



# BI-WEEKLY TREATY REVIEW



06 December 2012 – 19 December 2012

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## BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION (BWC)

### **Meeting of the States Parties to the Biological Weapons Convention**

United Nations Office at Geneva, 06 December 2012, <http://www.unog.ch>

The 2012 Meeting of States Parties to the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) will be held at the United Nations Office at Geneva from December 10-14, 2012 under the Chairmanship of Ambassador Boujemâa Delmi of Algeria. (607 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

### **Pentagon, NIH Fund Pollen-Based Vaccine Delivery Research**

Nuclear Threat Initiative, 10 December 2012, <http://www.nti.org/gsn>

The U.S. government in recent months has committed nearly \$2 million for research that could one day allow troops in the field to vaccinate themselves against biological warfare threats. (591 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

### **Statement by Ambassador Kennedy at the BWC Meeting**

U.S. Mission to Geneva, 10 December 2012, <http://geneva.usmission.gov>

I'm pleased to see so many here today – not only representatives of States Parties to the [Biological Weapons Convention (BWC)], but also observers, international organizations, and civil society. Today's biological weapons threat is a complex challenge, requiring a layered, nuanced and integrated response. We need a wide range of partners to advance our shared goals. (1,625 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

### **Marshall Islands Becomes 166<sup>th</sup> State Party to the BWC**

United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs, 29 November 2012, <http://www.un.org>

The United States, as a Depositary of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction (BWC), has confirmed that the Marshall Islands deposited its instrument of accession to the convention on November 15, 2012, and therefore became the 166<sup>th</sup> State Party to the BWC with effect from that date. (178 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

## CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION (CWC)

### **Questions Surround Qadhafi Chemical Arms Stash**

Nuclear Threat Initiative, 11 December 2012, <http://www.nti.org/gsn>

The origin of a cache of chemical weapons found in Libya ... remains a mystery that must be resolved, according to U.S. officials. (437 words) [Click here for full text.](#)



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## COMPREHENSIVE NUCLEAR TEST-BAN TREATY (CTBT)

### **Record Number of Countries Back CTBT Resolution**

*Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty Organization, 07 December 2012, <http://www.ctbto.org>*

In a near unanimous vote at the United Nations (UN) General Assembly on December 3, the vast majority of countries registered their support for the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty. (388 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

### **NNSA Conducts Subcritical Experiment at Nevada National Security Site**

*National Nuclear Security Administration, 06 December 2012, <http://nnsa.energy.gov>*

The National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) today announced that Pollux, a subcritical experiment, was successfully conducted yesterday at its Nevada National Security Site (NNSS). (297 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

## COOPERATIVE THREAT REDUCTION (CTR)

### **U.S. Seeks Further Cooperation with Russia on Arms Disposal**

*Russia Beyond the Headlines, 13 December 2012, <http://www.rbtu.ru>*

The United States is trying to persuade Russia to agree to continue the Nunn-Lugar program, which is also known as the Cooperative Threat Reduction Program. The topic was even mentioned by U.S. President Barack Obama at a recent conference on nonproliferation in Washington. One of the authors of the program, Senator Richard Lugar, flew to Moscow this summer to meet with military experts and colleagues from the State Duma. (751 words)

[Click here for full text.](#)

## OPEN SKIES TREATY

### **U.S. Inspectors Conduct Surveillance Flight over Russia**

*Ria Novosti, 26 November 2012, <http://en.rian.ru>*

Inspectors from the United States will conduct an inspection flight over Russia under the Open Skies Treaty starting on Monday, a Russian Defense Ministry spokesman said.

