



BEYOND NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION

NEWSLETTER FOR STRENGTHENING AWARENESS OF NUCLEAR ABOLITION WITH SEPTEMBER 2013 ARTICLES

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In-Depth Reports

UN Presses Forward on Global Ban on Nuke Tests

Seventeen years after the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) opened for signature, the United Nations has launched a new initiative to expedite its entry into force "at the earliest possible date". Foreign ministers and high-level representatives from the 183 Member States of the Treaty have urged the eight remaining States – China, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), Egypt, India, Iran, Israel, Pakistan and the United States – to sign and ratify the CTBT, "thus ridding the world once and for all of nuclear test explosions". ➤ Pages 2-3

What About The 'Global Red Line' For Nukes

Reputed to be an ardent campaigner for a nuclear weapons free world, ICAN has yet again called upon the powers-that-be to ban all nukes threatening the very survival of planet Earth and entire humankind. The fervent appeal by the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons coincided with the UN high-level meeting on nuclear disarmament in New York. ➤ Pages 4-5

High Opportunity for Nuclear Disarmament at High-Level Meeting



Every nation in the world has been invited to participate at the highest political level in the High-Level Meeting of the General Assembly on Nuclear Disarmament scheduled for Sep. 26. This has never happened before. We have never been at such a moment of crisis and opportunity. ➤ Pages 6-7

Low Expectations for High-Level Nuke Meet

The upcoming event at the United Nations is being billed as something politically unique. For the first time in its 68-year history, the 193-member General Assembly is holding a high-level meeting of world leaders on one of the most controversial issues of our time: nuclear disarmament. ➤ Pages 8-9

'Delusion' Challenges U.S. Claims About Nuclear Iran

A Dangerous Delusion is the work of one of Britain's most brilliant political commentators, Peter Osborne, and an Irish physicist, David Morrison, who has written powerfully about the misleading of British public and parliamentary opinion in the run-up to the 2003 Iraq War. ➤ Pages 10-11

U.N. Chief Eyes Eight Holdouts in Nuke Test Ban Treaty

A group of about 20 "eminent persons" is to be tasked with an unenviable job: convince eight re-calcitrant countries to join the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT). The eight holdouts – China, Egypt, India, Iran, Israel, North Korea, Pakistan and the United States – have not given any indication of possible ratifications, leaving the treaty in limbo. ➤ Pages 12-13

Disarmament Deal Takes Two Steps Back

A Kremlin compromise on nuclear disarmament looks as far away as ever as Russian president Vladimir Putin and his U.S. counterpart Barack Obama use their countries' strained relations to bolster their own domestic political agendas, experts say. ➤ Pages 14-15

What Others Say ➤ Pages 16-17

In Focus

Can the US and Iran strike a nuke deal? ➤ Pages 16-17

Al Jazeera asked a number of analysts of U.S.-Iran relations to reflect on whether there are realistic prospects for a diplomatic solution to the Iranian nuclear standoff and what that would involve. Following are excerpts of their comments, which are available on

<http://america.aljazeera.com/articles/2013/9/24/can-the-us-and-iranreacheanucleardeal.html>



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UN Presses Forward on Global Ban on Nuke Tests

By JAYA RAMACHANDRAN

NEW YORK (IDN) – Seventeen years after the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) opened for signature, the United Nations has launched a new initiative to expedite its entry into force “at the earliest possible date”.

Foreign ministers and high-level representatives from the 183 Member States of the Treaty have urged the eight remaining States – China, the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK), Egypt, India, Iran, Israel, Pakistan and the United States – to sign and ratify the CTBT, “thus ridding the world once and for all of nuclear test explosions”.

The Final Declaration of the Conference on Facilitating Entry into Force of the CTBT adopted unanimously on September 27, 2013 at the United Nations headquarters in New York affirms “the importance and urgency of achieving early entry into force of the Treaty as a crucial practical step for systematic and progressive efforts towards nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation.”

The declaration also describes the universal condemnation of the North Korea’s announced nuclear tests as “a testament to the normative strength of the Treaty and its contribution to the stigmatization of nuclear test explosions”.

The declaration argues that the cessation of all nuclear weapon test explosions and all other nuclear explosions, by constraining the development and qualitative improvement of nuclear weapons and ending the development of advanced new types of nuclear weapons, constitute an effective measure of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation in all its aspects.

“The ending of nuclear weapon testing is, thus, a meaningful step in the realization of the goal of eliminating nuclear weapons globally, and of general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control,” the declaration states.

The declaration states that the UN Security Council Summit on nuclear non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament in New York on September 24, 2009, which adopted resolution 1887, and the adoption by consensus of the Final Document of the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), among other events, demonstrate continued strong international will to see this Treaty brought into force.



United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, who opened the conference, urged all remaining States to sign and ratify the CTBT without further delay. “This is a call I make on behalf of all people in our world who adamantly oppose the development of those indiscriminate weapons and yearn for a safer world,” Ban said.

“History teaches that we have to be diligent in pressing for ratification,” he added, pointing out that the 1919 Convention for the Control of the Trade in Arms and Ammunition never entered into force. Neither did the 1925 Convention for the Supervision of the International Trade in Arms and Ammunition and in Implements of War.

“After these setbacks, it took 88 years for governments to adopt another multilateral treaty to control conventional arms transfers, the Arms Trade Treaty. The international community cannot afford anything near this long wait to revive efforts to outlaw nuclear testing if the CTBT fails to enter into force,” Ban emphasized. “The repeated nuclear tests by the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea should serve as a wake-up call that now is the time to act,” he added.

A uniting force

Lassina Zerbo, the Executive Secretary of the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO), said the UN General Assembly’s High Level Meeting on Nuclear Disarmament on September 26 “marked the resolve of the international community to breathe new life into the multilateral nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime.”

He added: “The CTBT is a uniting force in the multilateral system. Today, the prospects for entry into force of the Treaty appear much more positive than they did for many years. It shall be up to you to seize the moment and to determine the action necessary to realize the dream.”

Photo: Some of the members of the Group of Eminent Persons at the official launching of the group in New York on September 26, 2013. Credit: CTBTO ➔



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János Martonyi and Marty Natalegawa, the Foreign Ministers of Hungary and Indonesia, jointly chaired the biennial meeting, commonly referred to as the “Article XIV conference.” In his opening remarks, Martonyi said particular effort should be placed on dialogue with the eight remaining countries yet to ratify. “We will therefore spare no efforts to convince these countries that embracing the CTBT can only enhance their own security and standing.”

Hungary was one of the first to ratify the CTBT. Former CTBT Executive Secretary Tibor Tóth, who headed the organization for eight-years until Zerbo – who hails from Burkina Faso – took over in August 2013.

Referring to his country’s ratification of the CTBT on February 6, 2012, Natalegawa said: “Indonesia decided to ratify the Treaty last year to create new momentum that would encourage the remaining Annex 2 countries to also ratify it. We also wanted to demonstrate our firm commitment to nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation.”

“The continuing moratorium on nuclear test explosions is important but this is only a temporary measure. It does not ensure the permanent cessation of nuclear weapon test explosions,” Natalegawa added.

The recent ratifications by Guinea-Bissau on September 24, 2013 and Iraq on September 26, 2013 which increased the total number of ratifications to 161 were welcomed by States attending the conference.

The conference agreed on eleven concrete measures to accelerate the CTBT’s entry into force. These include support for bilateral, regional and multilateral outreach initiatives and cooperation with civil society as well as encouraging a

range of other activities designed to increase the number of signatures and ratifications by raising awareness about the importance of the Treaty.

Group of Eminent Persons

The Final Declaration also welcomes the establishment of the Group of Eminent Persons (GEM) on September 26, 2013 to promote the objectives of the Treaty and help secure its entry into force.

“The Group will inject new energy and dynamics into the entry into force process,” the CTBT Executive Secretary said. “As I look to this Group, I am inspired by the sheer magnitude of their experience and expertise. Through their credibility, credentials and experience, I expect the Group to open new paths for the entry into force of the Treaty,” Zerbo said.

States commended the effectiveness of the CTBT verification regime as demonstrated on many occasions, most recently in response to the North Korea’s nuclear test announced on February 12, 2013.

The CTBT bans all nuclear explosions everywhere, by everyone. The CTBT is building an International Monitoring System (IMS) to make sure that no nuclear explosion goes undetected.

