

# PLANETARY DEFENSE GOVERNANCE

FROM AD-HOC DECISION MAKING TO MULTILATERAL SECURITY REGIME

**DR. NIKOLA SCHMIDT**

CENTER FOR GOVERNANCE OF EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES  
INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, PRAGUE, CZ

# PDC AUDIENCE STATEMENTS

**Michael Byers**

*multilateralism as one of the possible modes of international cooperation*

**Matthew Daniels**

*PD is a multilateral topic & we consider PD as a multilateral matter*

**Paul Abell**

*we want to see this international collaboration (in SMPAG) in future as well*

**Jan Osburg**

*Wouldn't be better to make the critical decisions beforehand?*

**David Koplow – YES!**



# INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION, WHAT IS IT?

- Michael Byers:  
*"ongoing yet often fluctuating process: it can start, stop, and start again"*
- *"The act of nations and peoples working together to*
  - *achieve common goals,* = defending planet
  - *solve global problems, and* = how to achieve it
  - *promote mutual understanding and prosperity."* = **how to sustain it**
- The goal in planetary defense is
  - to agree planetary defense is a global effort ... done
  - to figure out how to do it properly ... amazingly ongoing
  - to ensure predictable decision making ... **job to be done**

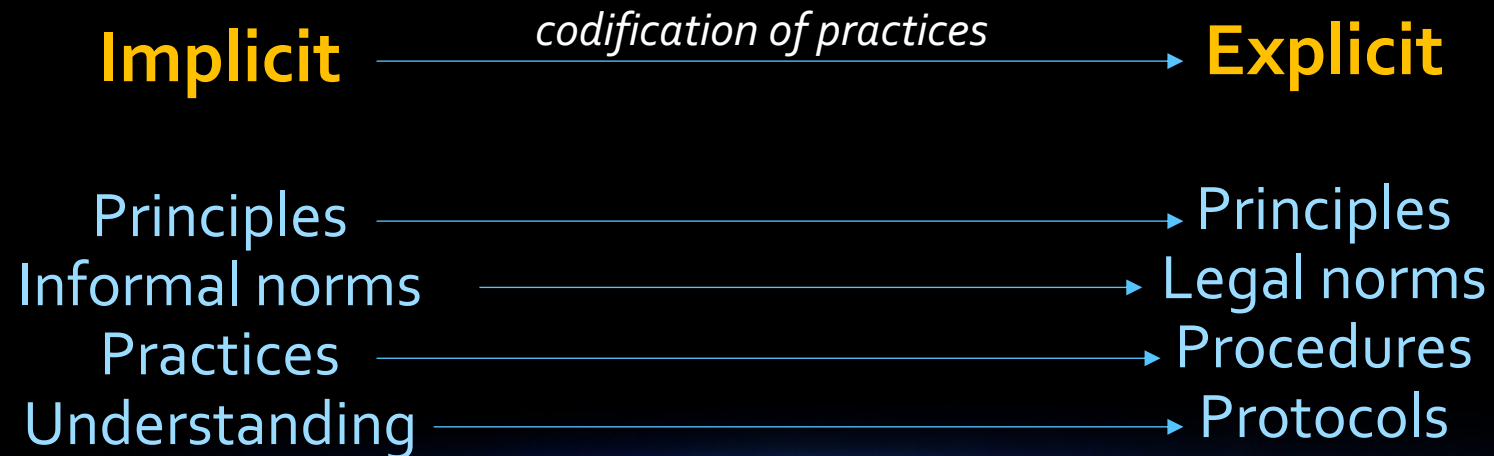


# INTERNATIONAL SECURITY REGIME, WHAT IS IT?

A set of **principles, norms, rules, and decision-making procedures** *around which actors' expectations converge in a given area of international relations*

*Classic definition by Stephen Krasner*

Regimes could spontaneously emerge through ongoing practices as *implicit* and become codified as *explicit*



# BUILDING EXPLICIT MULTILATERAL SECURITY REGIME

Multilateral principles:

- **Principle of Indivisibility** > *equal assurance of security regardless of the members' contribution*
- **Principle of Diffuse Reciprocity** > *each member contributes with its capabilities*

*all parties benefit from a stable and cooperative international system, and actions taken by one state to promote this system will ultimately benefit all regardless of the contribution*

*"Planetary defense is a historically unprecedented achievement, in which scientists and hobbyists from around the world have successfully built the foundation for global security regime from the bottom."*

*James Wirtz, Naval War College, USA*



# BUILDING PLANETARY DEFENSE MULTILATERAL REGIME

Implicit – existing regime of cooperation		Explicit – a glimpse of possible desirable state	
<b>Principles</b>	<i>Sharing knowledge in IAWN Discussing capabilities in SMPAG</i>	<b>Principles</b>	<i>Participating in IAWN Providing capabilities in missions</i>
<b>Norms</b>	<i>Defending Earth Defending populations (trolley problem)</i>	<b>Legal norms</b>	<i>Defending Earth Defending ALL populations (no trolley problem)</i>
<b>Practices</b>	<i>Scientists are practicing cooperation  Decision making within institutions</i>	<b>Procedures</b>	<i>Scientists' cooperation is codified and ensured as national contribution  Decision making among institutions</i>
<b>Under- standing</b>	<i>Epistemic communities have informal relations and understand their goals.</i>	<b>Protocols</b>	<i>States are ensured what protocols will be executed in case various scenarios materialize.</i>

<p>politics depends on...</p> <p><b>INFORMAL MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING</b></p>	<p>politics depends on...</p> <p><b>CONFIDENTIALITY and TRANSPARENCY</b></p>
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*These are only illustrative examples to explain the argument,  
the final shape could today already be significantly more complex*



# ADVANTAGES OF EXPLICIT MULTILATERAL PD REGIME

- Regimes could be achieved by *practices* and sustained by formal *accords/treaties* – *implicit PD regime* is already materializing, explicit ensures the goals
- Decisions of states are predictable, cooperative and some are made in advance
- Security sensitive technologies have protocols for their usage (NEDs)
- Even autocratic states feel more secure and can cause less damage
- All involved are covered by the security measures they all provide
- Science of PD can be sustainably funded because it has a political backing

**Cooperation is predictable, sustainable, and filled with mutual confidence**



# MORE READING

- **Policy paper:**

Schmidt, Nikola. *Building Planetary Defense Governance: A Proposal for Multigenerational, Financially Sustainable and Scientifically Beneficial Planetary Defense Governance*. Policy Paper. Prague: Institute of International Relations, 2021.

- **Forthcoming journal paper:**

Schmidt, Nikola. *Planetary Defense Governance: From ad-hoc Decision Making to Multilateral Security Regime*. Space Policy, 2023 Journal [in review].

