Biography

Patrick Mc Carthy heads the United Nations Inter-Agency Support Unit tasked with developing and supporting the use of International Small Arms Control Standards (ISACS). ISACS provide comprehensive, practical guidance on implementing the commitments UN Member States have made in the UN Programme of Action, the International Tracing Instrument, the UN Firearms Protocol and the Arms Trade Treaty. He is an employee of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), is based in the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) in New York, and works for the 23 UN agencies that participate in the UN’s internal mechanism for Coordinating Action on Small Arms (CASA).


Patrick holds a Ph.D. in International Relations from the European University Institute in Florence, Italy, as well as Masters and Bachelors degrees from the University of Limerick in Ireland, where he is from. During his studies, he was a visiting researcher at the University of Konstanz in Germany and at the University of California in Berkeley, USA.

Patrick is the author of the book, Hierarchy and Flexibility in World Politics: Adaptations to Shifting Power Distributions in the United Nations Security Council and the International Monetary Fund, and continues to publish articles and chapters on issues relating to international peace and security—including UN peacekeeping, Security Council reform, arms trafficking and multilateral disarmament processes and institutions.

Patrick is married, has three children and currently lives in Connecticut, USA.