Over 85% of this network has already been established. CTBT monitoring data also have non-verification uses and can be used for disaster mitigation such as earthquake monitoring, tsunami warning, and the tracking of radioactivity from nuclear accidents.

[IDN-InDepthNews – September 30, 2013] □

Translation

Japanese Text Version

http://www.nuclearabolition.net/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=1028:un-presses-forward-on-global-ban-on-nuke-tests&catid=2:japanese--chinese--korean&Itemid=3

国連、核実験の世界的禁止に向けて圧力

【ニューヨークIDN=ジャヤ・ラマチャンドラン】

包括的核実験禁止条約（CTBT）が署名開放されてから17年、国際連合は、この条約が「できるだけ早い時期に」発効するよう促す新しいイニシアチブを開始した。

183のCTBT加盟国の外相や高官代表者らは、残り8か国（中国、朝鮮民主主義人民共和国、エジプト、インド、イラン、イスラエル、パキスタン、米国）に対して、CTBTを署名・批准し、「世界から完全に核爆発実験をなくす」よう求めてきた。これら8か国による批准が、条約発効のために不可欠の要件となっている。ニューヨークの国連本部で9月27日に開催された「CTBT発効促進会議」において全会一致で採択された「最終宣言」は、「核軍縮および核不拡散に向けた体系的かつ漸進的な取り組みのための重要な実践的ステップとして、CTBTの早期発効を達成する重要性および緊急性」を確認している。



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What About The 'Global Red Line' For Nukes

By RAMESH JAURA

BERLIN (IDN) - Reputed to be an ardent campaigner for a nuclear weapons free world, [ICAN](#) has yet again called upon the powers-that-be to ban all nukes threatening the very survival of planet Earth and entire humankind. The fervent appeal by the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons coincided with the UN high-level meeting on nuclear disarmament in New York.

In a [statement](#) on September 26, ICAN, a global campaign coalition of more than 300 organizations in 80 countries, asks: "Where Is the 'Global Red Line' for Nuclear Weapons?"

The question alludes to U.S. President Barack Obama's reference to the 'red line' having been crossed in Syria, in the wake of alleged use of chemical weapons, and threatening military action, which has been averted by Russia jumping in to build a bridge to President Bashar Hafez al-Assad.

"The horrors of the attack in Syria have shown the danger inherent in the continued possession of weapons of mass destruction. The global outrage in response to the carnage caused by the use of chemical weapons is proof that until they are eradicated, there is a significant risk that one day they will be used, whether by intention or by accident. Nuclear weapons, for all their status and symbolism, are not exempt from this stark reality, and the cost of neglecting to recognize this would be disastrous," the ICAN warns.

Eight 'confirmed signatories' of the statement, besides Liv Tørres, General Secretary of the [Norwegian People's Aid](#), who posted it on The Huffington Post, are: Madeleine Rees, Secretary General, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom ([WILPF](#)); Philip Jennings, General Secretary, [UNI Global Union](#); Jan Gruiters, Executive Director, [IKV Pax Christi](#); Kate Hudson, General Secretary, Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament ([CND](#)); Akira Kawasaki, Member of the Executive Committee, [Peace Boat](#); Michael Christ, Executive Director, International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War ([IPPNW](#)); and Hirotsugu Terasaki, Executive Director, Soka Gakkai International ([SGI](#)).

SGI – a lay Buddhist movement linking more than 12 million people around the world – has a pride of place among faith-based organisations. It has been campaigning relentlessly for abolition of nuclear weapons since the second Soka Gakkai President Josei Toda's Declaration Calling for the Abolition of Nuclear Weapons issued on September 8,



1957. In 2007, SGI launched the [People's Decade for Nuclear Abolition campaign](#) in order to galvanize public opinion in favour of banning all nuclear arsenal.

In fact SGI president Daisaku Ikeda put forward in his annual Peace Proposal 2010 the idea of organising a nuclear abolition summit in Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 2015 to coincide with the 70th anniversary of the atomic bombings of those cities.

He reiterated the proposal in 2011 and the following year, and suggested the possibility of even organising the 2015 NPT Review Conference in Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

In Peace Proposal 2013, Ikeda went a step further and pleaded for an expanded summit for a nuclear-weapon-free world: "The G8 Summit in 2015, the seventieth anniversary of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, would be an appropriate opportunity for such a summit, which should include the additional participation of representatives of the United Nations and non-G8 states in possession of nuclear weapons, as well as members of the five existing NWFZs (nuclear weapons free zones) and those states which have taken a lead in calling for nuclear abolition."

Global humanitarian threat

The statement carried by The Huffington Post stresses: "Nuclear disarmament is not solely the province of nuclear weapon possessors. Nuclear weapons are a global humanitarian threat, and the responsibility to eliminate them lies with nuclear free states as much as it does with nuclear weapon possessors."

The signatories argue that nukes are indiscriminate weapons, whose effects cannot be limited or controlled. In fact, the use of even a small fraction of existing arsenals – more than 17,000 warheads – would disrupt the climate and threaten agricultural production, leading to the starvation of up to two billion people. ☹

Image: UN General Assembly



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This is because, as was made clear by the Hiroshima Committee of Experts in their analysis of the U.S. bombing of Hiroshima, "It is not possible to protect civilians from a nuclear weapons attack. To protect civilians, there is no measure other than to prevent a nuclear weapons attack from occurring, whether it be deliberate or accidental. To prevent the use of nuclear weapons, there is no way other than to abolish nuclear weapons themselves."

In an attempt to drive home the point, the signatories of the statement say: "Study upon study has pointed to the inability to prevent or care for civilian casualties on a mass scale. Mitigation is simply impossible for a weapon capable of producing temperatures comparable to the centre of the sun."

With an eye on states which tend to bury their heads in the sand, the statement adds: "Nuclear weapon possessors are, of course, not ignorant of the true effects of nuclear weapons, just as they are not ignorant of the double standard that is afforded these weapons compared to other weapons of mass destruction."

The statement adds: "The truth is that, for decades, nuclear weapons have been given an almost mythological status: they are seen as 'keepers of the peace' or 'necessary evils.' They have been transmuted into symbols of power and prestige for the political and military elites of nuclear possessor states."

While keeping the focus on the grave humanitarian impact of nukes, the eight 'confirmed signatories' of the ICAN statement emphasize: "Nuclear weapons are weapons -- not policy tools. No security doctrine or theory can completely obscure the fact that any use of nuclear weapons would entail catastrophic humanitarian consequences -- massive civilian casualties and irreparable damage to the environment, public health and the world economy."

The Conference on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons in Oslo held in March 2013, concluded that it would not be possible to coordinate and deliver any meaningful humanitarian response, to a catastrophe brought about by nuclear weapons. No international organization or state could adequately deal with the situation. Experts pointed out at the Oslo conference that any use of nuclear weapons would eradicate hospitals, food, water and med-

ical supplies, transportation and communications—infrastructure required for the treatment of survivors. They cautioned that physicians and paramedics arriving from outside would have to work without resources needed for effective treatment; furthermore, radiation, as we know from both Chernobyl and Fukushima, can make it impossible for rescuers to enter highly contaminated areas.

Legally binding instrument banning nukes

Against this backdrop, the ICAN statement signatories said: "Recognising the catastrophic humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons means taking a clear position against the acceptability of these weapons. It means clearly articulating that the possession and threat of use of nuclear weapons are directly opposed to humanitarian principles and formulating that stigma into a legally binding instrument which bans them outright."

Expanding this argument, ICAN campaigner Nosizwe Lise Baqwa said at the UN General Assembly on September 26: "That nuclear weapons have not already been clearly declared illegal for all, alongside the other prohibited weapons of mass destruction, is a failure of our collective social responsibility."

Speaking on behalf of non-governmental organisations (NGOs), she said: "The time has come for committed states to correct that failure. The time has come to ban nuclear weapons once and for all."

"The current framework provided for multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations has not been able to overcome the lack of political will of nuclear-armed states to comply with their obligations to disarm. Let us not allow deadlocks in meetings to be the legacy we leave behind us, for our children," she added.