(183 words) [Click here for full text.](#)



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## OPEN SKIES TREATY (CONTINUED)

### **Russia Conducts Open Skies Surveillance Flight over U.S.**

*Ria Novosti, 24 November 2012, <http://en.rian.ru>*

Russian military inspectors will begin a survey flight this week above the United States under the international Open Skies Treaty, Russia's Defense Ministry has said. (168 words)

[Click here for full text.](#)

## WASSENAAR ARRANGEMENT

### **Wassenaar Arrangement Annual Plenary Meeting**

*U.S. Mission in Vienna, 12 December 2012, <http://vienna.usmission.gov>*

On December 11-12, delegations from the United States and forty other Participating States met in Vienna to discuss export controls on conventional weapons and dual use goods during the annual Wassenaar Arrangement plenary meeting. These export controls help keep weapons and other sensitive equipment out of the hands of terrorists or states who might pose a danger to international peace and security. (201 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

## FULL TEXT OF BI-WEEKLY ARTICLES FOLLOWS:



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## Meeting of the States Parties to the Biological Weapons Convention

United Nations Office at Geneva, 06 December 2012, <http://www.unog.ch>

The 2012 Meeting of States Parties to the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) will be held at the United Nations Office at Geneva from December 10-14, 2012 under the Chairmanship of Ambassador Boujemâa Delmi of Algeria. It is the first of four annual Meetings of States Parties in the 2012-2015 intersessional program leading up to the Eighth BWC Review Conference in 2016. The meeting will take stock of progress made since the 2011 Seventh Review Conference, including the work of the Meeting of Experts (Geneva, July 16-20, 2012), and will examine further steps to be taken to strengthen the implementation of the convention and improve its effectiveness as a practical barrier against the development or use of biological weapons.

Noting that the Meeting of Experts in July generated "constructive discussions in a positive atmosphere that produced a large number of ideas and proposals", and recognizing that time during the Meeting of States Parties will be limited, the Chairman said that the task of States Parties now was "to take this wealth of information and ideas and consider how we might transform it into common understandings and effective action".

During the course of the week-long meeting, States Parties are expected to develop common understandings on the three standing agenda items considered throughout this intersessional program: strengthening national implementation; improving cooperation and assistance to build capacity in areas such as disease surveillance, detection, diagnosis and containment; and reviewing relevant scientific developments. States Parties are expected to agree on the significance of recent advances in enabling technologies and biological sciences that have potential dual-use applications.

States Parties are consequently set to discuss measures to improve biosafety and biosecurity and to encourage responsible conduct in the life sciences through education, awareness-raising, and codes of conduct. They will also consider reports on national implementation activities and progress with the recently-established assistance and cooperation database.

The meeting will be instrumental in encouraging States Parties to participate in the annual exchange of confidence-building measures (CBMs), a practical exercise to promote transparency and build trust among States Parties. The meeting will also consider progress with universalization of the convention, which currently has 166 States Parties. "Promotion of universality is the responsibility of all States Parties," the Chairman said, adding that "a further concerted effort is needed to persuade states not party to join the convention".



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The opening day of the meeting will be devoted to a general debate. At the invitation of the Chairman, senior figures from collaborating international organizations, including the Director-General of the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE), Dr. Bernard Vallat, and the Deputy Director-General of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), Mrs. Grace Asirwatham, will address States Parties. The Chairman said that these organizations had been invited to "set out their priorities in areas of common interest and their views on the opportunities for cooperation and collaboration with the BWC over the course of the intersessional program".

The Meeting of States Parties will also include several morning and afternoon side events organized by a number of states and organizations, including Canada, Belgium, the OPCW Scientific Advisory Board, France and [the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR)], IAP (the Global Network of Scientific Academies), the European Union, the University of Bath, the University of Bradford, the Landau Network Centro Volta, the University of Hamburg, and Green Cross International.

Formally referred to as the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction, the treaty opened for signature in 1972 and entered into force in 1975. It currently has 166 States Parties, with an additional 12 states having signed but not yet ratified the convention.



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## Pentagon, NIH Fund Pollen-Based Vaccine Delivery Research

*Nuclear Threat Initiative, 10 December 2012, <http://www.nti.org/gsn>*

The U.S. government in recent months has committed nearly \$2 million for research that could one day allow troops in the field to vaccinate themselves against biological warfare threats. At the core of the Texas Tech University work on improved vaccine delivery is pollen – the allergy-provoking powder released by flowering plants.

A television commercial provided the spark for the project's inception three years ago, said lead researcher Harvinder Gill, a chemical engineer who specializes in vaccine and drug delivery at the Lubbock institution. "I was basically passing by the television and I saw these nicely shaped particles on the TV screen," he told Global Security Newswire on Friday. "I didn't know what it was. I just stopped and realized it's actually an advertisement for an anti-allergy drug to treat pollen allergies."

