



BI-WEEKLY TREATY REVIEW



18 November – 01 December 2008

DTRA

BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION (BWC)

Biological Weapons Convention Members to Meet in Geneva

United Nations, 27 November 2008, <http://www.unog.ch/>

The Meeting of States Parties to the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) for 2008 will be held in the United Nations Office at Geneva from 1 to 5 December. (547 words)

[Click here for full text.](#)

Report Sounds Alarm over Bioterror: Bipartisan Study Finds Insufficient Laboratory Safeguards, Loose Regulation

Washington Post, 30 November 2008, <http://www.washingtonpost.com/>

Seven years after the 2001 anthrax attacks, a congressionally ordered study finds a growing threat of biological terrorism and calls for aggressive defenses on par with those used to prevent a terrorist nuclear detonation. (818 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION (CWC)

Russia Finishes VX Ammo Destruction at Maradykovsky

GSN, 17 November 2008, <http://gsn.nti.org/gsn/>

Russia has finished destroying ammunition loaded with VX nerve agent at its Maradykovsky facility, Interfax reported Friday [14 November]. (111 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

CW Disposal Deadline Unfeasible, U.S. Official Says

GSN, 26 November 2008, <http://gsn.nti.org/gsn/>

A high-level Defense Department official yesterday said the Pentagon could not eliminate the country's entire chemical weapons stockpile by 2017 as a federal law requires, the Associated Press reported yesterday [25 November]. (267 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

Beirut Officially Joins Chemical Weapons Convention

The Daily Star, 01 December 2008, <http://www.dailystar.com.lb/>

Lebanon has become the 185th country to sign up to an international convention banning the use of chemical weapons, more than a decade after it was launched. (521 words)

[Click here for full text.](#)

 [back to top](#)

News articles and publications found on the DTIRP website are compilations of open source current news articles and commentary concerning significant arms control treaty and related national security issues. The publications aim to give a balanced representation of how the public, other government organizations, and the media may view these arms control and threat reduction programs and issues. They are intended to serve the informational needs of Department of Defense (DoD) officials in the continuing assessment of defense policies, programs and actions. Further reproduction or redistribution for private use or gain is subject to original copyright restrictions. The views and opinions expressed in these articles are not necessarily those supported by DoD, the Defense Threat Reduction Agency, or the DTIRP.



BI-WEEKLY TREATY REVIEW



18 November – 01 December 2008

DTRA

COMPREHENSIVE NUCLEAR TEST-BAN TREATY (CTBT)

Malawi Ratifies the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty

CTBTO, 24 November 2008, <http://www.ctbto.org/>

On 21 November 2008, Malawi ratified the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) which bans all nuclear explosions on Earth. (281 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

Lebanon Ratifies the CTBT

CTBTO, 25 November 2008, <http://www.ctbto.org/>

On 21 November 2008, Lebanon ratified the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) which bans all nuclear explosions on Earth. (166 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

CONVENTION ON CLUSTER MUNITIONS

Some 100 Countries to Sign Cluster Bomb Ban in Oslo

Agence France Presse, 01 December 2008, accessed via Lexis Nexis

Some 100 countries will ban the use of cluster bombs with the signing of a treaty Wednesday [3 December] in Oslo but major producers such as China, Russia and the United States are shunning the pact. (590 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

CONVENTION ON CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS (CCW)

Main Users of Cluster Bombs Fail to Agree on Pact

Reuters, 14 November 2008, <http://in.reuters.com/>

Big producers or users of cluster bombs, including the United States, China and Russia, have failed to win backing for a pact that would phase out some types of the munitions, diplomats and activists said on Friday [14 November]. (367 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

 [back to top](#)

News articles and publications found on the DTIRP website are compilations of open source current news articles and commentary concerning significant arms control treaty and related national security issues. The publications aim to give a balanced representation of how the public, other government organizations, and the media may view these arms control and threat reduction programs and issues. They are intended to serve the informational needs of Department of Defense (DoD) officials in the continuing assessment of defense policies, programs and actions. Further reproduction or redistribution for private use or gain is subject to original copyright restrictions. The views and opinions expressed in these articles are not necessarily those supported by DoD, the Defense Threat Reduction Agency, or the DTIRP.