Baqwa appeared to be sharing SGI President Ikeda's conviction, when she said: "A treaty banning nuclear weapons is achievable. It can be initiated by states that do not possess nuclear weapons. Nuclear-armed states should not be allowed to prevent such negotiations. We should not abandon productive or promising efforts in other forums, but neither should we ignore the opportunity that lies before us now, to make history." [IDN-InDepthNews – September 27, 2013] □

Translations

Arabic

http://www.nuclearabolition.net/documents/Arabic_What_About_The_Global_Red_Line_For_Nukes.pdf

Chinese

http://www.nuclearabolition.net/documents/Chinese_What_About_The_Global_Red_Line_For_Nukes.pdf

Japanese http://www.nuclearabolition.net/documents/Japanese/Japanese_What_About_The_Global_Red_Line_For_Nukes.pdf



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High Opportunity for Nuclear Disarmament at High-Level Meeting

By JONATHAN GRANOFF*

HARRISBURG, Pennsylvania, U.S. (IPS) - Every nation in the world has been invited to participate at the highest political level in the High-Level Meeting of the General Assembly on Nuclear Disarmament scheduled for Sep. 26. This has never happened before. We have never been at such a moment of crisis and opportunity.

The crisis arises because the rational route forward which has been identified by the vast majority of the world's countries in support of advancing a convention banning nuclear weapons or, as the secretary general has also suggested, a framework of legal agreements achieving elimination, has not been supported by the U.S. or Russia, two states with more than 95 percent of the world's nuclear weapons.

Thus, progress toward disarmament lacks the galvanising focus preliminary negotiations on a treaty would provide. It is also a moment of opportunity since except for India and Pakistan, no states with nuclear weapons are actually hostile to one another.

Rhetorical puffery has become expected in season after season while regularly a new crisis du jour sweeps attention away from nuclear disarmament obligations. Anyone can see cynicism as a dangerous and contagious problem looming on the horizon if nothing meaningful is done soon.

Many countries know this and that is why the 67th session of the General Assembly Resolution A/RES/67/39 moved to convene this high-level meeting on nuclear disarmament for the 68th session of the General Assembly next week.

China and India have both expressed support for negotiating a universal ban on the weapons and Pakistan has stated it would follow. France, the U.S. and UK, and Russia openly oppose progress now on even taking preliminary steps to negotiate a legal ban.

Claims are made that progress through the START process and obtaining incremental steps such as entry into force of the Comprehensive Test Ban and a treaty banning the further production of weapons grade fissile materials must be achieved and focused upon to the exclusion of other efforts. Diplomats from nuclear weapons states even assert



that advocacy for a universal, non-discriminatory ban would divert attention and diminish effectiveness in pursuing incremental steps.

The problems with only taking this incremental approach are many. The U.S. Senate is unlikely in the near term to ratify the test ban. The case for the test ban as part of the march toward disarmament has not been made domestically and thus its advocacy appears as incoherent.

It is hard to make the case that the U.S. military should ever be constrained without demonstrating the benefits of obtaining a universal ban on the weapons. Incoherence in advocacy leads to policies going in multiple directions. An example of such incoherence was obvious in the policy for ratification for the START treaty – support the treaty and pledge hundreds of billions of dollars to “modernise” the arsenal and infrastructure.

The negotiations for the fissile materials cut off treaty are being done in the Conference on Disarmament, a body of 61 nations in Geneva that operates by consensus. Thus, one country can always stop progress. This body has not even had a working agenda in over a decade. Spoilers abound. Progress will not take place there.

Third, reliance on progress on the bilateral leadership of Russia and the U.S. is foolish. Russia has made clear that the next round on START reductions will not happen without resolution of differences on the dangers of global precision strike aspirations of the U.S. military where nuclear warheads are replaced by conventional warheads and new weapons fulfill old missions, missile defense as a possible sword and shield should technical breakthroughs arise, and weaponisation of space, a course Russia wants prohibited by treaty. ☹

**Jonathan Granoff is President of the Global Security Institute, and Adjunct Professor of International Law at Widener University School of Law.*

Picture: Jonathan Granoff, President of the Global Security Institute, speaking at the Article VI Forum hosted by the Middle Powers Initiative in Berlin, Germany, January 29-30, 2009 | Credit: Wikimedia Commons



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These issues will not be resolved soon since behind them all is a cadre within the U.S. military which wants to always have a dominant position for security purposes. Progress is unlikely while Russia feels threatened.

Yet: Consensus with Russia and the U.S. that through a universal treaty, the Chemical Weapons Convention, progress in Syria can be made thus making us all safer bodes well for progress on banning nuclear weapons. Surely no one would claim nuclear weapons are any less abhorrent and more legitimate to use than chemical weapons.

Yet: Imagine if the 114 leaders of governments in the five nuclear weapons-free zones of Latin America, Africa, Southeast Asia, Central Asia and the South Pacific each said, "My country benefits from being in a nuclear weapons-free zone and remains threatened by those countries with nuclear weapons. It is time we made the entire world a nuclear weapons-free zone."

The necessary upgrading of the issue to the prominent position it deserves would happen.

Imagine if the statement from the gathering said, "We will dedicate a high level day each year until the threat of nuclear weapons is gone." Imagine if commencement of preliminary negotiations were committed to happen by a critical mass of leaders "in the Conference on Disarmament, or any other appropriate and effective venue at the earliest possible time, and we commit to full participation in this process."

Translations

German

http://www.nuclearabolition.net/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=1014:hochrangiges-un-treffen-bietet-chance-fuer-atomare-abruestung-&catid=5:german&Itemid=6

Japanese

http://www.nuclearabolition.net/documents/japanese/Japanese_High_Opportunity_for_Nuclear_Disarmament_at_High-Level_Meeting.pdf

Such a call for progress would be an irresistible stimulant. But what would really ring a bell for progress would be a statement along these lines:

"There are global common public goods which must be obtained to make us all safer. Cooperation in addressing terrorism, cyber security, stable financial markets, and peaceful democratisation in countries in transition are of high value and critical importance. The very survival of civilisation depends on how well we work together in obtaining other global common goods – protecting the climate, the oceans, the rainforests, all living systems upon which humanity depends.

"There is an existential imperative that we cooperate in new dynamic ways to meet these new challenges. Nothing could compel us more strongly to resolve our differences in a spirit of peace and common purpose. Even thinking of seriously stating what is common and good for us all makes clear that possessing and threatening to use nuclear weapons is irrational, dysfunctional and must end, now.

"We breathe the same air and it is either cleansed with a spirit of cooperation or befouled by fear and threat. We are resolved to succeed in spirit of cooperation for this and future generations. That spirit calls us to denounce and renounce nuclear weapons for all now." [IPS | September 18, 2013] □

【視点】ハイレベル会合という核軍縮へのまたとない機会（ジョナサン・グラノフ、グローバル安全保障研究所所長）

【米ペンシルベニア州 Harrisburg IPS=ジョナサン・グラノフ】

国連総会はその加盟国に対して、9月26日に開催予定の「核軍縮に関する国連総会ハイレベル会合」に最も高い政治的レベルで参加するよう招請している。これは核軍縮をテーマにした会合としては、史上初めてのことである。また人類は今日ほど「危機」と「チャンス」が混在する瞬間に立ち会ったことがない。



資料: Jonathan Granoff

「危機」というのは以下の構図である。つまり、世界の圧倒的多数の国々が、「核兵器禁止条約」、或いは、国連事務総長が提案している「核廃絶達成のための法的枠組み」に向けた交渉開始を支持しているにもかかわらず、世界の核兵器の95%以上を保有している米国とロシアが、こうした未来に続く合理的な道筋を支持していない現状である。このため、核軍縮に向けた動きは、予備交渉の段階から焦点を欠いてしまい、遅々として進んでいない。



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Low Expectations for High-Level Nuke Meet

By THALIF DEEN

UNITED NATIONS (IPS) - The upcoming event at the United Nations is being billed as something politically unique. For the first time in its 68-year history, the 193-member General Assembly is holding a high-level meeting of world leaders on one of the most controversial issues of our time: nuclear disarmament.

But expectations for the meeting are low, says Jayantha Dhanapala, a former U.N. under-secretary-general for disarmament affairs. Unless disarmament becomes a priority for possessor states, he told IPS, speeches and meetings alone are not going to change the stark dangers posed by this most destructive weapon of mass destruction (WMD).

