-profit.
- Strengthen core staffing.
- Maintain surge capacity on breaking issues.
- Clarify role and expand number of institutional partners.

Of course, the Forum also aims to tackle key substantive arms-related challenges (i.e **issues**), There are a number of current policy challenges, from the expected massive rearmament and other implications of the war in Ukraine, to rising great power tensions between the United States and China (especially around arming Taiwan), to relations with and within the Middle East related to security, to changing U.S. approaches to arms and assistance, as well as efforts to continue to advance humanitarian disarmament approaches, and more.

Issues

Goals

- Maintain resources and promote expert commentary on United States-related arms sales and policy.
- Address the implications of the war in Ukraine.
- Monitor the size and scope of U.S. arms sales to Taiwan and other allies in East Asia and their impact on U.S.-China relations and regional security.
- Raise awareness and identify alternative approaches to the Middle East that are less reliant on arms trade/security assistance.
- Advance humanitarian disarmament approaches.
- Other issues, as identified by Forum-listed experts and in response to breaking developments.

The Forum will intentionally seek to partner with experts and their organizations in its efforts, recognizing that the fulfillment of this strategic plan is not possible by the efforts alone of the small staff the Forum may employ. Therefore, this plan is in many ways aspirational, dependent on the resources of partners as well as funds that may be raised directly for the Forum. As such, it presents a mix of operational priorities and aspirational goals as the Forum aims to remain nimble and responsive to its community and ever-changing peace and security challenges.