BI-WEEKLY TREATY REVIEW



18 November – 01 December 2008

DTRA

NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY (NPT)

North Korea Set to Receive Additional Nuclear Aid

GSN, 18 November 2008, <http://gsn.nti.org/gsn/>

North Korea appears set to receive additional energy assistance from South Korea in the near future, even while it disputes details of a plan to verify the scope of its nuclear activities, Reuters reported Sunday [16 November]. (355 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

STRATEGIC ARMS REDUCTION TREATY (START)

Russian Strategic Missile Forces Comply with Accords

Interfax-AVN, 26 November 2008, accessed via Open Source Center

Russia's Strategic Missile Forces (RVSN) strictly comply with international strategic weapons control agreements, the RVSN commander said on Tuesday [25 November]. (189 words)

[Click here for full text.](#)

FULL TEXT OF BI-WEEKLY ARTICLES FOLLOWS:

 [back to top](#)

News articles and publications found on the DTIRP website are compilations of open source current news articles and commentary concerning significant arms control treaty and related national security issues. The publications aim to give a balanced representation of how the public, other government organizations, and the media may view these arms control and threat reduction programs and issues. They are intended to serve the informational needs of Department of Defense (DoD) officials in the continuing assessment of defense policies, programs and actions. Further reproduction or redistribution for private use or gain is subject to original copyright restrictions. The views and opinions expressed in these articles are not necessarily those supported by DoD, the Defense Threat Reduction Agency, or the DTIRP.



BI-WEEKLY TREATY REVIEW



18 November – 01 December 2008

DTRA

Biological Weapons Convention Members to Meet in Geneva

United Nations, 27 November 2008, <http://www.unog.ch/>

The Meeting of States Parties to the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) for 2008 will be held in the United Nations Office at Geneva from 1 to 5 December. Chaired by Ambassador Georgi Avramchev of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, the meeting will develop and consolidate the work of the Meeting of Experts (18-22 August) in order to promote common understanding and effective action on two specific topics:

National, regional and international measures to improve biosafety and biosecurity, including laboratory safety and security of pathogens and toxins; and

Oversight, education, awareness raising and adoption and/or development of codes of conduct with the aim of preventing misuse in the context of advances in bioscience and biotechnology research with the potential of use for purposes prohibited by the Convention.

Ambassador Avramchev, who also chaired the Meeting of Experts in August, addressed the urgency of the two topics: "The threat posed to global security by biological weapons is constantly evolving with the rapid advances in biological science and technology, and the spread of these advances around the world," he said. "The outcome of the Meeting of States Parties in December will synthesize and consolidate findings from the Meeting of Experts, and will be an important resource for helping States Parties to intensify and strengthen their commitment to reducing the threats posed to global security by biological weapons."

Nearly 500 delegates including over 180 scientists and experts participated in the Meeting of Experts. They included representatives from intergovernmental organizations such as the World Health Organization (WHO), the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD); scientific organizations such as the InterAcademy Panel on International Issues and the International Union of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology; professional associations such as the American Biological Safety Association, the Asia-Pacific Biosafety Association, and the European Biosafety Association; and private sector biotechnology and pharmaceutical corporations such as the J. Craig Venter Institute, GlaxoSmithKline and AstraZeneca PLC.

Education and awareness-raising was one of the most widely-debated topics at the August meeting. States Parties and experts alike noted students, professionals and the general public would all benefit from an increased familiarity with the BWC. Other proposals for those directly

 [back to top](#)

News articles and publications found on the DTIRP website are compilations of open source current news articles and commentary concerning significant arms control treaty and related national security issues. The publications aim to give a balanced representation of how the public, other government organizations, and the media may view these arms control and threat reduction programs and issues. They are intended to serve the informational needs of Department of Defense (DoD) officials in the continuing assessment of defense policies, programs and actions. Further reproduction or redistribution for private use or gain is subject to original copyright restrictions. The views and opinions expressed in these articles are not necessarily those supported by DoD, the Defense Threat Reduction Agency, or the DTIRP.



BI-WEEKLY TREATY REVIEW



18 November – 01 December 2008



involved in the life sciences included, inter alia, strengthened codes of conduct and improved laboratory safety standards.

The Meeting of States Parties will review the ideas and proposals presented at the meeting of Experts, and produce a report aimed at promoting effective action to strengthen the operation of the Convention in the areas covered by the two topics, with an emphasis on the comprehensive implementation of the Convention.

The Meeting of States Parties is part of a four-year program mandated by the 2006 Sixth Review Conference of the BWC aimed at strengthening the implementation of the Convention and improving its effectiveness as a practical barrier against the development or use of biological weapons. The BWC prohibits the development, production and stockpiling of biological and toxin weapons. More 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 162 States Parties, with a further 13 States having signed but not yet ratified.