"A decision to outlaw nuclear weapons in the same way as biological and chemical weapons is essential," said Dhanapala, who is president of the Pugwash Conferences on Science and World Affairs, which jointly won the 1995 Nobel Peace prize for their efforts at nuclear disarmament. "The time to start negotiations on a Nuclear Weapon Convention (NWC) is not tomorrow but now," he said.

Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, who has consistently maintained that nuclear disarmament is one of his top priorities, is expected to call for "a world free of nuclear weapons" at the meeting scheduled to take place at the United Nations on Sep. 26.

Asked if the high-level meeting will be another exercise in futility, Alyn Ware, a member of the World Future Council and consultant to the International Association of Lawyers Against Nuclear Arms, told IPS, "It could be an exercise in futility if governments, including the non-nuclear governments, do not treat it seriously."

He said non-nuclear governments should participate at the highest level, and make strong statements that they are more secure without nuclear weapons and that the security of all in the 21st Century requires the abolition of nuclear weapons, meaning that it is a "global good of the highest order".

Ware said they should also pledge to dedicate greater resources and political traction to developing the building blocks for a nuclear weapons-free world through the Open



Ended Working Group (OEWG) to which the nuclear weapons states (NWS) have an obligation to join.

Currently, there are five declared nuclear weapon states, namely the United States, Britain, Russia, France, China, all five permanent members of the Security Council (P5), along with three undeclared nuclear weapon states, India, Pakistan, Israel.

Despite its three nuclear tests, North Korea still remains in limbo.

The three undeclared nuclear powers have all refused to sign the Nuclear Non-Proliferation

Treaty (NPT), as against the five declared nuclear powers who are states parties to the treaty.

Dhanapala said nine countries – five within the NPT and four outside – possess a total inventory of 17,270 nuclear warheads today, 4,400 of them placed on missiles or located on bases ready to be launched in minutes.

The U.S. and Russia alone own 16,200 of these warheads, he pointed out. And despite the lingering horrors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the risks of nuclear weapons being used again – by design or accident, by states or non-state actors – are huge, he added.

"The results would be catastrophic for all humankind," Dhanapala warned.

Ware told IPS the role of nuclear weapons could be reduced in Northeast Asia through negotiations for a North East Asian Nuclear Weapon Free Zone.

The U.S., he said, could exercise more effective diplomacy in the Middle East to move the Arab states and Israel to participate in good faith in the proposed U.N. Conference on a Middle East Zone Free from Nuclear Weapons and Other Weapons of Mass Destruction. Arab States are demanding preconditions that are unacceptable to Israel, so both need to exercise some flexibility, he noted. ☺

Picture: Jayantha Dhanapala | Credit: Wikimedia Commons



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Non-nuclear countries could use the OEWG, as long as the mandate is renewed, to commence preparatory work on the building blocks for a nuclear weapons-free world (based on the Model Nuclear Weapons Convention circulated by the secretary-general) regardless of whether or not the nuclear weapons states join the OEWG in the near future.



Dhanapala told IPS the first Special Session of the General Assembly Devoted to Disarmament (SSODI) was held in 1978 as a direct outcome of the summit of world leaders of the 1976 Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) held in Colombo, Sri Lanka. It was a period of detente in the Cold War and a far-reaching Final Declaration was adopted.

No multilateral gathering has matched that remarkable consensus on fundamental concepts achieved 35 years ago, especially on the priority of nuclear disarmament, he added.

“Yet today, the multilateral disarmament machinery established by SSOD I is in grave disarray,” he said. The sole multilateral negotiating body, the Conference on Disarmament, has neither negotiated treaties nor even adopted a programme of work since 1996, according to Dhanapala.

The Disarmament Commission has met ritualistically every year without any agreed texts in the last 14 years.

Translation

Arabic > <http://ipsinternational.org/arabic/nota.asp?idnews=3074>

And the U.N.'s First Committee, dealing with disarmament, is still churning out resolutions with little impact, he added.

“While the mirage of a nuclear weapon-free world is held aloft, the CTBT has not entered into force, the promised conference on the Middle East as a WMD-free zone has not been held and bilateral U.S.-Russian nuclear dis-

armament talks have not even started,” Dhanapala said

The need for a radical change has been recognised by the countries of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) and their supporters have resisted NAM demands for a SSOD IV.

A one-day high-level meeting of the General Assembly is a compromise, he said.

The 2010 NPT Review Conference with its 64-point action programme and the increasing recognition of humanitarian disarmament are an inadequate basis for the non-nuclear weapon states, most of which are in legally recognised nuclear weapon-free zones, to trust the nuclear armed states to disarm.

The Sep. 26 meeting must be the beginning of a nuclear disarmament process, Dhanapala said. [IPS | September 13, 2013] □



توقعات غير متفائلة من حيث النتائج

أول قمة عالمية لنزع السلاح النووي.. بلا أمل

بقلم تاليف ديبين/وكالة إنتر بريس سيرفيس



قاعة الجمعية العمومية للأمم المتحدة
Credit: UN Photo/Paulo Filgueiras

الأمم المتحدة، سبتمبر (أي بي إس) - لا شك أن الأمر يطغى بحدث أممي فريد من نوعه سياسياً. فللمرة الأولى في تاريخها البالغ 68 عاماً، تعقد الجمعية العامة للأمم المتحدة بأعضائها الـ 93، اجتماعاً رفيع المستوى لقيادة العالم بشأن واحدة من القضايا الأكثر إثارة للجدل في العصر الحالي: نزع السلاح النووي.

لكن التوقعات بشأن هذا الاجتماع غير متفائلة، كما يقول جايناندا دانابالا، نائب الأمين العام السابق لشؤون نزع السلاح في الأمم المتحدة. فقد صرح لوكالة إنتر بريس سيرفيس، أنه ما لم يصبح نزع الأسلحة النووية أولوية للدول الحائزة عليها، فالخطب والاجتماعات وحدها لن تغير المخاطر الكبيرة التي تحق بالعالم جراء هذا السلاح الأكثر تدميراً من كافة أسلحة الدمار الشامل.

وقال دانابالا -وهو رئيس مؤتمرات بوعواش للعلوم والشؤون العالمية والذي فاز بجائزة نوبل للسلام لعام 1995 لجهوده في نزع السلاح النووي- أن قرار تحريم الأسلحة النووية كما حرمت الأسلحة البيولوجية والكيميائية، يعتبر أمراً ضرورياً.



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'Delusion' Challenges U.S. Claims About Nuclear Iran

By PETER JENKINS*

LONDON (IPS) - *A Dangerous Delusion* is the work of one of Britain's most brilliant political commentators, Peter Osborne, and an Irish physicist, David Morrison, who has written powerfully about the misleading of British public and parliamentary opinion in the run-up to the 2003 Iraq War.

This book will infuriate neoconservatives, Likudniks and members of the Saudi royal family but enlighten all who struggle with what to think about the claim that Iran's nuclear programme threatens the survival of Israel, the security of Arab states in the Persian Gulf, and global peace.

Writing with verve and concision as well as with the indignation that has been a feature of good criticism since the days of Juvenal, the authors spare the reader potentially tedious detail so that the book can be devoured in a matter of hours.

Their purpose, stated early in the work, is to argue that U.S. and European confrontation with Iran over its nuclear activities is unnecessary and irrational. Insofar as some concern about Iranian intentions has been and is justified, that concern can be allayed by measures that Iran has been ready to volunteer since 2005 and by more intrusive international monitoring.

An international legal instrument, the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), has a starring part in the story. This treaty, one of the fruits of the détente following the 1962 Cuban missile crisis, has been remarkably successful in discouraging the spread of nuclear weapons. Iran has been a party since the NPT entered into force in 1970.

In 1968 a senior U.S. official testified before the Senate that the newly drafted NPT did not prohibit the acquisition of nuclear technologies that could be used for military as well as civil purposes (dual-use).

It was assumed that parties would have an interest in complying with a treaty designed to limit the spread of devastating weapons and that those tempted to stray would be deterred by frequent international monitoring of the use of nuclear material.

**Peter Jenkins was a British career diplomat for 33 years following studies at the universities of Cambridge and Harvard. He served in Vienna (twice), Washington, Paris, Brasilia and Geneva. His last assignment (2001-06) was that of UK Ambassador to the IAEA and UN (Vienna). Since 2006 he has represented the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Partnership, advised the Director of IIASA and set up a partnership, ADRgAmbassadors, with former diplomatic colleagues, to offer the corporate sector dispute resolution and solutions to cross-border problems.*



Iran's troubles began with India's 1974 nuclear test. Although India had not signed, let alone ratified, the NPT and had used plutonium to fuel its device, the United States and Europe interpreted the explosion as evidence that the NPT's drafters had blundered in failing to prohibit have-nots from acquiring dual-use technologies such as uranium enrichment.

