

## The Five Key Themes of the NPT Review Conference

The NPT Review Conference was postponed to August 2022 due to COVID-19 pandemic. This event will be of great relevance for the future of multilateral non-proliferation and disarmament. Here are some excerpts from the speech delivered by Ambassador Gustavo Zlauvinen, President-designate of the Tenth NPT RevCon, to the Tenth EU Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Conference held in December 2021.



“I would like to thank the European Union for inviting me to speak today, but my gratitude extends well beyond this conference...the EU has been one of my staunchest supporters. Throughout this extended hiatus, the EU has remained steadfastly committed to ensuring that the Review Conference.

[..] The nuclear landscape is in a state of flux not seen in decades. Once again, the NPT will be called upon to bring some semblance of stability to the situation. In the face of growing nuclear dangers, it will be tasked with reducing the risk of nuclear war, reinforcing the non-proliferation regime and seeking progress on the Treaty’s long-term goal of the elimination of all nuclear weapons.

[..] During the extensive consultations I have undertaken as President-designate, five key themes have emerged regarding what States Parties want to see emerge from the Review Conference.

First, I have heard numerous States Parties raise the issue of previous commitments made under all three pillars of the Treaty and improving accountability for their implementation.

Second, a consistent theme has been the need for the NPT to raise awareness about the value so many States place on the peaceful uses of nuclear science and technology [..]

Third, a large majority of States Parties have expressed hope that the Review Conference will make progress in the implementation of Article VI. They have stressed the pressing need to take steps to reduce nuclear risks but to ensure such steps advance the complete, verifiable and irreversible elimination of nuclear weapons [..]

Fourth, the need to address regional proliferation crises has been an often-raised concern. This requires answering such questions as, what role can the Treaty play in mitigating these challenges, particularly in Asia and the Middle East [..]

Fifth and finally, throughout my consultations I have heard calls for a more inclusive approach to the Review Conference. States Parties have highlighted the need for the Conference to ensure all stakeholders are heard, from youth, the industry to civil society, and to do so in a manner that reflects equal participation by all genders.

[..] This is where I must once again call on the support of the EU and its Member States. Yours is a diverse coalition of States Parties and, as you have proved time and again, you can be a force for compromise, commonality and cooperation.”

Full Speech [here](#)

### JCPOA – Light at the end of the tunnel?

For weeks there have been signals of a possible breakthrough in the indirect negotiations between Teheran and Washington to revive the 2015 Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) aimed at preventing Iran from acquiring a nuclear arsenal but political obstacles in both the US and Iran have thus far prevented an agreement.

A key issue revolves around the Iranian request that the US remove the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) from the US terror blacklist. Such move is opposed by the US regional allies facing constant threats from IRGC-assisted Iranian proxies in conflict zones such as Yemen and Syria.

A great concern of the Biden administration are the upcoming mid-term elections. Removing the designation could make Biden appear weak in the eyes of the US. This could contribute to a Republican victory in both houses. However, if the Republicans take control of the Congress, it will be even harder for Biden to reach a final agreement. Of course, removing the IRGC from its terrorist blacklist is a tough political decision for the US, but one that needs to be made and shielded from domestic political considerations given the importance of this deal for the NPT regime.

In this context, EU signatory parties have been working hard to convince the US and Iran to return to full compliance with the JCPOA. The EU is mediating between Washington and Tehran and is also coordinating talks between Iran and the other signatories of the 2015 deal, resuming to a large extent the invaluable intermediary role Europe played during the previous negotiations leading to the original signature of the JCPOA.

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## Latest Publications

*Under the radar: Transit of military goods – from licensing to control*, Diederik Cops & Kathleen Vanheuverwijn, Flemish Peace Institute, 25/04/2022

*Gefährliche nukleare Trugschlüsse (Dangerous nuclear fallacies)*, Wolfgang Petritsch, Austrian Institute for International Affairs (OIIA), 06/04/2022

*The nuclear sea-launched cruise missile (slcm-n): implication for u.s. nuclear strategy and arms control*, Douglas Rocha, Institute of Strategic and Defense Studies (IESD), 04/2022

## Network Calls

*Research Fellow, Cyber Operations and Policy (IISS-Americas) Cyber, Space and Future Conflict Programme* The International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS) is seeking to appoint a Research Fellow specializing in cyber operations and policy to contribute to the work of the Cyber, Space and Future Conflict program. The proposed contract is full time and fixed term (one year). The location is in Washington DC. Closing date: **4<sup>th</sup> May 2022**. More information: [here](#).

*Senior Research Fellow - Nuclear Weapons and International Security* Chatham House is seeking a Senior Research Fellow in nuclear weapons policy to join the International Security Programme (ISP) team. The ideal candidate must have an exceptional research portfolio on international nuclear weapons policies and will lead Chatham House's research agenda on these topics, as well as on biological weapons issues and emerging technologies. Closing Date: **6<sup>th</sup> May 2022** More information: [here](#).

## EU NEWS

### NEW COUNCIL DECISION IN SUPPORT OF THE CONSORTIUM ACTIVITY

The new Council Decision (11.4.2022) in support of the fourth phase of the EUNPDC has been adopted. For the purposes of contributing to the enhanced implementation of the EU WMD Non-proliferation Strategy and the EU SALW Strategy, the continued promotion and support of the activities of the European network of independent non-proliferation and disarmament think tanks has been extended in order to further the following objectives:

- 1) To encourage political and security-related dialogue and long-term discussion of measures to combat the proliferation of WMD and their delivery systems within civil societies and, in particular, among experts, researchers and academics.
- 2) To provide those participating in the relevant preparatory bodies of the Council with the opportunity to consult the network on issues related to non-proliferation, disarmament and arms export control, and to enable the representatives of Member States to participate in the meetings of the Consortium.
- 3) To constitute a useful stepping stone for non-proliferation and disarmament action by the Union and the international community.
- 4) To contribute to enhancing third countries' awareness of proliferation and disarmament challenges and of the need to work in cooperation with the Union and in the context of multilateral fora to prevent, deter, halt and, where possible, eliminate proliferation programmes of worldwide concern.
- 5) To contribute to the development of expertise and institutional capacity in non-proliferation and disarmament matters in think tanks and governments in the Union and third countries, including by strengthening non-proliferation and disarmament education, raising awareness of those issues among the younger generations and promoting the next generation of researchers and practitioners in this field, especially women, and in the natural and technical sciences

Full text of the Council Decision [here](#)

## NETWORK NEWS

### Global Challenges and Opportunities for Multilateral Disarmament, Non-Proliferation and Arms Control: A Conversation with the UN High Representative for Disarmament Affairs

The United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) and the Vienna Center for Disarmament and Non-Proliferation (VCDNP) cordially invite you to attend a discussion on "Global Challenges and Opportunities for Multilateral Disarmament, Non-Proliferation and Arms Control" with UN Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for Disarmament Affairs Ms. Izumi Nakamitsu. The event will be held on **Wednesday, 11 May 2022**. More information: [here](#).

### SIPRI Armament and Disarmament Summer School

The Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) and the Alva Myrdal Centre for Nuclear Disarmament (AMC) at Uppsala University invite applications for the 2022 Armament and Disarmament Summer School to be held on **28 August to 2 September**. The 2022 Summer School will be held in cooperation with the Odessa Center for Nonproliferation (OdCNP). More information: [here](#).

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