



BEYOND NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION

NEWSLETTER FOR STRENGTHENING AWARENESS OF NUCLEAR ABOLITION WITH MAY 2011 ARTICLES

This newsletter is part of Inter Press Service (IPS) and Soka Gakkai International (SGI) project. It includes independent news and analyses as well as columns by experts, news from international NGOs and a review of the global media for a glimpse of what is happening on the ground. Newspaper articles reproduced in this newsletter are for personal use and aim at giving information to readers. Reproduction in whole or in part without permission is prohibited.

Articles

U.N. to Host World Summit on Nuclear Safety

UNITED NATIONS - The severity of the recent nuclear accident at the Fukushima Daiichi power plant in Japan has prompted U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon to convene a high-level meeting of world leaders on a politically-sensitive issue: nuclear security.

"We have to reevaluate nuclear risks and nuclear safety in response to the disaster in Japan," he told reporters May 11. The meeting, scheduled to take place during the upcoming session of the General Assembly on Sep. 22, is expected to focus on strengthening the global nuclear

safety regime and ensuring maximum nuclear safety standards.

"This requires in-depth analysis on design, construction, training, quality assurance systems and stringent regulatory mechanisms," the secretary-general said. This exercise, he said, will also need a serious global debate on broader issues, including assessment of the costs, risks and benefits of nuclear energy and stronger connections between nuclear safety, nuclear security and nuclear non-proliferation.

Read more on page 2

Post-Osama, Pakistan May Be More Unrelenting on FMCT

NEW DELHI - An early resolution of the prolonged deadlock, in which the United Nations Conference on Disarmament is trapped for over two years, appears unlikely given the prevalent mood in Pakistan.

In the aftermath of the United States forces killing Osama bin Laden in Abbottabad, about an hour's drive from Islamabad, Pakistan is bound to take a harder line in multilateral forums on issues that impact its security and strategic interests. Such a hardening, reinforced by Pakistan's India-centric security concerns, would be

conspicuously manifest on issues perceived to be driven by "a West-scripted agenda in UN forums, such as disarmament and non-proliferation".

One such issue, which Pakistan has resolutely stonewalled thus far, is the Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty (FMCT) under tortuous negotiation in the UN Conference on Disarmament (CD), and the conclusion of which, in Islamabad's view, would put India in a vastly more advantageous position vis-à-vis Pakistan.

Read more on page 4

[Translations | Adaptations Go to page 7](#)

[What Others Say Go to page 10](#)

[Civil Society's Perspective Go to page 14](#)

[Visit Compilation of Articles April 2009-March 2010](#)

http://www.nuclearabolition.net/documents/Beyond_Nuclear_Non-Proliferation.pdf
Compilation of Articles April 2010-March 2011 Coming June end



BEYOND NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION

NEWSLETTER FOR STRENGTHENING AWARENESS OF NUCLEAR ABOLITION WITH MAY 2011 ARTICLES

Articles

U.N. to Host World Summit on Nuclear Safety

By Thalif Deen



UNITED NATIONS, May 11, 2011 (IPS) - The severity of the recent nuclear accident at the Fukushima Daiichi power plant in Japan has prompted U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon to convene a high-level meeting of world leaders on a politically-sensitive issue: nuclear security.

"We have to reevaluate nuclear risks and nuclear safety in response to the disaster in Japan," he told reporters on May 11.

The meeting, scheduled to take place during the upcoming session of the [General Assembly](#) on Sep. 22, is expected to focus on strengthening the global nuclear safety regime and ensuring maximum nuclear safety standards.

"This requires in-depth analysis on design, construction, training, quality assurance systems and stringent regulatory mechanisms," the secretary-general said.

This exercise, he said, will also need a serious global debate on broader issues, including assessment of the costs, risks and benefits of nuclear energy and stronger connections between nuclear safety, nuclear security and nuclear non-proliferation.

The damage to the nuclear power plant in Japan, which followed a devastating earthquake and tsunami last March, resulted in radioactive contamination threatening lives and causing a mass exodus of residents in and around the neighbourhood.

The last major nuclear accident was the 1986 Chernobyl disaster, whose radioactive fallout caused a catastrophe in several European countries, with the most affected being Belarus, the Ukraine and Russia.

The United Nations has placed the Fukushima accident on par with Chernobyl.

Asked if the high-level meeting will bolster the global campaign for nuclear disarmament, John Burroughs, executive director of the [Lawyers Committee on Nuclear Policy](#), told IPS that nuclear disarmament will be at least implicitly on the agenda for the September meeting on nuclear safety.

He said the meeting will seek to prevent Fukushima-type nuclear reactor disasters, and focus on nuclear security and the prevention of non-state extremist acquisition of fissile materials for nuclear weapons.

"That's because many non-nuclear weapon states are resistant to the imposition of more onerous standards on safety and security while a two-tier system persists in which only a few countries have nuclear weapons and nationally-controlled nuclear fuel production facilities," Burroughs said.

Of course, he said, all will support safety standards that really make sense. "No country wants to experience a Fukushima or Chernobyl-type catastrophe," he said. But enthusiasm for global regulation diminishes when sought within a highly discriminatory system, he pointed out.

The secretary-general, who has consistently maintained that "a world free of nuclear weapons is one of my top priorities," said he has called for a U.N. system-wide study on the implications of the accident at Fukushima.

The study will also look at how the international community can better deal with the emerging nexus between natural disasters and nuclear safety. ➔

Picture Ban Ki-Moon | Credit: UN



BEYOND NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION

NEWSLETTER FOR STRENGTHENING AWARENESS OF NUCLEAR ABOLITION WITH MAY 2011 ARTICLES

Articles

He said the September meeting will build on next month's ministerial conference of the [International Atomic Energy Agency](#) (IAEA) in Vienna that will address measures needed to enhance nuclear safety in the wake of Fukushima.

While supporting the IAEA initiative, he said, the high-level meeting in September will also provide a bridge to the second Nuclear Security Summit next year in Seoul.

He also pointed out that 2011 marks the 15th year of the [Moscow Declaration on Nuclear Safety and Security](#). The Moscow summit took place in April 1996, on the tenth anniversary of Chernobyl.

"Twenty-five years after Chernobyl and in the aftermath of Fukushima, I believe it is high time to take a hard look at the issue of strengthening nuclear safety and security," Ban told reporters on May 11.

Asked about the relationship between nuclear security and nuclear disarmament, M.V. Ramana, an associate research scholar with the [Programme on Science and Global Security](#) at Princeton University, told IPS, "I do not think that an emphasis on nuclear security alone - i.e., just ensuring that fissile material isn't stolen - will accelerate nuclear disarmament."

He said it is the elimination of nuclear weapons on a non-discriminatory universal basis that is needed.