Manufacturing synthetic versions of such particles is difficult. Even though the pollens depicted in the commercial "were causing allergies, I wondered if I could use them for a different application, which is to deliver drugs and vaccines into the human body," Gill said. Since then, Gill and his colleagues have determined that the allergens within pollen particles can be chemically removed and replaced with a test vaccine.

The particles have a hardened shell that would allow the treatment to survive the trip through the stomach and into the intestines to provide protection against infection, Gill said. The researcher said he believes vaccine-carrying pollens could be delivered via pills or liquids. An oral delivery system offers a number of potential benefits over injections, according to the Pentagon's Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency [DARPA].

Rather than requiring shots administered by medical professionals, pills could simply be easily swallowed without pain or hassle even in far-off deployment spots. The drugs could also be more easily shipped to troops in the field than liquid vaccines, the agency said in a November 27 press release announcing Gill as a recipient of a DARPA Young Faculty Award.

"Soldiers could really carry them with them or it could be para-dropped in different locations," Gill said. "Those are just advantages ... the armed forces could envision getting." The benefits might also extend to the civilian population, he added. "It is child-friendly, patient-friendly. A lot of disadvantages of vaccinations go away suddenly," Gill said.

The Defense Department office provided Gill's team with \$300,000. In September, the researchers received \$1.5 million over five years from the National Institutes of Health to



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continue the project. The Pentagon office said an orally delivered vaccine could be used against any number of diseases but did not offer specifics. The agency did not respond to requests for further information on its funding of Gill's work.

"By using different combinations of pollens we might be in a position to deliver most vaccines," according to Gill. Unlike a vaccine administered by injection, a treatment that is ingested could increase mucous membrane immunity in the lungs and intestines, preventing infection from starting in those key bodily systems and then spreading. The test vaccine carried by pollen particles showed "fantastic" results in producing disease-fighting antibodies in test mice, Gill said.

Texas Tech has submitted an application for one patent related to the research and intends to seek another, according to a university press release. Gill acknowledged that it would require years of research and testing before the work leads to a product that might be available to the military or civilians. "We want to understand how it's working," he said. "We basically tried it and it worked. We need to now understand how the immune response is working."



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## Statement by Ambassador Kennedy at the BWC Meeting

U.S. Mission to Geneva, 10 December 2012, <http://geneva.usmission.gov>

*Mr. Chairman*, distinguished delegates, colleagues: I'm pleased to see so many here today – not only representatives of States Parties to the [Biological Weapons Convention (BWC)], but also observers, international organizations, and civil society. Today's biological weapons threat is a complex challenge, requiring a layered, nuanced and integrated response. We need a wide range of partners to advance our shared goals.

I would like to congratulate the Marshall Islands, which last month became the 166<sup>th</sup> State Party to the Biological Weapons Convention. My delegation looks forward to the day when all countries participate in these meetings as full States Parties to the convention. I am particularly pleased to see you, Ambassador Delmi, chairing these proceedings. I am confident that your able leadership will guide us to a successful outcome, and I pledge the full support of my delegation to your efforts.

*Colleagues*, we are here today to fulfill the mandate given to us by the Seventh Review Conference: to promote common understandings and effective action on cooperation and assistance, on science and technology, on ways to strengthen national implementation, and on participation in the confidence-building measures. This is important work – reaching clear understandings and pragmatic, meaningful actions will strengthen the convention, and demonstrate the value of effective multilateralism. My delegation will, therefore, be seeking to conclude this meeting with a clear, specific, forward-looking report. Our working papers submitted to the Meeting of Experts included specific proposals for inclusion in the report of this meeting, and I refer you to them.

It is important to remember, however, that while agreeing on new understandings and new actions is important, there is a great deal for each of us to do, acting individually and in like-minded groups, to implement the obligations of the convention and the understandings already reached. We should never lose sight of that.

