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HEINRICH
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Thursday, 3 June 2010, 19:00 – 21:00

Jour-Fixe: A step closer to a World without Nuclear Weapons? – Conclusions of the NPT Review 2010

Nuclear weapons still carry the most destructive potential in war that has ever been thought of. At the end of the Cold War the debate on nuclear disarmament has declined against the background of a newly growing balance of power in the 21st century. However, while there used to be a main nuclear threat coming from the USA and the Soviet Union, there now is an even a multipolar danger of a nuclear anarchy.

Not only are many countries are still using and developing new nuclear technologies. Also, the mandate of the 1968 Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) regarding non-proliferation, disarmament and peaceful uses of nuclear technology is still far from being completed. At the same time, obstacles towards the fulfillment of the mandate of the Treaty are persistent.

From 3rd to 28th of May 2010 the 8th Review Conference of the NPT was held in New York. Nonetheless, it is not clear, how promising this year's conclusions really are.

With having Iran's Mahmoud Ahmadinejad express his criticism towards the fact that the fulfillment of the transparency requirement should be scrutinized as closely as the provisions for disarmament, two main inconsistencies of the NPT have been denounced. Also, North Korea withdrew from the NPT and measures against future withdrawal are yet to be established. China, being one of the five legally recognized nuclear weapon states, is not providing any official data in its existing and planned nuclear forces. India, Israel and Pakistan did not even sign up to it. All this raises the question whether we are really once step closer to the vision of a world free of nuclear weapons, which has been declared by US-President Barack Obama in 2009.

Given the real danger of seeing a revival and escalation of a new global nuclear arms race and pressing urgency to universalize the NPT and strengthen global non-proliferation, many concrete questions are still to be resolved.

How well has the NPT been implemented since the last review in 2005? What were the most controversial issues debated in 2010? What has changed with the signing of START on 8th April 2010? What are the implications for the national security of Russia and what are the implications for its relations with the US and other countries? And what to make of the peaceful use of nuclear technology? What are the fields concerned? Are there alternatives?

We shall touch upon these and other issues in the presentations and discussion with our guests.

Speakers:

Oliver Meier is International Representative of Arms Control Association (ACA) and a researcher with the Institute for Peace Research and Security Policy at the University of Hamburg. He holds a PhD in political science from the Free University of Berlin and was a fellow at the Center for Arms Control and International Security at Stanford University. More recently, Meier has served on the staff of Uta Zapf, who is a member of the Foreign Relations Committee and chairperson of the subcommittee on disarmament, arms control and non-proliferation in the German Bundestag. From 1999-2002, he was (Senior) Arms Control and Disarmament Researcher with the Verification Research, Training and Information Centre (VERTIC) in London. He has previously served as a consultant to several non-governmental organizations, including the Arms Control Association and the BioWeapons Prevention Project.

Leonid Ryabikhin is an expert of the Russian Science Committee for Global Security in arms control, non-proliferation, aviation, missile technology and ABM issues. He was an Air Force Academy instructor in the Soviet Air Force and lieutenant engineer of the Air Force Reserve, and later served as an Air Force Academy instructor and as Senior Science Fellow in the USSR Flight Safety National Committee. After retirement from the service, he worked in different departments of the USSR Council of Ministers and the USSR Copyright Agency, where he oversaw science and technology information foreign exchange. He negotiated the publication of many scientific and technical journals in the U.S.S.R. and abroad (among which were Sciences journals in the USA and the "Scientific American" in the Soviet Union). He was a Senior Science Fellow in the Russian Foreign Ministry's Diplomatic Academy and a Visiting Fellow at Stanford University's Center for International Security and Arms Control.

Moderation: Jens Siegert, Director Heinrich-Boell-Foundation Russia

Simultaneous translation from English to Russian and vice versa will be provided during this event. Free entry, no registration required.

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Venue:

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