They formed the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) and set about making emerging states' acquisition of such technologies progressively harder – in a sense, amending the NPT without the consent of most of its parties.

Then, in the 1990s, Israeli politicians began to claim publicly that Iran had a nuclear weapons programme and was only a few years away from producing warheads.

As a result, when Iranian opponents of the Islamic Republic claimed in 2002 that Iran was secretly building a uranium enrichment plant, many U.N. members were ready to believe that Iran was violating or was about to violate the NPT.

Such was the sense of danger generated by the United States and some of its allies that people overlooked the absence of evidence that Iran had even intended the enrichment plant to be secret.

Instead, Iranian admission that scientists and engineers had engaged in undeclared nuclear research led people to assume that Iran's obligation to declare the enrichment plant 180 days before the introduction of nuclear material (and not earlier) would have been ignored had it not been for the opposition group's whistle-blowing. ☞



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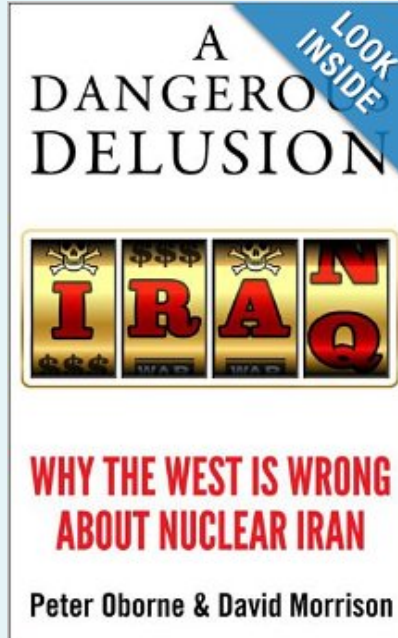
In-Depth Reports

Iran's travails since 2004 – condemnation by the IAEA Board of Governors and the U.N. Security Council, ever harsher sanctions, U.S. and Israeli military threats in violation of the U.N. Charter – would have been both logical and rough justice if there had been evidence that Iran was intent on acquiring nuclear weapons.

That is not the case, however, as Osborne and Morrison make plain. On the contrary, since 2007 U.S. intelligence estimates have stressed the absence of an Iranian decision to use its enrichment plants to make fuel for nuclear weapons; the IAEA has repeatedly stated that Iran's known nuclear material remains in civil use; and the only nuclear weapon activity in Iran for which there is evidence is the kind of research that many NPT parties are assumed to have undertaken.

Trying to account for this irrational handling of the Iranian case, the authors posit a U.S. determination to prevent Iran from becoming a major Middle East power.

That view may be the most questionable of their judgments, as possible explanations exist elsewhere: intensive lobbying in Washington, London and Paris by Israel and Saudi Arabia, which see Iran as a regional rival and need to justify the strategic demands they make of the United States, the influence of counter-proliferation experts obsessed with closing an imagined NPT loophole, the Islamic Republic's terrorism and human rights record, and antagonisms born of bitter memories.



The hypocrisy of politicians is, rightly, a target of the authors' indignation. In 2010 then-Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, defending the imposition of sanctions, proclaimed: "Our goal is to pressure the Iranian government... without contributing to the suffering of ordinary Iranians."

In 2012 President Obama, seeking re-election, boasted: "We organised the strongest sanctions in history and it is [sic] crippling the Iranian economy."

But the authors' fiercest indignation is reserved for the mainstream media, whom they indict for embedding in public discourse the idea that Iran has or is seeking nuclear weapons by ignoring facts and serving as a conduit for anti-Iranian propaganda.

By endorsing the proposition that Iran's nuclear ambitions must be curbed by sanctions or the use of force, the mainstream media risk repeating their past mistake of failing to question the Bush/Blair case for war on Saddam Hussein.

A Dangerous Delusion was written before Iran's June presidential election, begging the question of whether the re-emergence of pragmatic diplomatists in Tehran will encourage Western politicians to heed the "plea for sanity" with which Osborne and Morrison close.

"It's time we [in the West] asked why we have felt such a need to stigmatise and punish Iran. Once we do that we may find it surprisingly easy to strike a deal which can satisfy all sides." [IPS | September 2, 2013] □

Image credit: Amazon.com

Translations

Japanese

http://www.nuclearabolition.net/documents/japanese/Japanese_Delusion_Challenges_U.S._Claims_About_Nuclear_Iran.pdf

Arabic > <http://ipsinternational.org/arabic/nota.asp?idnews=3063>





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U.N. Chief Eyes Eight Holdouts in Nuke Test Ban Treaty

By THALIF DEEN

UNITED NATIONS (IPS) - A group of about 20 “eminent persons” is to be tasked with an unenviable job: convince eight recalcitrant countries to join the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT).

The eight holdouts – China, Egypt, India, Iran, Israel, North Korea, Pakistan and the United States – have not given any indication of possible ratifications, leaving the treaty in limbo.

Under the provisions of the CTBT, the treaty cannot enter into force without the participation of the last of the eight key countries.

“We are working hard day-in and day-out to make the treaty into law,” Lassina Zerbo, executive secretary of the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organisation (CTBTO), told reporters Wednesday.

He urged non-signatories to understand that ratification would enhance not only international security, but their own national security as well.

Zerbo said the proposed group, comprising former prime ministers and other highly regarded figures from both states parties and non-signatory states, will be launched during the eighth Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty. The conference is scheduled to take place in New York on Sep. 27.

Providing an update on the treaty’s current status, Zerbo said 183 countries had signed, of which 159 had already ratified it.

But in accordance with its Article XIV, the treaty will enter into force after all 44 states, including the missing eight, listed in its Annex 2 have ratified it.

With the General Assembly belatedly commemorating the annual International Day Against Nuclear Tests Thursday, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon lamented the fact that the CTBT has still not entered into force, even though 20 years have passed since the Conference on Disarmament began negotiations on the treaty.

The International Day Against Nuclear Tests was commemorated worldwide on Aug. 29 but the General Assembly meeting took place Thursday.



In a message to the Assembly, Ban said with the adoption of the Partial Test Ban Treaty 50 years ago, the international community completed its first step towards ending nuclear-weapon-test explosions for all time. “This objective remains a serious matter of unfinished business on the disarmament agenda,” he said.

Urging all states to sign and ratify CTBT without further delay, Ban singled out the eight holdouts as having a special responsibility.

“None should wait for others to act first,” he implored. “In the meantime, all states should maintain or implement moratoria on nuclear explosions.”

John Loretz, programme director at International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War, told IPS the moratorium has been honoured by most of the nuclear-weapon states since the 1990s. The exceptions, he said, have been India and Pakistan, both of whom tested nuclear weapons in 1998, but have not done so since then, and North Korea, which has conducted three very small tests since 2006.

When Pyongyang conducted its third test last February, the 15-member U.N. Security Council condemned the test as “a grave violation” of its previous resolutions and described North Korea as a country which is “a clear threat to international peace and security”.

Hirotsugu Terasaki, executive director of the Office of Peace Affairs of the Tokyo-based Soka Gakkai International (SGI), which has long campaigned for the abolition of all nuclear weapons, told IPS he would like to pay special attention to the efforts of the Preparatory Commission for the CTBTO which has played an important role in preventing and prohibiting nuclear test explosions.

Since North Korea’s first nuclear tests in 2006, 23 countries have ratified the CTBT, he noted. “And nearly 95 percent of the world ratifying the CTBT implies that the vast majority of the states recognise the immense political impact of the treaty’s entry into force.” ☺

Image: CTBTO



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Following their nuclear tests in 1998, both India and Pakistan announced their decision to extend the moratorium of nuclear testing. In this sense, he pointed out, the CTBT has had a major positive impact on the prevention of nuclear testing.

“The international community sees the CTBT as a positive step,” Terasaki added.

Asked what remains to be done, Terasaki told IPS the key to bringing the CTBT into force is its ratification by the U.S. and China.

The United States revealed that Z machine plutonium trials were conducted between April and June this year at Sandia National Laboratories in New Mexico to assess the working order of the U.S. nuclear arsenal.