*Mr. Chairman*, the United States remains firmly committed to the undertakings set out in Article X of the convention, and our assistance and cooperation efforts are wide-ranging. Just last month, the United States and [the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN)] agreed to launch the U.S.-ASEAN Innovation in Science through Partners in Regional Engagement, or INSPIRE, initiative. Designed to enhance bilateral science, technology, and health cooperation between the United States and ASEAN's member states, the INSPIRE Initiative includes a range of activities based on three central elements: encouraging cross-border scientific collaboration; promoting an ASEAN scientific "enterprise" linking science,



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technology, and innovation to drive economic development; and improving our collective response to pandemic outbreaks and disasters.

Our aim at these intersessional meetings is to promote international cooperation and assistance by identifying needs, addressing impediments, and sharing experiences and opportunities. Our hope, therefore, is that this [Meeting of States Parties (MSP)] will call upon all States Parties in a position to do so to offer advice or assistance in implementing the convention, and will urge those in need of assistance to take advantage of such offers. We hope those gathered here can also agree on the need to address a specific need identified by the United Kingdom at the Meeting of Experts: the challenges of sustainable biosafety and biosecurity described by the United Kingdom at the Meeting of Experts.

We also hope that we will emphasize the importance of the biennial Article X reports requested by the Seventh Review Conference. These reports should be as detailed and specific as possible about opportunities, challenges, and needs; and they should form the basis for our discussions, so that we can grapple with real facts and practical challenges, rather than ideological debates.

*Mr. Chairman*, the Meeting of Experts held constructive discussions about not only developments in science and technology, but about their implications for oversight, outreach, and education. In particular, a great deal of attention was paid to the issue of “dual-use research” – that is, experiments conducted for legitimate purposes that yield insights or materials that could also be misused for purposes incompatible with the convention. This is not a new issue, but it is one that has garnered renewed attention over the past year. Decisions to pursue and fund work that presents substantial dual-use risks must weigh the often-considerable benefits of the research against the risk, and take into account a host of biosafety and biosecurity considerations. This is not an area where there are easy answers.

Next week, the United States Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is hosting an international consultative workshop to discuss the considerations surrounding a particular type of dual-use research – gain-of-function research on highly pathogenic avian influenza viruses. This event aims to advance a global dialogue on the implications of such research for global public health and fundamental principles for the conduct and oversight of such research. HHS will take the information and perspectives offered at the meeting into account in developing its own framework for making future decisions about funding this type of research. This workshop is not the end, of course – but we believe it will be an important contribution to the ongoing global dialogue.



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The BWC has a contribution to make as well. The report of this [MSP] should recognize the need for thoughtful approaches that maximize benefits and minimize the risks of dual-use research of concern. It should call upon all States Parties to examine ways of managing these risks throughout the research lifecycle. And we should recognize both the important role that outreach and education can play, and the importance of hearing from the scientific community about what works and what doesn't, when it comes to awareness-raising, and when it comes to developing sound frameworks to manage risks.

Presentations at the Meeting of Experts in July demonstrated that a great deal of progress is being made on strengthening national implementation of the convention – but it is also clear that a great deal more progress is needed. We need to deepen and clarify our shared understandings of what is required for full and effective implementation of the BWC. We also need to improve our understanding of the status of implementation across States Parties, so that we can assess the situation, provide encouragement and assistance, and measure progress. The ideas of our French, Canadian, and Swiss colleagues for peer review and assessment processes may be very relevant here. And we need to urge States Parties to take practical steps to strengthen biosafety and biosecurity – not only in the laboratory, but in transportation, sample handling, and at all other stages.

The Review Conference also tasked us to take steps to increase participation in the confidence-building measures [CBMs]. Sixty- eight [States Parties] submitting CBMs out of 166 is simply not good enough. My government stands ready to advise and assist those who may require support to complete this important task. But simply increasing the number of countries submitting CBMs is insufficient. CBMs do not build confidence unless they are thoughtfully prepared and thoughtfully examined. This MSP should therefore call not only for steps to increase submissions, but also steps, such as automation, open publication, and voluntarily-funded translation, that will facilitate greater understanding and thus build confidence.

*Mr. Chairman*, in addition to the four substantive items on our agenda for this meeting, the Review Conference identified a fifth topic, to be addressed in the second half of the intersessional period: “how to strengthen implementation of Article VII, including consideration of detailed procedures and mechanisms for the provision of assistance and cooperation by States Parties.” My government knows, from experience with international responses to a variety of international disasters and public health emergencies, that it is also a difficult one. If we are to achieve meaningful results in 2014 and 2015, we should begin now to identify barriers to prompt, effective international response.