"However, that process will likely be set back by any large scale expansion of nuclear power," said Ramana, author of several books, including "Prisoner of the Nuclear Dream" and "Bombing Bombay? Effects of Nuclear Weapons and a Case Study of a Hypothetical Explosion".

"I personally think that safety and security are quite different," Ramana said. Both are important, but they have to be engaged with separately.

Further, in the context of nuclear safety, "I think it is very important to involve people who are independent of nuclear establishments around the world in the process, in addition to organisations like the IAEA."

Ban said he has been telling world leaders that while the responsibility for nuclear safety rests with individual governments, they should revisit their nuclear safety standards. "All this strengthening of nuclear standards should be coordinated and done at the national and international level," he said.

He also highlighted the nexus between security and safety.

"We have to be very careful, very vigilant, against any possibility that nuclear materials or nuclear technology could be slipped into the hands of the wrong person, wrong country or wrong organisation, namely terrorist groups, or any country whose regime would be not be committed to international peace and security," Ban said.

"That is why I am raising this issue very seriously," he declared. ■

Copyright © IPS-Inter Press Service



NUCLEAR ENERGY
Nuclear Weapons



BEYOND NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION

NEWSLETTER FOR STRENGTHENING AWARENESS OF NUCLEAR ABOLITION WITH MAY 2011 ARTICLES

Articles

Post-Osama, Pakistan May Be More Unrelenting on FMCT

By Shastri Ramachandaran*



NEW DELHI - An early resolution of the prolonged deadlock, in which the United Nations Conference on Disarmament is trapped for over two years, appears unlikely given the prevalent mood in Pakistan.

In the aftermath of the United States forces killing Osama bin Laden in Abbottabad, about an hour's drive from Islamabad, Pakistan is bound to take a harder line in multilateral forums on issues that impact its security and strategic interests. Such a hardening, reinforced by Pakistan's India-centric security concerns, would be conspicuously manifest on issues perceived to be driven by "a West-scripted agenda in UN forums, such as disarmament and non-proliferation".

One such issue, which Pakistan has resolutely stonewalled thus far, is the Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty (FMCT) under tortuous negotiation in the UN Conference on Disarmament (CD), and the conclusion of which, in Islamabad's view, would put India in a vastly more advantageous position vis-à-vis Pakistan.

Boxed into a corner by the international community as a "haven for terrorists" and the fount of both regional and global terrorism, a battered Pakistan, seething at the humiliation of foreign forces transgressing its sovereignty, is in no mood at present to strike compromises when it comes to larger global concerns.

Pakistan seems determined to continue obstructing any movement towards wrapping up the FMCT in its present form, as this does not take into account India's existing stockpile of fissile material. This was made clear, both on and off the record, by a number of high-ranking government officials and functionaries in state-funded institutions, in the course of interactions with this writer during his recent visit to Pakistan.

Even before U.S. forces struck to liquidate bin Laden, Pakistan had been blocking a consensus on FMCT -- a key item on the agenda of the 65-nation Conference on Disarmament for over a decade now.

The FMCT acquired a new urgency with the declaration of the Weapons of Mass Destruction Commission, in April 2009, highlighting the need for an early agreement to halt production of fissile material for nuclear weapons.

It gained further impetus with President Barack Obama's Prague Speech in April 2010, wherein he sought the international community's support to negotiate and conclude an FMCT. In its Nuclear Posture Review (2010), the U.S. explicitly committed itself to negotiating a verifiable FMCT.

The Session of the UN Disarmament Commission in 2010 made it an issue of greater priority by urging early commencement of negotiations on FMCT in the CD. Thereafter, in May 2010, the NPT review conference exhorted Nuclear Weapon States (NWS) to declare and place their fissile material which are no longer required for military purposes under the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

*The writer, who recently travelled to Pakistan at the invitation of the Government of Pakistan, is a former Editor of Sunday Mail and has worked with leading newspapers in India and abroad. He was Senior Editor & Writer with China Daily and Global Times in Beijing. For nearly 20 years before that he was a senior editor with The Times of India and The Tribune. Besides commentaries on foreign affairs and politics, he has written books, monographs, reports and papers. He is co-editor of the book 'State of Nepal'. ↻

Image above: UN Conference on Disarmament | Credit: issues121.blogspot.com

Pakistan seems determined to continue obstructing any movement towards wrapping up the FMCT in its present form, as this does not take into account India's existing stockpile of fissile material.



BEYOND NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION

NEWSLETTER FOR STRENGTHENING AWARENESS OF NUCLEAR ABOLITION WITH MAY 2011 ARTICLES

Articles

In spite of these diverse moves that should have collectively hastened efforts and spurred the CD on to conclude the FMCT, there was startlingly no progress. In fact, the UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon expressed his frustration at the CD being made hostage to India-Pakistan nuclear gamesmanship, though he took care to avoid naming them. His warning of the CD's credibility being at stake came in January 2011.

However, that did not serve to prod Pakistan in the required direction along with the rest of the members in the CD. Pakistan's opposition to FMCT, as articulated by its representative to the CD, Zamir Akram, is that, in its present form, it is discriminatory and would enable India to increase its stockpile of nuclear warheads.

BILATERAL PROBLEM

Pakistani officials this writer spoke to in Islamabad in the third week of April 2011 are one in the view that the FMCT will allow India a free hand in stockpiling fissile material. "Existing stocks should be reduced and gradually eliminated. The first step towards that is to reckon with existing stocks," said a highly placed diplomat who is conversant with the issue but unwilling to go on record.

An overwhelming majority of CD members are said to view Pakistan's rejection of the FMCT negotiations as being compelled by its need to match India's strategic advantage; and, they feel this is a bilateral problem, between India and Pakistan, to which the larger issue of non-proliferation and disarmament should not be subordinated.

However, Islamabad's position is that every country decides on such issues on the basis of its national interest. "If Pakistan's interests are ill-served, it is immaterial whether one or more countries are involved; and, whether the country is far or near. The point is the principle, and the principle cannot be discriminatory," said an expert on disarmament at The Institute of Strategic Studies (ISS) in Islamabad.

The principle Pakistan invokes may be found in what is known as the Shannon Mandate of 1995, Canadian Ambassador Gerald Shannon's report proposing an ad hoc committee which would allow delegations to raise issues relating to future and present stocks of fissile material and managing such material.

Pakistan backed the Shannon Mandate as it would help deal with the question of past fissile stocks. Precisely for that reason, the FMCT has not moved beyond where it was in 1995 -- and is unlikely to unless either Pakistan goes along with the rest of the CD or FMCT is taken out of the CD.

"It is not a situation of Pakistan versus the rest as portrayed," Pakistan's Acting Foreign Secretary Muhammad Haroon Shaukat told this journalist on April 23, 2011 in Islamabad. "There are others, too, with us," he added.