Despite this, President Barack Obama’s June address in Berlin renewed his commitment to U.S. ratification of the CTBT.

“This statement is important and welcomed but will require serious follow-through to win the support of the U.S. Senate,” he added.

Translations

Arabic > <http://ipsinternational.org/arabic/nota.asp?idnews=3066>



The Obama administration will need the strong support of the international community. And the role of civil society is indispensable in putting pressure on the U.S. policy-makers to deliver on their commitments, Terasaki said.

Also, on Aug. 7, he said, Zerbo met with Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi during his trip to China. Wang stressed China’s continued commitment to

the CTBT and reconfirmed the importance of the early ratification of CTBT.

Zerbo stated that there is a strong case for China to demonstrate leadership and pave the way for the remaining eight countries to ratify the CTBT.

The international community must work together to support China in overcoming the various technical and political barriers that stand in the way of the treaty’s ratification, Terasaki added. [IPS | September 5, 2013] □

بالإضافة إلى أمريكا، الصين، الهند، باكستان، كوريا الشمالية

ضغوط لإقناع مصر وإسرائيل وإيران بعدم إجراء تجارب ذرية

بقلم تاليف ديبين/وكالة إنتر بريس سيرفيس

الأمم المتحدة، سبتمبر (أي بي إس) - من المقرر أن يتولى فريق من حوالي 20 شخصية بارزة مهمة لا يحسد عليها: إقناع ثمانية بلدان "متمردة" بالانضمام إلى معاهدة الحظر الشامل للتجارب النووية. هذه الدول هي: مصر، إسرائيل، وإيران، بالإضافة إلى الولايات المتحدة، الصين، الهند، باكستان، وكوريا الشمالية.

ولم تعط أي من هذه الدول أي إشارة علي استعدادها للتصديق علي هذه المعاهدة، التي كادت تكون الآن في طي النسيان. فيموجب أحكام هذه المعاهدة، لا يمكن أن تدخل المعاهدة حيز التنفيذ دون مشاركة الثمانية بلدان الرئيسية هذ.

تعبير في لحظة تجارب نووية.
Credit: National Nuclear Security Administration/CC-BY-ND-2.0

German > http://www.nuclearabolition.net/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=1008:un-generalsekretar-will-nachzueglerstaaten-fuer-atomtestverbotsabkommen-gewinnen-&catid=5:german&Itemid=6

Japanese <http://www.nuclearabolition.net/documents/Japanese/Japanese U.N. Chief Eyes Eight Hold-outs in Nuke Test Ban Treaty.pdf>

Turkish > <http://ipsinternational.org/tr/news.asp?idnews=140>



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Disarmament Deal Takes Two Steps Back

By PAVOL STRACANSKY

MOSCOW (IPS) - A Kremlin compromise on nuclear disarmament looks as far away as ever as Russian president Vladimir Putin and his U.S. counterpart Barack Obama use their countries' strained relations to bolster their own domestic political agendas, experts say.

Obama's call, during a speech in Berlin in June 2013, for a dramatic reduction in the world's nuclear weapons had led to hopes that there would be cuts in world nuclear arsenals on the agenda of a potential nuclear summit in 2016, and gave extra impetus to what will be the first-ever high level meeting of the United Nations General Assembly on nuclear disarmament in September 2013.

But following Russia's granting of asylum to U.S. whistleblower Edward Snowden and Washington's subsequent cancelling of a summit meeting between Obama and Putin, some critics say the U.S. may use the political rift between the two states as a pretext to fail to make progress on disarmament.

And the Kremlin is more than happy to do the same.

"What drives nuclear disarmament in both countries is domestic, not foreign policy."

Nikolai Sokov, a fellow at the [Vienna Centre for Disarmament and Non-Proliferation](#), told IPS: "What drives nuclear disarmament in both countries is domestic, not foreign policy. Confrontation serves the Russian domestic political agenda, just as it does for U.S. politicians with the U.S. domestic political agenda. The current impasse satisfies both sides.

"Russia has no need to change its position on nuclear weapons and President Putin is under no pressure whatsoever at home to change the stance. Even with the political administration there is no one in the Russian administration who is against the current stance, not even in private."

Russia and the U.S. control 90 percent of the world's nuclear arsenal and since the end of the Cold War there have



been various agreements on reducing the number of warheads on both sides.

The recent call by Obama would see both Washington and Moscow reduce their arsenals by a third.

But even under the best circumstances the Kremlin has historically been reluctant to agree to drastic cuts due to the differences in weapons delivery capabilities between the two countries, fearing that it would be left at a military disadvantage by dramatic blanket cuts.

It has also been wary of U.S. missile defence plans and without assurances that they would not be used against Russia, the Kremlin is reluctant to agree to concessions on nuclear weapons.

Speaking on Russian television foreign minister Sergei Lavrov said that nuclear weapons reductions should only be considered if they involved all countries – a view repeated by Putin.

But the recent strains in the countries' relationship mean that the Kremlin has a chance to further entrench its position and win political points with the electorate.

"The Russian public is not against the current anti-American stance. The image of the U.S. at the moment is not good in Russia. People see the situation with Syria and think to themselves 'we can't deal with the Americans, all they want to do is drop bombs'.

"The Russian public likes the tough tone being taken with the U.S.," Sokov told IPS.

Recent opinion polls show that the majority of Russians supported what Snowden did and back the decision to grant him asylum. They also show attitudes towards Obama changing negatively.

Some political commentators in Russia argue that the Kremlin's stance on disarmament is not even anti-American but simply a normal protection of the country's interests. ☞

Image: Russian Topol-M intercontinental ballistics missile | Credit: Kiev Ukraine News Blog



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Tatiana Gomozova, political editor at Kommersant FM radio in Moscow, told IPS: "I don't really think that Russia is actually against the U.S. on the issue – it's just for itself. The truth is that what Mr. Obama called for [in Berlin] was something over the long term. It's a goal he himself can't reach so it was more a political statement than a specific plan. It was also more a speech for his allies than for Russia."

"But while it's not on today's Russia-U.S. agenda, I wouldn't say that Moscow won't support this idea [of a drastic cut in nuclear weapons] one day."

But while much of the major media in Russia toes the Kremlin line on many matters, there have been some voices calling for a more conciliatory approach from both sides.

In a long editorial earlier this month the Nezavisimaya Gazeta daily newspaper urged both the White House and

the Kremlin to work together on the issue of global security, including nuclear disarmament, and lead the way in helping to form a new, safer, international community.

It said: "The issues of nuclear disarmament, non-proliferation and the prevention of nuclear terrorism fall mainly on the shoulders of our two nations.... Common sense dictates that sooner or later Russia and the United States will become partners in the construction of a new system of international politics of the 21st century. It is hoped that this will happen sooner rather than later – the price of delay may be too high."

But experts remain pessimistic of any progress on disarmament between the two nations in the near future.

Sokov told IPS: "While it would be good for both sides to agree something on disarmament, concessions are unlikely and I'm not hopeful that anything positive will happen soon." [IPS | September 2, 2013] □

Translations

Arabic > <http://ipsinternational.org/arabic/nota.asp?idnews=3059>

Japanese > http://www.nuclearabolition.net/documents/Japanese/Japanese_Disarmament_Deal_Takes_Two_Steps_Back.pdf

Turkish

The screenshot shows the IPS website interface. At the top, there's a logo for IPS (Inter Press Service) and the date "28 Ekim 2013 Pazartesi 00:01 GMT". The main headline is "Silahsızlanma Anlaşması İki Adım Geriye Gitti" (Nuclear Disarmament Agreement Two Steps Back) by Pavol Stracansky. The article text discusses the situation in Moscow on September 2, 2013, mentioning the meeting between Vladimir Putin and Barack Obama. A sidebar on the right lists "Son güncelleme" (Latest updates) and "Latest Global News" with various international headlines.

Read more > <http://ipsinternational.org/tr/news.asp?idnews=139>



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What Others Say

We need a plan to control the nukes

The Dominion Post | By Robert Patman

Almost from the moment the first atomic bombs were dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki in August 1945, the menacing shadow of the nuclear age has inspired visions of a world free of nuclear weapons.

