

## Veerle Nouwens

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**Ms. Veerle Nouwens** is Shangri-La Dialogue Senior Fellow for Indo-Pacific Defence and Strategy. Veerle’s expertise lies in Chinese foreign and defence policy, as well as the wider Indo-Pacific defence and security environment. She leads the IISS–Asia Indo-Pacific Defence and Strategy Programme in Singapore, which focuses on inter-state competition, deterrence and conflict across the Indo-Pacific.

Prior to joining the IISS, Veerle worked as Senior Research Fellow at the Royal United Services Institute in London, where she established the Indo-Pacific Programme and focused on China and Indo-Pacific security, and as a policy officer in the political section of the European External Action Service’s Delegation in Singapore. She has previously worked in a range of think tanks and international organisations on topics of foreign policy, security and defence.

Veerle holds a BA Hons in international relations and political science from Macquarie University, a Master’s in international relations and diplomacy from Leiden University in conjunction with the Clingendael Institute, an MPhil in modern Chinese studies from the University of Oxford and Peking University, and has attended a Mandarin semester programme at Tsinghua University. Ms. Nouwens is bilingual in English and Dutch, and is proficient in Mandarin and French.

*Ms. Nouwens has not previously testified before the Commission.*