Shaukat explained that Pakistan has a stake in stability in South Asia and CD is facing a fundamental threat. "Maybe, India, too, has similar concerns. In the CD, Pakistan is positive on South Asian stability and would be guided by consensus on stability and security of Pakistan as well," he stated.

He declined to be drawn into discussing Pakistan's guiding considerations, saying, "I have given a generic answer. Do not push me further," said Shaukat.

"There cannot be different yardsticks for different countries. No double standards are permissible," declared Pakistan's former foreign secretary Riaz Hussain Khokhar. A former ambassador to China and High Commissioner to India, Khokhar was firm that Pakistan should not change its position. "We should remain steadfast: existing stockpiles must be taken into account or countries like Pakistan will be at a disadvantage." ↻

"If Pakistan's interests are ill-served, it is immaterial whether one or more countries are involved; and, whether the country is far or near. The point is the principle, and the principle cannot be discriminatory," said an expert on disarmament at The Institute.



BEYOND NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION

NEWSLETTER FOR STRENGTHENING AWARENESS OF NUCLEAR ABOLITION WITH MAY 2011 ARTICLES

Articles



He felt that the UN Secretary-General would be ill-advised to take FMCT out of the CD. Pakistani diplomats point out that "Cut-off" implies only a halt in future production and this cannot be endorsed.

"The CD's effort does not take into account existing stocks of fissile material. As a result, it pushes Pakistan into an inferior position vis-à-vis India, which has much larger stocks of weapons-grade uranium," observed Ashraf Jehangir Qazi, ISS Director-General.

A former ambassador to China and the U.S., and High Commissioner to India, Qazi also served as the UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy to Iraq and, later, the Sudan.

He pointed out that the U.S. signed a civil nuclear cooperation agreement with India. "It has allowed India to receive fuel from the U.S. for peaceful purposes, which gives India the option to direct the stockpile for weapons purposes."

If the CD wants to end the stalemate, Qazi told this correspondent, "The way forward is to take existing stocks of fissile material into account." He stressed that the FMCT, as it stands, does not take account of existing stocks. India has more stocks and this puts Pakistan at a disadvantage in the context of India's nuclear cooperation agreement with the U.S."

Across the community of officials, diplomats and strategic affairs experts, the view is that Pakistan is being pushed into a corner, and by the U.S. leaning in favour of India. "The U.S. wants to maintain its monopoly, and allow stockpiles only to those countries which are in line with its policy. Naturally, the pressure is on Pakistan," Malik Qasim Mustafa Khokhar, Research Fellow at the ISS, Islamabad, told this correspondent.

Khokhar who specializes on arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation is convinced that the UN Secretary-General is trying to move the issue out of the CD. "The reason is the CD functions on the consensus system. And, if they take it out of the CD, there are chances of forcing the issue through majority vote."

Khokhar says Pakistan has made it known that if FMCT is taken out of CD, it would be difficult for Pakistan to cooperate with the international community on disarmament. "China supports Pakistan's position, and so do others," he added.

He says FMCT covers additional stocks and "CD is trying to cap future production of fissile material. The Pakistani position is: include existing stockpile, and proportionately, allow us to have a stockpile".

"For the balance required to maintain deterrence between India and Pakistan, we need to take into account both India's nuclear weapons and fissile material stockpiles. We cannot agree to freeze existing inequality, when it directly threatens our security." This is the bottom line for Pakistan, articulated by Khokhar but endorsed by everyone else. (IDN-InDepthNews/12.05.2011) ■

Copyright © 2011 IDN-InDepthNews | Analysis That Matters

"The U.S. wants to maintain its monopoly, and allow stockpiles only to those countries which are in line with its policy. Naturally, the pressure is on Pakistan."



BEYOND NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION

NEWSLETTER FOR STRENGTHENING AWARENESS OF NUCLEAR ABOLITION WITH MAY 2011 ARTICLES

Translations | Adaptations

U.N. to Host World Summit on Nuclear Safety Arabic



الامم المتحدة

قمة عالمية حول الأمن النووي بقلم تاليف ديبين بوكالة انتر بريس سيرفس

الامم المتحدة، مايو (آي بي إس) - دفعت تداعيات الحادث النووي في محطة فوكوشيما دايبيشي في اليابان، الامين العلم للامم المتحدة بان كي مون، إلى الدعوة لعقد اجتماع رفيع المستوى أثناء دورة الجمعية العمومية في سبتمبر المقبل، وذلك لمناقشة قضية سياسية حساسة: الأمن النووي.

وصرح الأمين العام أنه ينبغي إعادة تقييم المخاطر النووية والسلامة النووية علي ضوء كارثة اليابان، وهذا يتطلب تحليلاً معمقاً للتصميم والبناء والتدريب وأنظمة ضمان الجودة ووضع آليات تنظيمية صارمة.

وقال بان كي مون أن عملية إعادة التقييم هذه تتطلب أيضاً نقاشاً عالمياً جاداً بشأن القضايا الأوسع نطاقاً، ومن بينها تقييم مخاطر الطاقة النووية وتكاليفها ومنافعها، وتعزيز الربط بين السلامة النووية والأمن النووي وعدم الانتشار النووي.

ويجدر التذكير بأن الأضرار التي لحقت بمحطة فوكوشيما للطاقة النووية في اليابان، والتي أعقبت الزلزال الممصر والتسونامي الهائل في مارس الماضي، قد تسببت في تلوث إشعاعي يهدد حياة الأهلالي، وعملية نزوح جماعي للسكان في المناطق المجاورة للمفاعل الذري.

هذا ولقد وقعت آخر كارثة نووية قبل فوكوشيما في مفاعل تشيرنوبيل عام 1986، وتسببت إشعاعته الملوثة في كارثة حقيقية في عدة بلدان أوروبية كانت أوكرانيا وبيلاروسيا وروسيا أكثرها تضرراً. ووضعت الأمم المتحدة حادث فوكوشيما على قدم المساواة مع كارثة تشيرنوبيل.

وبسؤاله عما إذا الاجتماع رفيع المستوى الذي يدعو اليه الأمين العام للأمم المتحدة سيعزز الحملة العالمية لنزع السلاح النووي، قال جون بوروز المدير التنفيذي للجنة المحامين المعنية بالسياسة النووية، أن هذه القضية سوف ترد، على الأقل ضماناً، على جدول أعمال اجتماع سبتمبر بشأن السلامة النووية.

وأضاف وكالة انتر بريس سيرفس أن الاجتماع سوف يسمي لمنع وقوع كوارث من نوع مفاعل فوكوشيما النووي، كما سيركز على الأمن النووي ومنع حصول جماعات متطرفة علي مواد انشطارية لإنتاج أسلحة نووية.