The United States has had some experiences in recent years that are highly relevant.



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- [In response to the] devastation from Hurricane Katrina [there was] an outpouring of international assistance on a scale we had never before experienced. My government received offers of assistance from over 150 governments and international organizations and discovered that we had no procedures to evaluate, prioritize, or manage such offers. The lesson here applies equally to response to a disease outbreak, whether deliberate or natural in origin: In many cases, assistance – no matter how welcome – poses enormous logistical or regulatory challenges that cannot be addressed in the midst of a crisis.

Based on this experience, the United States developed, and is continuing to refine, an International Assistance System – an internal framework under which we have examined some of those logical and regulatory challenges, developed general policies and priorities, and for the first time created a formal, organized system to manage international offers of emergency assistance.

- Similarly, our efforts in response to the 2009 H1N1 pandemic, the 2010 Haiti earthquake, and the disaster in Japan following the 2011 earthquake and tsunami exposed gaps in our preparedness plans and policies to provide international assistance, particularly those related to the coordination with United Nations agencies and other partners, and to the international deployment of medical personnel and emergency provision of medical countermeasures – areas where we are currently working to develop internal frameworks to ensure coordinated, effective responses.

These experiences have underscored to us the importance of preparedness and advance planning at a global level – particularly in identifying key challenges or obstacles and finding solutions – not only for providers of assistance, but also for recipients. We look forward to providing further information about the challenges we have encountered and the solutions we have developed at next year's Meeting of Experts.

*Colleagues*, I think of this week as a test of whether we can live up to the high expectations that were set by the Review Conference, of whether we can agree on ways to promote common understanding and effective action across such a wide range of important topics. I think we can, and I look forward to working with you to achieve these goals.



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## Marshall Islands Becomes 166<sup>th</sup> State Party to the BWC

United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs, 29 November 2012, <http://www.un.org>

The United States, as a Depository of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction (BWC), has confirmed that the Marshall Islands deposited its instrument of accession to the convention on November 15, 2012, and therefore became the 166<sup>th</sup> State Party to the BWC with effect from that date.

The Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) opened for signature in 1972 and entered into force in 1975. It prohibits the development, production, acquisition, transfer, retention, stockpiling and use of biological and toxin weapons. It was the first international treaty that bans the production of an entire category of weapons. The BWC, along with the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty and the Chemical Weapons Convention, is one of the key components of the international community's effort to address the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

The Marshall Islands (RMI), with a population of approximately 60,000, comprises 29 coral atolls and 5 low-lying islands in the central Pacific. The Marshall Islands became a Member State of the United Nations in 1991.



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## Questions Surround Qadhafi Chemical Arms Stash

*Nuclear Threat Initiative, 11 December 2012, <http://www.nti.org/gsn>*

The origin of a cache of chemical weapons found in Libya after the fall of the Qadhafi regime remains a mystery that must be resolved, according to U.S. officials. [...]

Libya joined the Chemical Weapons Convention in 2004 and acknowledged holding 24.7 metric tons of sulfur mustard blister agent in bulk containers, 1,390 metric tons of precursor materials, and 3,563 empty munitions that could have been used to carry the lethal material. The nation also declared that it had three production sites.

Then-dictator Muammar Qadhafi's regime moved to destroy the stockpile, eliminating the declared weapons and converting or dismantling the former manufacturing plants. A technical malfunction halted work at a mobile mustard agent disposal plant shortly before the uprising that began in February 2011 and led to the overthrow of the Libyan government and Qadhafi's death.

In the aftermath, the new leadership in Tripoli in late 2011 and early 2012 declared an additional amount of chemical arms discovered at two locations. The total stocks of declared mustard agent now stand at 26.3 metric tons, suggesting that nearly 2 tons of additional material was discovered. Much of that was held in artillery shells, according to the U.S. State Department.

"The United States, like other States Parties, remains concerned about the origin of these chemical weapons stocks," U.S. Ambassador Robert Mikulak said during a November meeting of member nations to the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons [OPCW], the entity charged with monitoring compliance with the convention.

