

## Information Note<sup>1</sup>

Event: Moscow Non-proliferation Conference: Nuclear Energy, Disarmament, and Non-proliferation (The 2017 MNC).

Organiser: Centre for Energy and Security Studies (CENESS)

Date and venue: 19-21 October 2017, Moscow, Russian Federation

*Participants:* More than 200 experts from 32 countries, including, Australia, Austria, Canada, China, Czech Republic, the DPRK, Egypt, France, Finland, Germany, India, Iran, Ireland, Israel, Japan, Lebanon, Malaysia, Myanmar, Norway, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Pakistan, Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Vietnam, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

*Partners of the Conference:* Gorchakov Foundation, Friedrich Ebert Foundation (FES), Nuclear Threat Initiative (NTI), Ministries for Foreign Affairs of Finland, Netherlands, Norway and the Russian Federation, Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO), United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA).

*International and Regional Organisations:* 1540 Committee Group of Experts, Preparatory Commission for the CTBTO, UNODA, and European Union.

### Background

The goal of the “two-plus” day Conference was to bring together senior nuclear energy, non-proliferation, security, and regional experts from think-tanks, governmental agencies, and international organizations to discuss and brainstorm the most pressing issues related to the international nuclear non-proliferation regime. The participants, including prominent international and Russian experts, focused on the most critical nuclear challenges, as problems in the field of non-proliferation, disarmament and peaceful use of nuclear energy.

In 2018 it will be 50 years since the opening for signature of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), which is the central element of the nuclear non-proliferation regime and one of the most universal international security documents. The current state of the treaty and prospects for the 2020 NPT Review Cycle was one of the main topics on the Conference agenda. Other key topics included the sustainability of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) and the role of multilateral diplomacy in defusing the nuclear crisis on the Korean peninsula.

One of the priorities of the 2017 MNC was to offer a platform for officials and scholars representing a diverse range of countries and research institutions to present their views.

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<sup>1</sup> For information – not an official report. The views expressed here do not necessarily represent those of the 1540 Committee or of the organisers or participants in the event.

## Overview

The Conference was attended by more than 200 experts from 31 countries, as well as the leading international organizations (IAEA, CTBTO, United Nations, and others) in the field

A list of speakers consisted of 55 experts from 22 countries and international organizations, including Sergey Lavrov, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Russian Federation, Deputy Assistant Foreign Minister of Egypt for disarmament and peaceful uses of nuclear energy Sameh Aboul-Enein, former IAEA Director General Hans Blix, Director General of the Australian Safeguards and Non-Proliferation Office (ASNO) Robert Floyd, United Nations Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for Disarmament Affairs Izumi Nakamitsu, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to Slovakia, Chair of the First Session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2020 NPT Review Conference Henk Cor Van Der Kwast, Special Envoy for Disarmament and Non-Proliferation, European External Action Service (EEAS), European Union, Jacek Bylica, Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergey Ryabkov, Director of the Department for Non-proliferation and Arms Control of the Russian Foreign Ministry Mikhail Ulyanov, Director General of Iran's MFA Institute for Political and International Studies (IPIS) Mostafa Zahrani, and Executive Secretary of the Preparatory Commission for Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO) Preparatory Commission Lassina Zerbo.

The topics discussed were the current state of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), prospects for the 2020 NPT Review Cycle, peaceful application of nuclear energy, the sustainability of the landmark Iran nuclear deal, the **Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action** and the role of multilateral diplomacy in defusing the nuclear crisis on the Korean peninsula. Terrorism involving the use of weapons of mass destruction as a challenge was also addressed during the Conference.

During the session of a panel on "Combatting WMD Terrorism, Ways to Strengthen International Cooperation" the 1540 Committee Expert delivered a presentation on resolution 1540 (2004), as well as on the 2016 Comprehensive Review of the resolution 1540 (2004) and the adoption of resolution 2325 (2016).

## Additional Comments

For further information, please contact the 1540 Committee experts by e-mail at [1540experts@un.org](mailto:1540experts@un.org).