وشرح أن ذلك يرجع إلي أن "العديد من الدول غير الحائزة للأسلحة النووية تقاوم فرض معايير سلامة وأمن أكثر صرامة، في حين يستمر العمل بنظام المعايير المزدوجة الذي يواصل فيه عدد قليل من الدول حيازة الأسلحة النووية ومراقبة المنشآت النووية وإنتاج الوقود النووي علي المستوى الوطني".

لكن مؤشرات الحماس تجاه إمكانية وضع تنظيم عالمي سرعان ما تتراجع أمام النظام التمييزي للغاية السائد حالياً، وفقاً للمدير التنفيذي للجنة المحامين المعنية بالسياسة النووية.

هذا ولقد قال الأمين العام للأمم المتحدة -الذي دأب علي التأكيد بأن "عالم خال من الأسلحة النووية هي واحدة من أولوياتي العليا"- أنه دعا إلى إجراء دراسة أسمية، على نطاق المنظمة، بشأن الآثار المترتبة على الحادث الذي وقع في فوكوشيما.

ومتشمل هذه الدراسة أيضاً النظر في كيفية تعامل المجتمع الدولي بشكل أفضل مع العلاقة الناشئة بين الكوارث الطبيعية والسلامة النووية.

وقال الأمين العام ان اجتماع سبتمبر سيبرني على مؤتمر وزاري للوكالة الدولية للطاقة الذرية في فيينا في الشهر المقبل، وهو الذي من شأنه أن يتناول التدابير اللازمة لتعزيز السلامة النووية في أعقاب فوكوشيما. وأضاف أن اجتماع الأمم المتحدة في سبتمبر، الذي يدعم مبادرة الوكالة الدولية للطاقة الذرية، سيوفر أيضاً جسراً نحو قمة الأمن النووي الثانية المقبلة في عاصمة كوريا الجنوبية.

هذا ولقد سألت وكالة انتر بريس سيرفس ام في راماتا، الباحث ببرنامج العلم والأمن العالمي بجامعة برينستون، عن العلاقة بين الأمن النووي ونزع السلاح النووي، فأجاب "لا أعتقد أن التركيز على الأمن النووي وحده - أي الإكفاء بمجرد ضمان عدم سرقة المواد الانشطارية - من شأنه أن يجعل بعملية نزع السلاح النووي".

وقال ان المطلوب هو القضاء على الأسلحة النووية على أساس عالمي غير تمييزي، "ومع ذلك، فمن المرجح أن يتراجع هذا المسار أمام أي عملية واسعة النطاق للتوسع في مجال الطاقة النووية". (آي بي إس / 2011)

Read at <http://www.ipsinternational.org/arabic/nota.asp?idnews=2167>



BEYOND NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION

NEWSLETTER FOR STRENGTHENING AWARENESS OF NUCLEAR ABOLITION WITH MAY 2011 ARTICLES

Translations | Adaptations

U.N. to Host World Summit on Nuclear Safety JAPANESE



| 軍縮 | 国連、原子力安全に関する世界サミット
開催へ

【国連 IPS=タリフ・ディーン】

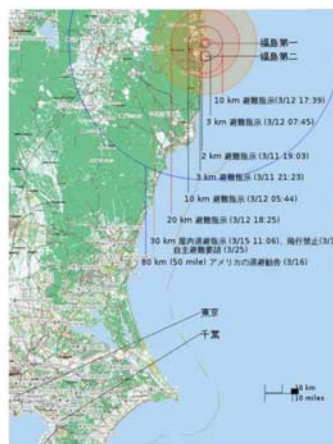
深刻な事態に陥っている福島第一原発の事故を受けて、9月の国連総会開催に合わせて、政治的に高度の慎重を要する問題—原子力の安全 (nuclear safety) —に関するハイレベル会合を国連の潘基文事務総長が計画している。

潘事務総長は、5月11日記者団に対し、「私たちは日本が経験した災害を教訓に、核のリスクと原子力安全に関する再評価を行わなければならなりません。」と語った。

国連総会会期中の9月22日に開催が予定されているハイレベル会合では、世界的な原子力安全管理体制の強化と最高水準の原子力安全基準の確保について協議されることになっている。



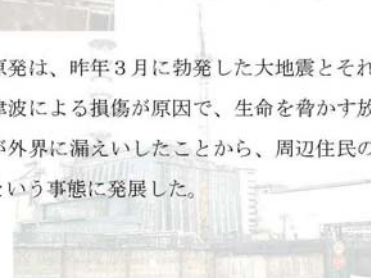
潘基文国連事務総長
資料：UN Photo



福島第一原発事故
資料：Wikimedia Commons

また潘事務総長は「(原子力安全のためには) 設計、建設、訓練、品質確保体制、厳格な規制メカニズムなどが必要とされます。また、原子力のコスト・リスク・利益に関する評価や、原子力安全、核保安、核不拡散の相互関連など、より幅広い課題についても真剣な世界的な議論が必要です。」と語った。

福島第一原発は、昨年3月に勃発した大地震とそれに続いた津波による損傷が原因で、生命を脅かす放射性物質が外界に漏えいしたことから、周辺住民の大量移転という事態に発展した。



Read more

http://www.nuclearabolition.net/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=414:pdf&catid=2:japanese&Itemid=3



BEYOND NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION

NEWSLETTER FOR STRENGTHENING AWARENESS OF NUCLEAR ABOLITION WITH MAY 2011 ARTICLES

Translations | Adaptations

U.N. to Host World Summit on Nuclear Safety

German

Weltgipfel für die Sicherheit von Atomreaktoren angekündigt

Von Thalif Deen

New York (IPS) – Der katastrophale Reaktorunfall im japanischen Fukushima hat UN-Generalsekretär Ban Ki-moon veranlasst, für September ein hochrangiges Treffen einzuberufen, das sich mit einem politisch heiklen Thema befassen wird: der atomaren Sicherung von Kernkraftwerken.

Das Treffen der Staats- und Regierungschefs der 192 UN-Mitgliedstaaten soll am 22. September während der nächsten Sitzungsperiode der UN-Vollversammlung stattfinden. Eine Neubewertung nuklearer Risiken sei angesichts der Tragödie in Japan dringend erforderlich, sagte UN-Generalsekretär Ban Ki-moon am 11. Mai gegenüber Journalisten in New York.

Ban zufolge gilt es wichtige Fragen rund um die Entwicklung und den Bau von Atommeilern und qualitativ hochwertige Sicherheits- und Kontrollmechanismen gründlich zu analysieren. Zudem müssten die Kosten, Risiken und Vorteile sowie die Zusammenhänge zwischen atomarer Sicherung, nuklearer Sicherheit, etwa vor einem Atomkrieg, und nuklearer Nichtverbreitung dringend diskutiert werden.