He indicated that the OPCW Technical Secretariat was investigating the matter and would deliver findings to the organization's 41-nation Executive Council and its full membership on "where the hidden chemical weapons, and the chemical agent they contain, were produced." [...]

Ahmet Üzümcü, OPCW Director-General, in comments to delegates last month said only that the Executive Council appreciates Libya's pledge to provide clarity as needed on its updated declaration and that the organization "is still in the process of clarifying details related to these declarations." [...]

The new Libyan government has pledged to resume disposal operations by next March and to complete operations in December 2016, according to OPCW information. Given that the newly



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declared mustard agent is weaponized, Tripoli might have to use technology other than the neutralization process employed by the Qadhafi government.

The post-revolution find keeps open the question of whether the full scope of Libya's chemical arsenal is yet known, experts said. "There still remains a question I think as to whether his whole stockpile is simply bulk and weaponized mustard or whether there's something more sophisticated there and more dangerous," [chemical disarmament expert] Paul Walker said. [...]



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# BI-WEEKLY TREATY REVIEW



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**DTRA**

## Record Number of Countries Back CTBT Resolution

*Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty Organization, 07 December 2012, <http://www.ctbto.org>*

In a near unanimous vote at the United Nations (UN) General Assembly on December 3, the vast majority of countries registered their support for the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT). The CTBT resolution was adopted by 184 votes in favor, representing an all-time high, one against (the Democratic People's Republic of Korea [DPRK]) and three abstentions (India, Mauritius, and Syria).

The resolution “urges all states that have not yet signed the treaty, in particular those whose ratification is needed for its entry into force, to sign and ratify it as soon as possible.” These states are the remaining eight of 44 treaty-defined nuclear technology holders that have yet to formally embrace the CTBT: China, the DPRK, Egypt, India, Israel, Iran, Pakistan and the United States.

The voting results from this year show an increase in support with a record number of countries voting in favor of the CTBT. Last year's resolution on the CTBT was adopted with 174 countries voting in favor, with the same number of votes against and abstentions as in 2012. Despite not having signed the treaty yet, Pakistan voted in favor of the resolution.

The General Assembly also approved a resolution on “the total elimination of nuclear weapons.” The Japanese draft includes a paragraph that “urges all states that have not yet done so to sign and ratify the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty at the earliest opportunity”. The paragraph was approved by 165 countries voting in favor and only North Korea voting against. The overall resolution was adopted with a margin of 174-1-13.

The resolutions of the General Assembly are not legally binding, but are important recommendations that show the political stance of UN member states on the issues concerned. There were three further resolutions stressing the importance of the CTBT on: Nuclear Disarmament; Towards a Nuclear-Weapon-Free World; and the Follow-up to the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the Legality of the Threat or Use of Nuclear Weapons.

The General Assembly meeting came two months after the Ministerial Meeting on the CTBT, which issued a joint statement stressing the importance of the CTBT as a “vital step” towards nuclear disarmament. United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon told the states that have yet to sign or ratify the CTBT: “You are failing to live up to your responsibility as a member of the international community.”



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## **NNSA Conducts Subcritical Experiment at Nevada National Security Site**

National Nuclear Security Administration, 06 December 2012, <http://nnsa.energy.gov>

The National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) today announced that Pollux, a subcritical experiment, was successfully conducted yesterday at its Nevada National Security Site (NNSS).

The experiment, conducted by staff from NNSS, Los Alamos National Laboratory and Sandia National Laboratories, gathered scientific data that will provide crucial information to maintain the safety and effectiveness of the nation's nuclear weapons.

“Challenging subcritical experiments maintain our capabilities to ensure that we can support a safe, secure and effective stockpile without having to conduct underground testing,” said NNSA Administrator Thomas D’Agostino. “I applaud the work done by the men and women who worked to make this experiment successful. Experiments such as this help deliver President Obama’s nuclear security agenda.”

Pollux was the 27<sup>th</sup> subcritical experiment to date. The previous subcritical experiment, Barolo B, was conducted on February 2, 2011. Pollux employed a superb new diagnostic that recently won a [research and development (R&D)] 100 award.