 [back to top](#)

News articles and publications found on the DTIRP website are compilations of open source current news articles and commentary concerning significant arms control treaty and related national security issues. The publications aim to give a balanced representation of how the public, other government organizations, and the media may view these arms control and threat reduction programs and issues. They are intended to serve the informational needs of Department of Defense (DoD) officials in the continuing assessment of defense policies, programs and actions. Further reproduction or redistribution for private use or gain is subject to original copyright restrictions. The views and opinions expressed in these articles are not necessarily those supported by DoD, the Defense Threat Reduction Agency, or the DTIRP.



BI-WEEKLY TREATY REVIEW



18 November – 01 December 2008

DTRA

Report Sounds Alarm over Bioterror: Bipartisan Study Finds Insufficient Laboratory Safeguards, Loose Regulation

Washington Post, 30 November 2008, <http://www.washingtonpost.com/>

Seven years after the 2001 anthrax attacks, a congressionally ordered study finds a growing threat of biological terrorism and calls for aggressive defenses on par with those used to prevent a terrorist nuclear detonation. Due for release next week, a draft of the study warns that future bioterrorists may use new technology to make synthetic versions of killers such as Ebola, or genetically modified germs designed to resist ordinary vaccines and antibiotics.

The bipartisan report faults the [lack of sufficient] resources to prevent an attack and says U.S. policies have at times impeded international biodefense efforts while promoting the rapid growth of a network of domestic laboratories possessing the world's most dangerous pathogens.

The number of such "high-containment" labs in the United States has tripled since 2001, yet U.S. officials have not implemented adequate safeguards to prevent deadly germs from being stolen or accidentally released, it says. "The rapid growth in the number of such labs in recent years has created new safety and security risks which must be managed," the report states.

The report is the product of a six-month study by the Commission on the Prevention of Weapons of Mass Destruction and Terrorism, which Congress created last spring in keeping with one of the recommendations of the 9/11 Commission. Drafts of chapters pertaining to bioterrorism were obtained by The Washington Post.

The document cites progress in many areas of biodefense since the deadly anthrax attacks of 2001, including major investments in research, stockpiling of drugs and development of a network of sensors designed to detect airborne viruses and bacteria. The Bush administration has spent more than \$20 billion on such countermeasures, far more than its predecessors.

But the report says the next administration must do much more to prevent dangerous pathogens from falling into the wrong hands in the first place. While politicians often warn about the dangers of nuclear terrorism, a serious biological attack would be easier to accomplish and deserves a top priority, it says.

"The more probable threat of bioterrorism should be put on equal footing with the more devastating threat of nuclear terrorism," the draft states. It calls on the Obama administration to develop a comprehensive approach to preventing bioterrorism and to "banish the 'too-hard-to-do' mentality that has hobbled previous efforts."

 [back to top](#)

News articles and publications found on the DTIRP website are compilations of open source current news articles and commentary concerning significant arms control treaty and related national security issues. The publications aim to give a balanced representation of how the public, other government organizations, and the media may view these arms control and threat reduction programs and issues. They are intended to serve the informational needs of Department of Defense (DoD) officials in the continuing assessment of defense policies, programs and actions. Further reproduction or redistribution for private use or gain is subject to original copyright restrictions. The views and opinions expressed in these articles are not necessarily those supported by DoD, the Defense Threat Reduction Agency, or the DTIRP.



BI-WEEKLY TREATY REVIEW



18 November – 01 December 2008

DTRA

Some bioweapons specialists have argued that it is practically impossible to prevent a biological attack, because lethal strains of anthrax bacteria and other deadly microbes can be found in nature. But the report argues that it would be far easier for bioterrorists to obtain the seeds of an attack from laboratories that have ready supplies of "hot" strains. U.S. officials think an Army biodefense lab was the source of the anthrax spores used in the 2001 attacks.

The biodefense research industry that sprang up after 2001 offers potential solutions to a future attack, but also numerous new opportunities for theft or diversion of deadly germs, the report says. Today, about 400 research facilities and 14,000 people are authorized to work with deadly strains in the United States alone, and several of the new labs have been embroiled in controversies because of security breaches, such as the escape of lab animals.

No single government agency has authority to oversee security at these U.S. labs, most of which are run by private companies or universities. Such facilities in the United States "are not regulated" unless they obtain government funding or acquire pathogens from the government's list of known biowarfare agents. Because of this gap, labs can work with "dangerous but unlisted pathogens, such as the SARS virus," which causes severe acute respiratory syndrome, without the government's knowledge.