"Wir müssen sehr vorsichtig und wachsam gegenüber der Gefahr sein, dass spaltbares Material oder Atomtechnologien in die Hände falscher Personen, Staaten, Terrorgruppen oder ein Land fällt, dessen Regime sich nicht dem Weltfrieden und der internationalen Sicherheit verpflichtet fühlt", sagte der UN-Chef.

Die massiven Schäden am japanischen Kernkraftwerk, ausgelöst durch das verheerende Erdbeben und den Tsunami im März, haben im Umfeld der Anlage eine lebensbedrohliche radioaktive Verseuchung und eine Massenflucht ausgelöst. Das Ausmaß der Katastrophe veranlasste die Vereinten Nationen, das Unglück in Fukushima mit dem Atom-GAU in Tschernobyl von 1986 auf eine Stufe zu stellen, der in einigen europäischen Ländern und vor allem in Weißrussland, Ukraine und Russland eine Katastrophe auslöste.

Wie John Burroughs vom 'Lawyers Committee on Nuclear Policy' gegenüber IPS erklärte, wird das Treffen im September in New York über eine Verbesserung der Sicherung von Kernkraftwerken am Thema der nuklearen Abrüstung nicht vorbeikommen. Er geht davon aus, dass die Begeisterung für eine Verschärfung der Sicherheitsvorkehrungen schnell nachlassen werde. Das habe mit dem höchst diskriminierenden System zu tun, dass die Welt in eine Minderheit von Staaten mit Atomwaffen und – meilern und eine Mehrheit von Ländern ohne Kernwaffen und Atomkraftwerken einteile.

Der UN-Generalsekretär, der nach eigenen Angaben die Bemühungen um eine atomwaffenfreie Welt voll und ganz unterstützt, hat eine Studie über die weltweiten Auswirkungen des Fukushima-Unfalls in Auftrag gegeben. Die Untersuchung soll auch der Frage nachgehen, wie die internationale Gemeinschaft der zunehmenden Herausforderung von Naturkatastrophen für die nukleare Sicherung gerecht werden könnte.

Ban zufolge wird das September-Treffen auf der nächsten Monat in Wien stattfindenden Ministerkonferenz der Internationalen Atomenergiebehörde (IAEA) aufbauen, die sich mit erforderlichen Sicherheitsmaßnahmen als Antwort auf die Ereignisse in Fukushima befassen wird. Es sei zudem als Brücke zu dem zweiten Atomsicherheitsgipfel im kommenden Jahr im südkoreanischen Seoul gedacht. (Deutsche Bearbeitung: Karina Böckmann | 12-05-2011)

Originalbeitrag: <http://www.ipsnews.de/news/news.php?key1=2011-05-12%2011:59:57&key2=1>

Read at http://www.nuclearabolition.net/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=407:sicherheit-atomenergie&catid=5:german&Itemid=6



BEYOND NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION

NEWSLETTER FOR STRENGTHENING AWARENESS OF NUCLEAR ABOLITION WITH MAY 2011 ARTICLES

What Others Say

Five Reasons Why Israel Should Back Nuclear Weapons Ban

Nuclear Abolition News
By Frederick N. Mattis*



ANNAPOLIS, Maryland - For abolishing nuclear weapons, a major obstacle is presumed to be Israel. If it is posited (as I submit it should be) that a nuclear ban treaty [convention] would require accession by all states before entry into force, then let it be further assumed that all states have joined a nuclear ban -- except Israel.

Even as the "last remaining non-signatory," the following incentives would likely impel Israel, guided by its security interests, to join. (The final three of the five points are the most important.)

First, Israel would have the deserved satisfaction of being a profound benefactor to humanity in this important realm of nuclear weapons elimination, because Israel's accession (along with that of all other states) would be necessary for treaty entry into force.

Generally speaking, all states, especially today's nuclear powers, would be "mutual benefactors" by agreeing on nuclear abolition; but to a very high degree that would apply to Israel as a here-positied final, or even nearly final, nuclear ban signatory. (The following states possess nuclear weapons, in order of their attainment: USA, Russia, Britain, France, China, Israel, India, Pakistan, and North Korea.)

Second, in a nuclear weapons-free world -- which Israel and all states have voluntarily instrumented -- Israel would relinquish the moral burden of possessing and possibly using the ultimate weapon of mass destruction. All the nuclear powers would claim, though, that their nuclear possession is not "immoral"; but the possible use of nuclear weapons (a conceptual precondition for "deterrence") does by any reasonable light have a morally treacherous aspect because of the tremendously indiscriminate effects of nuclear weapons (blast, heat, firestorm, radiation).

Under a worldwide nuclear ban, Israel and the other nuclear powers would voluntarily forego the possibility of using the ultimate weapons of mass destruction against fellow human beings.

Third, Israel under a worldwide ban would no longer be subjected to its ongoing fear of nuclear attack by another state's [future] nuclear arsenal. Currently, Israel's greatest concern is that Iran will develop nuclear weapons and use them. (Also, Israel is rightly worried that if Iran develops nuclear weapons, then some Mideastern Arab states will do the same.)

How can Israel's trepidation of nuclear attack be obviated, once and for all? Only through the geopolitical, legal, psychological, and moral force of a worldwide nuclear weapons ban -- which Iran presumably would join, in view of Iran's drumbeat of calls for nuclear weapons elimination. (Iran for its part claims that its uranium enrichment programme is not for weapons but for peaceful use such as electricity and medical isotope production.)

Fourth, under a nuclear ban Israel would no longer be vulnerable to possible terrorist use of nuclear weapons. Obviously, with states having dismantled their nuclear weapons, there would be none that a terrorist gang could acquire by theft, purchase, or other means.

The other path to terrorist nuclear attainment would be fabrication (with mere assistance from a rogue physicist and a few technicians) of a relatively simple, uranium-based "gun-type" nuclear weapon -- which if detonated in air over a city would likely kill some 100,000 people and injure many more.

* Frederick N. Mattis is the author of "Banning Weapons of Mass Destruction" (ABC-CLIO/Praeger Security International; ISBN: 978-0-313-36538-6). This article first appeared on [Daisy Alliance](#). ↻



BEYOND NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION

NEWSLETTER FOR STRENGTHENING AWARENESS OF NUCLEAR ABOLITION WITH MAY 2011 ARTICLES

What Others Say

But this path to terrorist weapon possession and use against Israel or any state could be cut off by a nuclear ban provision requiring cessation of uranium enrichment to 20 percent or greater (in isotope uranium-235), and blending-down of current stocks of highly-enriched uranium to low-enriched. Thereby, with no potentially vulnerable arsenals of states and with no highly-enriched uranium stocks vulnerable to possible terrorist acquisition and use (and with plutonium being unsuited for a relatively simply-constructed gun-type weapon), terrorists would be stymied at every turn in a quest for nuclear weapons.