<http://www.stuff.co.nz/dominion-post/comment/9118267/We-need-a-plan-to-control-the-nukes>

Iran is America's real Middle East priority

Reuters | By Ian Bremmer

While we've been distracted by a flurry of intelligence releases on Syria's chemical weapons strikes — and the ongoing saga over the United States' response — many have overlooked another intelligence report pertaining to weapons of mass destruction with severe implications for America's red lines and credibility in the Middle East.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/09/06/us-iran-america-idUSBRE9850ZL20130906>

Leader of Venerable Scientific Watchdog Group Renews Focus on “Nuclear Dangers”

Scientific American | By John Horgan

Since the Cold War ended more than 20 years ago, the U.S. and Russia have reduced their nuclear arsenals, and the prospect of a nuclear war has receded from many peoples' consciousness. And yet the two former adversaries and seven other nuclear powers—including China, Great Britain, France, India, Pakistan, North Korea and Israel—are estimated to possess more than 17,000 nuclear weapons. Now as much as ever, we need guidance on how to reduce and eventually eliminate the risks of nuclear weapons.

<http://blogs.scientificamerican.com/cross-check/2013/09/06/leader-of-venerable-scientific-watchdog-group-renews-focus-on-nuclear-dangers/>

The challenges to ratifying the CTBT – Can the no-test norm be maintained indefinitely?

European Leadership Network | By Lassina Zerbo

In the world today, the silence of nuclear tests relies on moratoria. These are unilateral, voluntary declarations that can be revoked at will. And Cold War history is littered with broken moratoria, most notably in the run-up to the 1962 Cuban Missile Crisis, when the two superpowers fell into a veritable testing frenzy. The entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) is the only guarantee of a legally binding non-testing regime.

http://www.europeanleadershipnetwork.org/the-challenges-to-ratifying-the-ctbt--can-the-no-test-norm-be-maintained-indefinitely_777.html

It's Time to Make the Middle East WMD-Free

Huffington Post Blog | By Jonathan Granoff

Eliminating the chemical weapons stockpiles in Syria through international cooperation and bringing Syria into full compliance with the Chemical Weapons Convention would be a public good for the entire world. However, it would still leave several countries in the very volatile Middle East in possession of weapons of mass destruction (WMD), including nuclear, chemical and likely biological weapons. Ending the threat of WMD in the Middle East is critical. As long as these weapons exist, we remain only a day away from another crisis.

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/jonathan-granoff/its-time-to-make-the-middle-east-wmd-free_b_3915624.html

Would the United States ever actually use nuclear weapons?

Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists | By Kingston Reif

The Syrian regime's large-scale use of chemical weapons has prompted a vigorous discussion about whether the United States should respond with military force, and if so, how. Those advocating the use of force have debated options ranging from limited cruise missile strikes to a much larger campaign designed to mortally wound Syrian President Bashar al-Assad's regime. <http://www.thebulletin.org/would-united-states-ever-actually-use-nuclear-weapons>



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What Others Say

Most likely to succeed against nuclear weapons

Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists | By Kennette Benedict

The prospects for major reductions in world nuclear arsenals seem pretty slim these days. US-Russia relations are cooling, with a scheduled summit meeting between presidents Barack Obama and Vladimir Putin canceled and a slowing of nuclear weapons negotiations. As reported in the Bulletin's recent Nuclear Notebook, estimates of world nuclear arsenals stand at about 17,000 warheads, enough to destroy whole societies and render the Earth uninhabitable. Governments appear to be drifting away from recent pledges to reduce nuclear weapons, and that means inertia will likely take over. <http://www.thebulletin.org/most-likely-succeed-against-nuclear-weapons>

Is India's nuclear arsenal safe?

Tribune Blog Pakistan | By Hasan Ehtisham

It confuses me immensely as to why the mainstream media and Western governments are constantly generating a hype about the safety of Pakistan's nuclear arsenal when they don't seem concerned at all about the highly startling condition regarding the nuclear capabilities of India. Ever since the India-US nuclear deal has taken place, India has signed civil nuclear deals with more than half a dozen countries. Hence, the most precarious lie is advocated, that India has a strong track record of nuclear safety, to materialise these nuclear deals.

<http://blogs.tribune.com.pk/story/18875/is-indian-nuclear-arsenal-safe/>

India's Nuclear Weapons Folly

National Interest | By Zachary Keck

Several weeks ago, I penned an article for The National Interest arguing that, in hindsight, India's decision to acquire nuclear weapons has proven to be a strategic blunder. I based this argument on the grounds that, while domestic and ideational factors are needed to explain the precise trajectory of India's nuclear program, the original impetus for pursuing them was to address the threat that China posed to Delhi in the aftermath of the 1962 border war and Beijing's nuclear test two years later. <http://nationalinterest.org/commentary/indias-nuclear-weapons-folly-9095>

US nearly detonated atomic bomb over North Carolina – secret document

The Guardian | By Ed Pilkington

A secret document, published in declassified form for the first time by the Guardian today, reveals that the US Air Force came dramatically close to detonating an atom bomb over North Carolina that would have been 260 times more powerful than the device that devastated Hiroshima.

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2013/sep/20/usaf-atomic-bomb-north-carolina-1961>

Pulse of The People: Weapons make these dangerous times

The Record | By Lawrence Wittner

The apparent employment of chemical weapons in Syria should remind us that, while weapons of mass destruction exist, there is a serious danger that they will be used. That danger is highlighted by an article in the September/October 2013 issue of the "Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists." Written by two leading nuclear weapons specialists, Hans Kristensen and Robert Norris of the Federation of American Scientists, the article provides important information about nuclear weapons that should alarm everyone concerned about the future of the planet.

<http://www.troyrecord.com/general-news/20130921/pulse-of-the-people-weapons-make-these-dangerous-times>

No Place for Pausing Nuclear Arms Cuts

Atlantic Community.org | By Tomas A. Nagy

http://www.atlantic-community.org/-/no-place-for-pausing-nuclear-arms-cuts?redirect=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.atlantic-community.org%2Fyour-opinion%3Fp_id%3D101_INSTANCE_GES8xNFE98EL%26p_p_lifecycle%3D0%26p_p_state%3Dnormal%26p_p_mode%3Dview%26p_p_col_id%3Daf-column-1-3%26p_p_col_pos%3D3%26p_p_col_count%3D8



BEYOND NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION

NEWSLETTER FOR STRENGTHENING AWARENESS OF NUCLEAR ABOLITION WITH SEPTEMBER 2013 ARTICLES

In Focus

Can the US and Iran strike a nuke deal?

AlJazeera America

Al Jazeera asked a number of analysts of U.S.-Iran relations to reflect on whether there are realistic prospects for a diplomatic solution to the Iranian nuclear standoff and what that would involve. Following are excerpts of their comments, which are available on

<http://america.aljazeera.com/articles/2013/9/24/can-the-us-and-iranreachanucleardeal.html>

Geneive Abdo, a fellow in the Middle East program at the Stimson Center and a nonresident fellow at the Brookings Institution: "Many stars have aligned to make this moment an opportune time to resolve two conflicts in the Middle East -- the Syrian civil war and Iran's march toward a nuclear weapon. A new, more moderate faction is in power in Iran, led by President Hassan Rouhani, who has vowed to break the deadlock with the West over Iran's nuclear program. Not only does Rouhani have the support of key figures within the regime, but more important, he has the backing of Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei."

Meir Javedanfar, the owner and editor of the Iran-Israel Observer. He teaches contemporary Iranian politics at the Interdisciplinary Center in Herzliya, Israel: "There is a very realistic prospect for a diplomatic solution for three reasons: First and foremost, Barack Obama has a very different approach to Iran from George W. Bush's. Unlike Bush, Obama has been willing to negotiate with Iran unconditionally from the start of his first term in 2009. In fact, in the 34 years of postrevolution Iranian history, no other U.S. president has tried as hard as Obama to reach out to Iran's leadership. He has been one of the biggest backers of diplomacy with Iran."

Farideh Farhi, an independent scholar and affiliate graduate faculty member at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. She was most recently a public-policy scholar at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars: "In Iran, there seems to be a political will to resolve the nuclear standoff. This political will involves determination on the part of the Rouhani administration as well as a rare domestic consensus that the president needs to be given a chance and internal support in his declared quest to both resolve the nuclear issue and reduce the hostility that was created in the West during the Ahmadinejad administration. What is less clear or is questionable is the existence of such a political will in the United States."