“Diagnostic equipment fielded by our scientists resulted in more data collected in this single experiment than all other previous subcritical experiments,” said NNSA Deputy Administrator for Defense Programs Don Cook. “This type of data is critical for ensuring our computer simulations can accurately predict performance, and thus continued confidence in the safety and effectiveness of the nation’s stockpile.”

Christopher Deeney, NNSA Assistant Deputy Administrator for Stockpile Stewardship said, “Pollux will provide a significant data set to verify codes important to laboratories’ stockpile missions.”

Subcritical experiments examine the behavior of plutonium as it is strongly shocked by forces produced by chemical high explosives. Subcritical experiments produce essential scientific data and technical information used to help maintain the safety and effectiveness of the nuclear weapons stockpile. The experiments are subcritical; that is, no critical mass is formed and no self-sustaining nuclear chain reaction can occur; thus, there is no nuclear explosion.



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## U.S. Seeks Further Cooperation with Russia on Arms Disposal

*Russia Beyond the Headlines*, 13 December 2012, <http://www.rbtu.ru>

The United States is trying to persuade Russia to agree to continue the Nunn-Lugar program, which is also known as the Cooperative Threat Reduction [CTR] Program. The topic was mentioned by U.S. President Barack Obama at a recent conference on nonproliferation in Washington. One of the authors of the program, Senator Richard Lugar, flew to Moscow this summer to meet with military experts and colleagues from the State Duma.

America's desire to prolong the program, which began back in 1992, was also affirmed in mid-October by U.S. State Department spokesperson Victoria Nuland. She noted that the program is due to expire in June 2013. "For this reason, we have begun negotiations with Russia to extend the agreement in July. The talks are still in progress. The Russians have told us that they want to review the agreement, and we wish to discuss the options," Nuland said.

In the two decades of the program's existence, thousands of nuclear warheads and large stockpiles of chemical weapons have been destroyed. "In the period 1992-2012, the United States spent \$8.8 billion on the Cooperative Threat Reduction Program," said the director of the Center for Public Policy Research, Vladimir Yevseyev.

In particular, he said, it has facilitated the decommissioning of 7,610 nuclear warheads, 902 intercontinental ballistic missiles, 684 submarine-launched ballistic missiles, 33 nuclear submarines, 498 missile silos, 155 strategic (long-range) bombers, and 906 air-to-surface missiles that could carry a nuclear payload. "The program has greatly contributed to Ukraine, Kazakhstan, and Belarus renouncing their nuclear status," said Yevseyev.

But if all is well, why does Moscow refuse to put pen to paper? Formally titled the Soviet Nuclear Threat Reduction Act of 1991, the Nunn-Lugar program was approved by the U.S. Senate in 1991. The purpose of the program was not to offer charitable aid to Russia to help reduce the huge stockpiles of weapons of mass destruction the country had inherited from the Soviet Union after the Cold War. The goal was not even to insure against unforeseen contingencies.

The program had a pragmatic and specific objective: to protect the United States from any uncontrolled deployment of these terrible weapons and, even more so, to prevent them from falling into the hands of international terrorists. Therefore, the United States willingly funded the program, so as to significantly reduce the potential threat to its national security. This generosity, however, turned into stubborn foot-dragging when it came to weapons that were no longer combat-ready and posed more of a threat to Russia.



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Today, despite its efforts to extend the Nunn-Lugar program, the United States is aggravating relations between Moscow and Washington. The United States has adopted the Magnitsky Act, holds Russian citizens in jail on unfounded accusations, and attempts to instruct Russia to respect human rights. The United States is offering to negotiate a further reduction of nuclear weapons – including tactical ones – while keeping nuclear weapons on foreign soil in Europe (unlike Russia), ready to be carried on board F-16 bombers under NATO command.

All of this creates an unfavorable backdrop for the conclusion of a new agreement on the Cooperative Threat Reduction Program. "Our American partners know that their proposal is not consistent with our concept of how further cooperation should be aligned," reads a statement by the Russian Foreign Ministry on the proposal for extending the program.

"The agreement does not particularly suit us, given the new realities and Russia's considerably increased financial capability," Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov explained. "Moreover, much of what the Nunn-Lugar program sought to address has been resolved and no longer exists as a problem."