Fifth, Israel's vulnerability to state or terrorist attack with chemical or biological (chem-bio) weapons would be, respectively, virtually eliminated and reduced -- if the nuclear ban requires prior accession by states to the current chem-bio bans (CWC and BWC) before signing the nuclear ban, and with the latter as noted requiring unanimity of accession by states before entry into force.

With this unanimity of states' accession to the CWC and BWC (which most states have already joined) as a feature of a nuclear-weapons free world, any violation of any of the three agreements by a state would be extremely unlikely, in part due to foresight of the massive negative world reaction. Regarding non-state actors (terrorists), their potential access to "ingredients" of chem-bio weapons would be curtailed by the normative force and legal strictures on states of the CWC and BWC.

To summarize, with reference to Israel but also applicable to all states: the most important reasons for Israel to seriously consider joining a prospective worldwide nuclear ban are to eliminate the future threat (or perceived future threat) of nuclear attack by a state against Israel, and to virtually eliminate the terrorist nuclear threat (with blending-down of highly enriched uranium to low-enriched, plus elimination of states' potentially vulnerable arsenals), and reduce to asymptotically near-zero any chem-bio threat from other states -- with all being subject to the unprecedented geopolitical and other impact of a CWC and BWC that all states join, as a prerequisite to signing the nuclear ban and before nuclear ban entry into force. (IDN-InDepthNews/04.05.2011) ■



<http://www.daisyalliance.org/>

Bruce Roth is the founder and Executive Director of Daisy Alliance, a nonpartisan, nongovernmental organization that promotes peace and security through nonproliferation and disarmament of nuclear weapons and the rule of international law. He authored *No Time To Kill*, a holistic examination of the threat to civilization posed by weapons of mass destruction (WMD). Bruce has been a recurring guest on radio programs and gives presentations to various civic, academic, and religious groups on this topic.

Bruce is also president of Roth & Associates, Inc., an employee benefits brokerage and consulting firm in Atlanta. He holds numerous professional designations including CLU (Chartered Life Underwriter), ChFC (Chartered Financial Consultant), RHU (Registered Health Underwriter), and REBC (Registered Employee Benefit Consultant) and is a member of Mensa. He has presented continuing education lectures for attorneys, accountants, and trust officers on advanced insurance topics, and he has been published in an industry journal. ■



BEYOND NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION

NEWSLETTER FOR STRENGTHENING AWARENESS OF NUCLEAR ABOLITION WITH MAY 2011 ARTICLES

What Others Say

Why Mideast Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone is Critical

Nuclear Abolition News By Randy Rydell*



GENEVA - The world is filled with serious problems that must be addressed -- poverty; racism; illiteracy; contagious diseases; terrorism; injustice; to name only a few.

So why should we bother to focus on nuclear weapons? And why specifically should anybody approach this subject in a Middle East context?

As for nuclear weapons, their significance stems their catastrophic effects, both human and environmental. We are fortunate to have heard the testimony of the hibakusha about the effects produced from the use of just one such weapon.

These weapons are dangerous even when they are not used. Consider the number of accidents that have already occurred. Weapons lost at sea in both the Atlantic and Pacific -- and never found. Weapons that were destroyed in plane crashes in Greenland and Spain, which left behind radioactive contaminated landscapes.

Then there are additional risks of unauthorized use, sabotage, and terrorist attacks on nuclear facilities or weapons, not to mention economic cost, and environmental damages incurred during the production of such weapons.

Despite these hazards, some 23,000 such weapons still exist, held by nine countries, with the United States and Russian Federation possessing by far the largest number. Many are still held on high alert status. There is no Nuclear Weapons Convention, yet there are detailed, long-term plans in all possessor States for modernizing nuclear weapons or their delivery systems.

Today over half the world's population lives in countries whose national security postures explicitly depend on nuclear weapons and the doctrine of nuclear deterrence.

Now, what can possibly be done in response to this situation?

Until a Nuclear Weapons Convention is negotiated to outlaw all such weapons, several so-called "partial measures" have been pursued by the world community. One such measure is the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), which 190 States have joined -- though the DPRK (North Korea) has announced its withdrawal. In 1995, the parties to the NPT extended the treaty indefinitely, but only as part of a package deal that included the 'Resolution on the Middle East' -- which mandated efforts to establish a zone banning all weapons of mass destruction (WMD) -- nuclear, biological, and chemical.

Other partial measures are initiatives to promote the development of regional nuclear-weapon-free zones. So far, five such zones have been created -- in Latin America, Southeast Asia, South Pacific, Africa, and Central Asia. In each of these cases, the purpose was explicitly framed as a step toward global nuclear disarmament. In other words, the goal of excluding nuclear weapon from a given region was by no means the only goal of the treaties establishing such zones. Global nuclear disarmament is also an objective of all these treaties.

Today, 113 States belong to such regional nuclear-weapon-free zones. These treaties not only ban the possession/production of nuclear weapons. They also ban the stationing/basing of such weapons in the region. In addition, and unlike the NPT, these treaty regimes also provide for legally binding security guarantees from the nuclear-weapon States -- who, through the various treaty Protocols, promise never to threaten the use of nuclear weapons against any party to such a zone. ☺

*Randy Rydell is Senior Political Affairs officer at the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) in New York. This Viewpoint is based on remarks he made aboard 'Peace Boat' on March 22, 2011. Peace Boat is a Japan-based international non-governmental and non-profit organization, which carries out its activities through a chartered passenger ship that travels the world on peace voyages.



BEYOND NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION

NEWSLETTER FOR STRENGTHENING AWARENESS OF NUCLEAR ABOLITION WITH MAY 2011 ARTICLES

What Others Say

It is clear therefore that progress in establishing a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East would strengthen the NPT, by finally implementing the 1995 Resolution on the Middle East and the Action Plan adopted by the NPT States parties in 2010 concerning the establishment of a WMD-free zone in the region.

It would also help to promote global nuclear disarmament, by further demonstrating the illegitimacy of the very existence of nuclear weapons -- as well as their lack of value in providing genuine security.

Finally, it would also help the Middle East "peace process" by serving as a substantial confidence-building measure. A rigorous, verified, irreversible treaty excluding such weapons from this region would help in producing the type of political climate that would be conducive to progress in addressing other security issues, and eventually in achieving the long-sought goal of "peace in the Middle East."

This result will not happen automatically. Civil society has a substantial role to play in helping to move this process along. Individuals and groups can work to educate the public to appreciate why such a zone would serve their interests. Their advocacy efforts can help to encourage governments to make the establishment of a zone a real priority of their policies. Even individual citizens can help this process by writing letters and articles, joining groups that are working for this goal, and countless other such actions -- the imagination offers no limits for positive work in this field.