Joe Cirincione, the president of the Ploughshares Fund and the author of the new book "Nuclear Nightmares: Securing the World Before It Is Too Late: " Half the people in the United States had not been born the last time a U.S. president met a leader of Iran. But that may change this week if President Barack Obama takes the opportunity to meet -- however briefly -- with newly elected President Hassan Rouhani of Iran when both speak at the United Nations on Tuesday. The last time the leaders of the two countries met was 1977, when President Jimmy Carter dined with the Shah of Iran, Mohammad Reza Pahlavi. That was 36 years ago, and 36 is just about the median age of the U.S. population. If Obama and Rouhani meet, the picture of the historic moment will flash around the world, sending a powerful message that the diplomatic doors are once again open and jolting the national-security bureaucracies of both countries into action."

Mark Fitzpatrick, the director of the Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Program at the International Institute for Strategic Studies and also a founding member of the E.U. Non-Proliferation Consortium: "If Iran's nuclear program were entirely for peaceful purposes, then it would not be hard to find a solution. But unfortunately, that is not the case. The nuclear problem involves a fundamental clash of goals: Iran wants nuclear weapons capability, and the U.S. and its allies don't want Iran to have it. Neither side will totally capitulate, so the best that can be done is to strike a deal under which Iran maintains part of the capability it already possesses but accepts transparency measures and limitations sufficient to provide confidence that it could not quickly build a nuclear weapon."

Karim Sadjadpour, a leading Iran analyst and a senior associate in the Middle East Program at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace: "Whether or not President Barack Obama and President Hassan Rouhani shake hands, there has never been a more opportune moment to attempt to defuse the Iranian nuclear conflict. As long as Iran is an Islamic Republic led by Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, the United States will never find more reasonable diplomatic interlocutors in Tehran than Rouhani and Foreign Minister Javad Zarif."

Reza Marashi, the research director for the National Iranian American Council. He previously served in the Office of Iranian Affairs at the U.S. Department of State: "Prospects for a diplomatic solution to the Iran nuclear standoff look more realistic now than they have in years. Relative moderates occupy the executive branch in Washington and Tehran, and they both enjoy important institutional support at home." □



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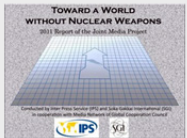
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Nuclear Abolition News and Analysis

Disarmament The Key To Sustaining Future Generations



Nuclear Abolition News | IDN
By JOAN ERAKIT*

NEW YORK (IDN) - Striving to promote the interest of future generations through policy making, [The World Future Council](#) gathers each year to review strategies that are progressive and change the way our global community functions.

The process begins with a serious question: what are the most important topics of our time and which countries are addressing them with such vigour, others take notice? [P]

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Russia May Do Better Than its Nuclear Rhetoric

Nuclear Abolition News | IPS

By PAVOL SRRACANSKY

MOSCOW (IPS) - Despite a seemingly entrenched resistance to change on its nuclear disarmament policy, the Kremlin's recent initiative to get Syria to destroy its chemical weapons provides hope that Russia could play a more positive role in reducing the world's global nuclear stockpiles, experts say.



The recent high-level meeting of the U.N. general assembly on nuclear disarmament – the first of its kind – ended with Russia confirming its stance of no new nuclear arms reduction initiatives. [P] [JAPANESE TEXT VERSION PDF](#)

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Hiroshima and Nagasaki Beckon Nuke Free World



Nuclear Abolition News | IDN
By RAMESH JAURA

BERLIN | HIROSHIMA (IDN) - "World leaders, high-ranking UN officials, city mayors and representatives of the civil society from around the globe, gathered for a summit at Hiroshima and Nagasaki to mark the seventieth anniversary of the atom bombing of two Japanese cities, declared that nuclear weapons will be outlawed by 2020, and called upon all governments to agree at the earliest

on a nuclear weapons convention. [P] [ARABIC TEXT VERSION PDF](#) | [GERMAN](#) | [JAPANESE TEXT VERSION PDF](#)

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UN Presses Forward on Global Ban on Nuke Tests

Nuclear Abolition News | IDN

By JAYA RAMACHANDRAN

NEW YORK (IDN) – Seventeen years after the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) opened for signature, the United Nations has launched a new initiative to expedite its entry into force "at the earliest possible date".



Foreign ministers and high-level representatives from the 183 Member States of the Treaty have urged the eight remaining States – China, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea

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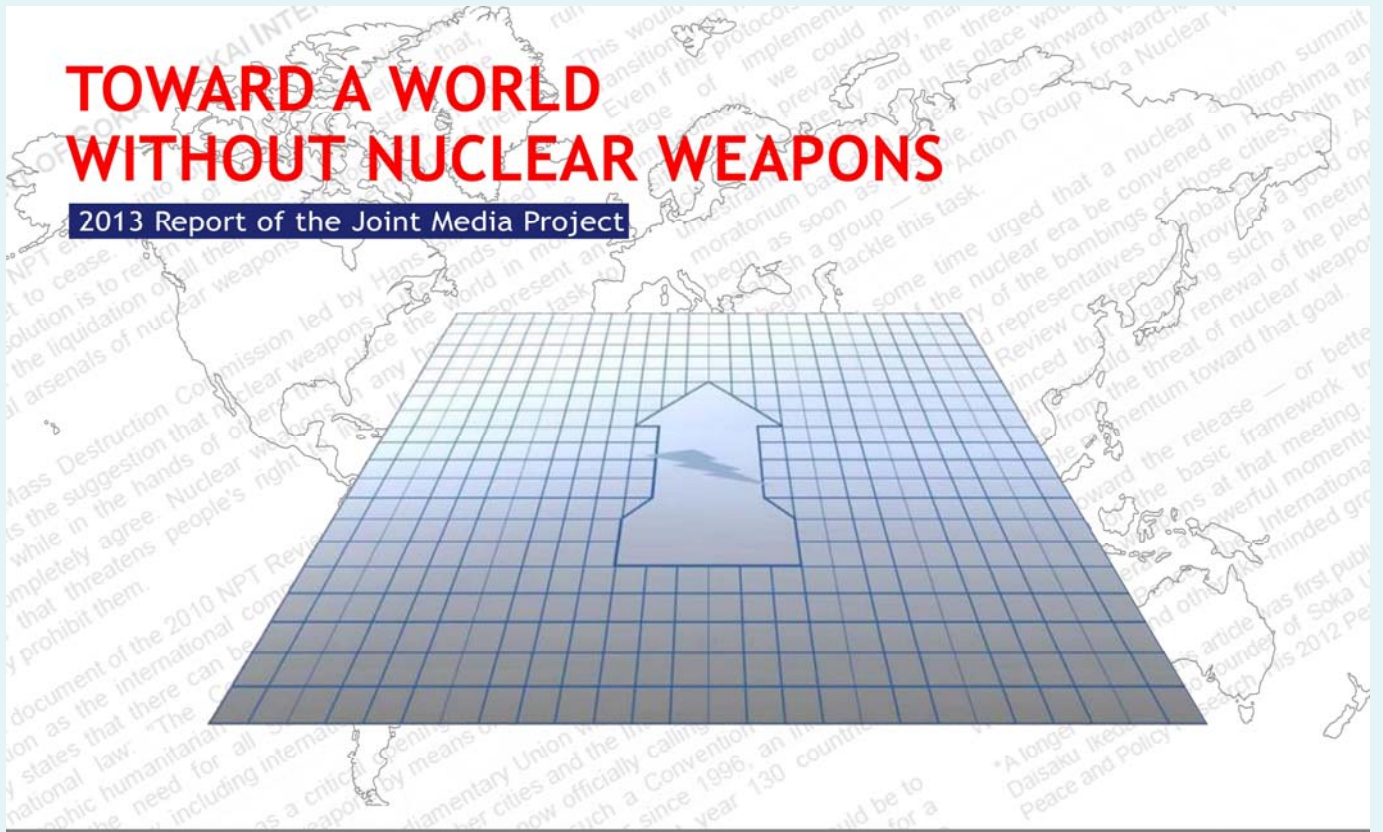
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TOWARD A WORLD WITHOUT NUCLEAR WEAPONS

2013 Report of the Joint Media Project

Conducted by Inter Press Service (IPS)
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http://www.nuclearabolition.net/documents/Toward_a_World_without_Nuclear_Weapons_2013.pdf