Essentially, Russia has made it clear to the United States that it has no intention of backing out of international cooperation on the nonproliferation and decommissioning of weapons of mass destruction. But Russia plans, in the future, to determine for itself what needs to be eliminated and what, potentially, can remain.

In recent years, Russia has significantly increased budget spending on its disarmament commitments. For example, more than \$7 billion has gone toward the decommissioning of chemical weapons and nuclear submarines alone. According to Ryabkov, this circumstance entitles Moscow to insist on equal and mutually beneficial cooperation in matters of disarmament.

Russia aims to see through its projects under the Global Partnership against the Spread of Weapons and Materials of Mass Destruction – but not to the detriment of its own national security. After all, one of the arguments against a renewal of the Nunn-Lugar program is that it provides the United States with too much "sensitive information" on Russia's strategic nuclear deterrent.



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## **U.S. Inspectors Conduct Surveillance Flight over Russia**

*Ria Novosti, 26 November 2012, <http://en.rian.ru>*

Inspectors from the United States will conduct an inspection flight over Russia under the Open Skies Treaty starting on Monday, a Russian Defense Ministry spokesman said.

“In the period from November 26 to November 30, as part of the international Open Skies Treaty, U.S. representatives will conduct a surveillance flight on board a U.S. [Boeing] OC-135B observation aircraft over the territory of the Russian Federation,” the spokesman said.

The flight will be made along the route coordinated earlier with Russian specialists, who will be on board the aircraft monitoring implementation of agreements on the use of technical equipment for the observation, he said.

The Open Skies Treaty, signed in 1992 on an initiative of U.S. President George H.W. Bush, established a regime of unarmed aerial observation flights over the territories of its member states to promote openness and transparency of military forces and activities.

The treaty entered into force on January 1, 2002 and its regime covers the national territories (land, islands, internal and territorial waters) of all 34 treaty signatory states. It is an important element of the European security structure.



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## Russia Conducts Open Skies Surveillance Flight over U.S.

*Ria Novosti*, 24 November 2012, <http://en.rian.ru>

Russian military inspectors will begin a survey flight this week above the United States under the international Open Skies Treaty, Russia's Defense Ministry has said.

Russian experts will conduct the survey flight over U.S. territory in a Tupolev Tu-154 M/LK-1 aircraft during the period from November 25 to December 3, a spokesman said.

The flight will start from the Travis Air Force Base in California. Its maximum range will be 4,250 kilometers (2,600 miles). During the flight, Russian and U.S. specialists will operate surveillance equipment on board the aircraft as set out in the international Open Skies Treaty.

This will be the 36<sup>th</sup> survey flight this year made by Russian specialists over the territories of the Open Skies Treaty member states. Russia ratified the treaty in May 2001.

The Open Skies Treaty, which entered into force on January 1, 2002, establishes a regime of unarmed aerial observation flights over the territories of its 34 member states to promote openness and the transparency of military forces and activities.



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## Wassenaar Arrangement Annual Plenary Meeting

*U.S. Mission in Vienna, 12 December 2012, <http://vienna.usmission.gov>*

On December 11-12, delegations from the United States and forty other Participating States met in Vienna to discuss export controls on conventional weapons and dual use goods during the annual Wassenaar Arrangement plenary meeting. These export controls help keep weapons and other sensitive equipment out of the hands of terrorists or states who might pose a danger to international peace and security.

Throughout 2012, groups of technical experts and policymakers met under the rubric of the Wassenaar Arrangement to discuss what changes should be made to update export controls in line with technological change and to exchange views on geographic areas of concern, best practices, and other issues of mutual interest.

Ms. Ann Ganzer from the U.S. State Department's Bureau of International Security and Nonproliferation led the U.S. delegation, which included Commerce, Defense, and State Department representatives, to this year's plenary meeting. The U.S. Mission to International Organizations in Vienna supports the U.S. delegation to the plenary and numerous other Wassenaar Arrangement meetings throughout the year, and serves as the day-to-day liaison with the Wassenaar Arrangement between plenary meetings.

During the plenary, the United States and all other Participating States agreed to numerous changes in the lists of conventional arms and sensitive technologies.



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