So yes, nuclear weapons remain a serious threat to the world. Yes, something can be done about them. Yes, the Middle East can take an enormously positive step forward toward this goal by establishing a nuclear-weapon-free zone. And yes, world peace and security would be strengthened as a result. (IDN-InDepthNews/22.05.2011) ■

Ban Calls for Nuclear Weapons-Free World

UNITED NATIONS, May 31, 2011 –Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon today reiterated his call for a world free of nuclear weapons and called for the strengthening of the nuclear non-proliferation treaty as the cornerstone for global disarmament, and the bringing into force of the agreement banning nuclear arms tests.

"All Member States share a common interest in building a world in which the use of nuclear weapons is not simply improbable, but impossible," Mr. Ban said when he addressed the Conference on Promoting the Global Instruments of Non-Proliferations and Disarmament, whose theme was "the United Nations and the Nuclear Challenge." "I pledge my full commitment to liberating humanity from the terror of weapons of mass destruction," Mr. Ban told the conference, which was hosted in New York by Japan, Poland and Turkey.

He said the UN has consistently been promoting the key goals of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) relating to disarmament, non-proliferation, and the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. The Secretary-General said he was encouraged by the entry into force of the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (known as the New START Treaty) between Russia and the United States.

"If 'global instruments' are to truly deserve this designation, they must not only achieve universal membership, but full compliance by States Parties with their commitments," said Mr. Ban. "The Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty [CTBT] should be brought into force without further delay. I have suggested next year, 2012, as a target date when we will be able to see the effect of the CTBT come into force," he added.

The Secretary-General said he will convene the Seventh Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the CTBT in New York in September to sustain the current political momentum. He called for additional legal instruments to address the grave challenges posed by fissile materials and assurances to non-nuclear-weapon States that such arms will not be used against them.

"The international rule of law must also extend to conventional arms. And, of course, we cannot address rule of law issues without touching on the work of the Conference on Disarmament," said Mr. Ban, urging the conference to reach agreement on a programme of work, including immediate negotiations of a fissile material cut-off treaty, without delay. – UN News ■



BEYOND NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION

NEWSLETTER FOR STRENGTHENING AWARENESS OF NUCLEAR ABOLITION WITH MAY 2011 ARTICLES

Civil Society's Perspective

Florence, Italy, joins call for abolition treaty

27 May 2011 by Daniela Varano - The Provincial Council of Florence in Italy has expressed its support for ICAN's mission to achieve a nuclear weapons convention. The discussion that brought to the adoption of the official support, highlighted how the end of the cold war was a missed opportunity for the world to get rid of nuclear weapons.

Furthermore, considering Obama's speech in Prague in 2009- when the US president underlined the moral responsibility of the United States as the only country who used the nuclear weapon - and the good will shown by the 2011 START II treaty ratification, the provincial council of Florence decided to join the ICAN and Senzatmica (www.senzatmica.it) plead of a Nuclear Free world.

Finally, the Council called on the members of the General Assembly to make whichever possible to achieve a Nuclear Weapons Convention, and urges the President of the Provincial Council of Florence to advocate at Italian Foreign Ministry to reach this historic goal. ■

Australia's nuclear investments

25 May 2011 - Australia's government-owned Future Fund has investments worth A\$135.4 million in 15 foreign-owned companies involved in the manufacture of US, British, French and Indian nuclear weapons, the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) has revealed through a freedom of information request.

Earlier this month the Future Fund – which was established in 2006 to cover the pension costs of retiring parliamentarians, judges and public servants – announced that it had divested from 10 companies involved in the production of cluster munitions and land mines, but ICAN's freedom of information request shows that nuclear weapons companies have not been excluded from its investment portfolio.

“Through their ordinary use, nuclear weapons – like cluster munitions and anti-personnel mines – violate fundamental principles of customary international law, as well as treaty law. They pose a grave threat to civilians and the environment,” said Tim Wright, the Australian campaign director of ICAN. The Future Fund's investment policy adopted in September 2010 states that it will only invest in companies whose “economic activity is legal in Australia and does not contravene international conventions to which Australia is a signatory”.

“Australian law expressly prohibits the manufacture of nuclear weapons. The Future Fund is therefore violating its own investment policy,” said Wright. “Investing in nuclear arms producers hampers disarmament efforts and could even facilitate the use, one day, of a nuclear bomb – whether by design or accident.”

Australia's South Pacific Nuclear-Free Zone Treaty Act 1986 prohibits the acquisition, development, manufacture, testing and use of nuclear weapons in Australia, as well as the facilitation of such activities. The Weapons of Mass Destruction (Prevention of Proliferation) Act 1995 also makes it an offence to provide goods and services to companies producing nuclear weapons.

“Supporting the industry that produces these instruments of terror is grossly unethical, and should be a cause for concern by all Australians. The Future Fund is undermining the Australian government's efforts to build worldwide support for the complete elimination of nuclear weapons,” said Wright. “We should be asking ourselves: what kind of future is the Future Fund investing in?” ■





BEYOND NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION

NEWSLETTER FOR STRENGTHENING AWARENESS OF NUCLEAR ABOLITION WITH MAY 2011 ARTICLES

Civil Society's Perspective

US 'Missile Defence' base condemned by campaigners

May 2011- The Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament today condemned the US decision to site interceptor missiles at the Deveselu air base in Romania. The base will form a key part of the so-called 'missile defence' system, which risks spurring the development of new missile and warhead technologies in an attempt to circumvent the US system.

Kate Hudson, General Secretary of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament, said "Despite Obama slimming down the Bush-era plans for 'Star Wars' bases in Europe, these plans remain a threat to peace. Missile defence is certain to spur on the development of ever more advanced offensive technologies which seek to overcome the system. Whilst Russia has demanded its full inclusion in the network of radars and missiles, any disagreement over its role may well jeopardise future arms control efforts.

"Putting an obstacle in the way of the elimination of the thousands of nuclear weapons still in US and Russian arsenals is a recipe for a more dangerous future. To do so in an effort to combat a phantom threat from states whose militaries are no match for US conventional forces makes this an unnecessarily destabilising development. It provides no greater security for the populations of Europe or the US - on the contrary, it puts everyone at greater risk." ■

Trident spending approval condemned by campaigners

18 May 2011 - The Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament condemned today's decision to authorise billions of pounds of further spending on the Trident replacement programme, prior to the major decision point on the nuclear weapons system, not due to be taken until 2016. However, CND welcomed the launch of a government study into alternatives to Trident, to be led by Lib Dem Defence Minister Nick Harvey as providing the opportunity for other options – so far excluded for reasons of dogma rather than on an evidential basis – to be considered.

