

Negotiating Security Risks and Opportunities in the Era of AI

Join us in **Veröld House of Vigdis** in Reykjavik on **Friday May 22** for the 5th annual ACONA Conference. This year's theme, **Negotiating Security Risks and Opportunities in the Era of AI** will bring together leading experts and emerging voices to explore the critical intersections of technology, security, and diplomacy.

The conference is open to all but [please register here](#)

Programme

09:30 Opening Remarks

Martin Eyjólfsson, Permanent Secretary of State, Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Pia Hansson, Member, ACONA Executive Board, Director of the Institute of International Affairs (Chair of the Conference)

09:50 Opening Talk: How Can Small States and Middle Powers Cooperate in Times of Geopolitical Eruptions?

Clarissa Duvigneau, Ambassador of Germany to Iceland, **Jenny Hill**, Ambassador of Canada to Iceland, **Ville Cantell**, Ambassador of Finland to Iceland and **Jónas Allansson**, Director General, Directorate for Defence at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Moderated by **Ingólfur Bjarni Sigfússon**, Correspondent at RÚV the Icelandic National Broadcasting Service

10:50 Coffee Break

11:15 History Discussion: 40 Years after the Reykjavík Summit: Can Adversaries Still Engage in Diplomacy?

Nancy Gallagher, Director, Center for International and Security Studies (CISSM), University of Maryland, **Pavel Palazhchenko**, Member, ACONA International Advisory Board, Former Personal Interpreter to President Mikhail Gorbachev, Senior Advisor, The Gorbachev Foundation, and **Svetlana Savranskya**, Director of Russia Programs, National Security Archive, George Washington University

Moderated by **Christian Ostermann**, Member, ACONA Executive Board, Professor of History, University of Maryland

12:15 Lunch

13:00 Focus Panel: Machines in the Loop: Will AI Stabilize or Destabilize Arms Control?

Belén Bianco, Senior Project Advisor, United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean (UNLIREC), **Jules Palayer**, Researcher, Governance of Artificial Intelligence Programme, Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) and **Jack Shanahan**, Lieutenant General, U.S. Air Force, retired Former Director, Joint Artificial Intelligence Center, U.S. Department of Defense

Moderated by **Christopher Daase**, Member, ACONA Executive Board, Deputy Director, Peace Research Institute Frankfurt (PRIF)

14:15 Coffee Break

14:30 ACONA Innovation Roundtable: Next-Generation Ideas for Arms Control

Mariana Budjeryn, Member, ACONA Executive Board, Senior Researcher, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), **Rose Gottemoeller** (Commentator, online), Member, ACONA International Advisory Board, Former Deputy Secretary General, North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO), Former U.S. Under Secretary of State for Arms Control and International Security, **Sascha Hach**, Managing Director, ACONA, Postdoctoral Researcher, Peace Research Institute Frankfurt (PRIF), **Maria Rost Rublee**, Professor of International Relations, University of Melbourne

ACONA Fellow #1: Negotiation Award Winner

ACONA Fellow #2: Policy Memo Award Winner

15:30 Closing Remarks

Arvid Bell, Chair, ACONA Executive Board, CEO, Anadyr Horizon

16:00 Closing Reception