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Session II - Shaping a Security Community: addressing emerging global challenges.
Developing a new approach to conventional arms control?

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These are times of growing global complexity. Of course this is a trivial statement, but it is worthwhile repeating it, since it is sometimes overlooked in the process of defining the policies to face emerging challenges.

Notwithstanding the evidence of repeated failures to cope with the natural evolution of social and political structures, the international leading classes have been repeatedly unable to identify, or even to draft possible ways ahead, conducive to increased stability, but not disconnected with the due attention for human rights and real, solid, democracy, so to obtain better perspectives for our communities.

Although many observers often talk, and are indeed surprised, about revolutions, what we are observing is nothing else than the natural consequence of the developments of several factors fairly simple to be identified and evaluated.

- Birth rates versus mortality rates,
- Improved healthcare spreading worldwide,
- Better education levels of young generations, which are becoming growingly aware of their own rights and are therefore increasingly asking for a concrete possibility of having a saying in the definition of their own future.

The result of these factors, combined with persistent and sometimes increasing economical problems, which the ruling classes were unable to cope with, has been the dissolution of regimes that in our imagination seemed to be eternal.

And now?

Now we have to come to terms with growing expectations and with new political environments which have evident difficulties to evolve in structured forms, suitable to take their own place in the international community. Should we help them or should we avoid to look as interfering with their own dynamics? The answer is “yes”, meaning that we have both to offer our availability to provide assistance if and when required, but paying the greatest attention to avoid any misunderstanding about the intention of our actions and offers, so to

avoid any perception of a desire to unduly influence the evolution of the internal political debate.

In any case we need to keep an open dialogue with those communities because today no one would be able to face successfully challenges like:

- Unbalanced demographic trends,
- Uncontrolled migration flows,
- Unequal economical situations,
- Undefined models of governance.

And we could continue further with other “un’s”.

Yet we have to do something in many domains in order shape the future, but not pretending to “control” the developments, since this would be on the one side impossible, and on the other it will be perceived as a renewed will by the “Developed West” to maintain an unwanted dominance.

I have no doubts that the lack of governance we are experiencing today in many parts of the world is greatly aggravated by the relatively cheap availability of weapons, from the small arm types to more sophisticated heavy weapon systems. This phenomenon is new in modern times and cannot be coped with the traditional instruments that have been at least partially effective in other times and in other environments. Therefore we have to develop new approaches, using as principals the instruments that in the past were considered only ancillary.

What do I mean? I mean that the first step is to gain a reliable awareness of the magnitude of the problem, an awareness which must be shared in the most transparent way and which, thanks to this transparency, will earn its reputation of reliability.

So the answer is “INTELLIGENCE”, but not the traditional intelligence of the past, jealously kept within national and sometimes sub-national environments, but an OPEN INTELLIGENCE, a kind of “clearinghouse” where those who have information are willing to share it with other information providers, so to put together a puzzle as close as possible to the real world. It will be a kind of living image of reality, made of data coming from all sources, the most sophisticated ones, as multispectral satellite imagery, as well as the more traditional ones, as humint.

Rules must be established in order to protect the sources and to make available only agreed and uncontroversial pictures.

Is this utopia? Yes, sure, but let us not forget that before Helsinki other and more ambitious objectives and projects were utopia, and nevertheless they have become reality, a reality that now allows all of us to be free from the “Mutually Assured Destruction” nightmare.