A further £3bn is due to be spent ahead of the main decision point in 2016 on top of the 900m spent on planning the replacement to date plus the costs of the current system. Whatever choice is reached in 2016, major elements of the first boats will already have been ordered. It was announced today that £380m is expected to be spent on the first submarine and £145m will be spent on the second, even before Parliament has had a chance to debate whether they are needed.

Kate Hudson, General Secretary of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament, said "Committing billions more to this ruinously expensive white elephant is something the government should be forced to justify every time police numbers are cut, hospitals reduce their services or public servants are laid off. The government seems willing to pay whatever it takes for these weapons, with the estimated bill almost doubling since they were first proposed. The cost estimate is now reaching £25bn. Tens of billions more can be added to that for the other parts of the system and for running costs. And that is not taking into account the fact that runaway increases in costs have blighted almost every major defence project in recent years.

"The Defence Secretary told MPs that no country currently has intent and capability to threaten the UK. With the US and Russia ridding themselves of hundreds of nuclear weapons, now is the perfect window of opportunity for Britain to push this global process forward by eliminating our own stockpile. Having city-destroying missiles eight times the power of the Hiroshima bomb patrolling 365 days a year is an expensive and irrelevant hang-over from a different era. Unfortunately, the fact that the Cold war ended 20 ago seems to have passed the government by. As a consequence, British taxpayers are being landed with a bill for a weapons system that actually makes the country and the world less secure. The Prime Minister today said he hoped to 'elevate' Trident beyond party political debate – surely due to a desire to exempt from scrutiny the decision to spend billions on a project that has yet to be agreed-upon."

Commenting on the review into alternatives to be led by the Minister of State for the Armed Forces, the Liberal Democrat MP Nick Harvey, she continued: "We welcome the announcement of the review into alternatives to the current plan, but the disdain with which it was introduced by Liam Fox suggests he will consider nothing but a 'like-for-like' replacement which maintains the Cold War posture of continuous submarine patrols. . . . ■



BEYOND NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION

NEWSLETTER FOR STRENGTHENING AWARENESS OF NUCLEAR ABOLITION WITH MAY 2011 ARTICLES

TOWARD A NUCLEAR FREE WORLD  A A A

- Home
- Japanese
- Arabic
- Chinese | Hindi | Urdu
- Dutch
- Finnish
- French
- German
- Italian
- Portuguese
- Spanish
- Swahili
- Swedish
- Turkish
- Sitemap



Best viewed with Acrobat 7.0 and later versions.

RELATED WEB SITES



Nuclear Abolition News and Analysis

North Korea and the Voyage to a Nuke-Free World



Nuclear Abolition News | IDN
By Frederick N. Mattis*
IDN-InDepth NewsViewpoint

ANNAPOLIS, USA (IDN) - Of all states, North Korea as it presently exists and is governed is probably seen by many other states as the most potentially problematic with respect to its ongoing compliance with a nuclear weapons ban.

This, of course, is assuming North Korea joined a nuclear ban treaty [convention] along with all other states – and incentives for North Korea to do so would be primarily freedom from the nuclear threat or perceived threat from another state or states, plus widespread praise for the decision to join.

[▶ READ MORE...](#)

Nukes Decline, But Disarmament Still a Distant Horizon

Nuclear Abolition News | IPS
By Thalif Deen

NEW YORK (IPS) - The world's eight nuclear states - the United States, Britain, Russia, France, China, India, Pakistan and Israel - collectively possess more than 20,500 nuclear weapons - a decline of over 2,000 since 2009. [ARABIC](#) | [JAPANESE](#) [TEXT VERSION](#) [PDF](#)

[▶ READ MORE...](#)

U.S. Plan to Boost Nuke Spending Undercuts Nonproliferation, Activists Warn

Nuclear Abolition News | IPS
By Haider Rizvi

UNITED NATIONS (IPS) - A Pentagon plan to step up spending on nuclear weaponry would severely undermine global efforts geared towards disarmament, warn independent analysts on U.S. nuclear policy. [\[P\]](#) [ARABIC](#) | [GERMAN](#)

[▶ READ MORE...](#)

Why Mideast Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone is Critical

Nuclear Abolition News | IDN
By Randy Rydell*
IDN-InDepth NewsViewpoint

GENEVA (IDN) - The world is filled with serious problems that must be addressed -- poverty; racism; illiteracy; contagious diseases; terrorism; injustice; to name only a few.

So why should we bother to focus on nuclear weapons? And why specifically should anybody approach this subject in a Middle East context?

[▶ READ MORE...](#)

U.N. to Host World Summit on Nuclear Safety

Nuclear Abolition News | IPS
By Thalif Deen

UNITED NATIONS (IPS) - The severity of the recent nuclear accident at the Fukushima Daiichi power plant in Japan has prompted U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon to convene a high-level meeting of world leaders on a politically-sensitive issue: nuclear security. [\[P\]](#) [ARABIC](#) | [GERMAN](#) | [JAPANESE](#) [TEXT VERSION](#) [PDF](#)

[▶ READ MORE...](#)

Post-Osama, Pakistan May Be More Unrelenting on FMCT



Nuclear Abolition News | IDN
By Shastri Ramachandaran*
IDN-InDepth NewsAnalysis

NEW DELHI (IDN) - An early resolution of the prolonged deadlock, in which the United Nations Conference on Disarmament is trapped for over two years, appears unlikely given the prevalent mood in Pakistan. [\[P\]](#) [JAPANESE](#) [TEXT VERSION](#) [PDF](#)

EASY PAYPAL DONATION

Help us provide you insight into development issues.



SEARCH

search...

ABOUT US

[Who We Are](#)
[Why Now](#)
[Background](#)

This website is part of a media project at the initiative of



Global Coordination
[IPS Deutschland](#)



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

BEYOND NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION
A Monthly Newsletter for Strengthening Awareness of Nuclear Abolition

[April 2011-March 2012](#)
[April 2011](#)

[April 2010-March 2011](#)
[Number 12](#)
[Number 11](#)
[Number 10](#)
[Number 09](#)
[Number 08](#)
[Number 07](#)
[Number 06](#)
[Number 05](#)
[Number 04](#)
[Number 03](#)
[Number 02](#)
[Number 01](#)

[April 2009-March 2010](#)
[Number 01](#) | [Number 02](#)
[Number 03](#) | [Number 04](#)
[Number 05](#) | [Number 06](#)
[Number 07](#) | [Number 08](#)
[Number 09](#) | [Number 10](#)
[Number 11](#) | [Number 12](#)

SUBSCRIBE NEWSLETTER

Publisher: Global Cooperation Council (umbrella organisation of IPS- Deutschland gGmbH, Berlin)

SGI-IPS Project Director: Katsuhiko Asagiri, President IPS Japan, Tokyo

SGI-IPS Project Coordinator & Editor-in-Charge: Ramesh Jaura

© 2010 2011 IPS-Inter Press Service