Internationally, the challenges are even greater. While the U.S. government continues to spend billions of dollars to secure nuclear stockpiles, similar efforts to dismantle Soviet bioweapons facilities have been scaled back because of disagreements with the Russian government, the report notes. The only global treaty that outlaws the development of biological weapons has no mechanism for inspections or enforcement. Efforts to strengthen the 1972 Biological Weapons Convention were dealt a symbolic blow in 2001 when the Bush administration withdrew its support for a new accord that had been under negotiation for six years.

Meanwhile, the growth in biodefense research seen in the United States has spread to dozens of countries, including developing nations such as Malaysia and Cuba which are investing heavily to develop world-class biotech industries. One of the fastest-growing technologies is DNA synthesis, which offers new capabilities to alter the genes of existing pathogens or synthesize them artificially. While governments, trade groups and professional organizations are experimenting with various voluntary controls over such new capabilities, the United States should lead a global effort to strengthen oversight and clamp down on the unregulated export of deadly microbes, the panel said.

"Rapid scientific advances and the global spread of biotechnology equipment and know-how are currently outpacing the modest international attempts to promote biosecurity," the report says.

 [back to top](#)

News articles and publications found on the DTIRP website are compilations of open source current news articles and commentary concerning significant arms control treaty and related national security issues. The publications aim to give a balanced representation of how the public, other government organizations, and the media may view these arms control and threat reduction programs and issues. They are intended to serve the informational needs of Department of Defense (DoD) officials in the continuing assessment of defense policies, programs and actions. Further reproduction or redistribution for private use or gain is subject to original copyright restrictions. The views and opinions expressed in these articles are not necessarily those supported by DoD, the Defense Threat Reduction Agency, or the DTIRP.



BI-WEEKLY TREATY REVIEW



18 November – 01 December 2008

DTRA

Russia Finishes VX Ammo Destruction at Maradykovsky

GSN, 17 November 2008, <http://www.nti.org/>

Russia has finished destroying ammunition loaded with VX nerve agent at its Maradykovsky facility, Interfax reported Friday [14 November].

"A total of 23,473 ammunition items, which contain 4,546.741 [metric tons] of VX-type gases, have been disposed of," a Kirov Region spokesman said Friday, adding that work has begun on the disposal site's second branch.

"The second sector—a unit that will dispose of sarin and soman [nerve agents]—is being repaired. We plan to begin installing equipment and to start experimental operations. We plan to launch disposal efforts in the first quarter of 2009," he said.

The Maradykovsky facility is slated to complete its chemical-weapon destruction work in 2012.

 [back to top](#)

News articles and publications found on the DTIRP website are compilations of open source current news articles and commentary concerning significant arms control treaty and related national security issues. The publications aim to give a balanced representation of how the public, other government organizations, and the media may view these arms control and threat reduction programs and issues. They are intended to serve the informational needs of Department of Defense (DoD) officials in the continuing assessment of defense policies, programs and actions. Further reproduction or redistribution for private use or gain is subject to original copyright restrictions. The views and opinions expressed in these articles are not necessarily those supported by DoD, the Defense Threat Reduction Agency, or the DTIRP.



BI-WEEKLY TREATY REVIEW



18 November – 01 December 2008

DTRA

CW Disposal Deadline Unfeasible, U.S. Official Says

GSN, 26 November 2008, <http://gsn.nti.org/gsn/>

A high-level Defense Department official yesterday said the Pentagon could not eliminate the country's entire chemical weapons stockpile by 2017 as a federal law requires, the Associated Press reported yesterday [25 November].

Disposal efforts at two major chemical-weapon repositories face major obstacles that could delay the project years beyond its mandated deadline, said Kevin Flamm, head of the Defense Department's Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives program.

An independent expert countered that the Defense Department cannot willfully break a law.

"I'm fairly optimistic the Pentagon is going to see the light and realize this program is not discretionary," said Craig Williams, head of the watchdog Chemical Weapons Working Group. "This one says, 'You shall.' It doesn't say, 'You may.' There's not a lot of wiggle room."

Williams said that Congress has provided extensive funds for the disposal effort. Flamm said that rising worldwide demand for needed disposal components has pushed costs up even further.

Flamm added that destruction efforts at the Blue Grass Army Depot in Kentucky are unlikely to begin until 2021, even if the project remains fully funded. Still, he said the depot might be able to finish eliminating its stockpile by 2023 if it continues work on a 24-hour basis. The Pueblo Chemical Depot in Colorado could finish eliminating its stockpile by 2020, he said.

Meanwhile, activists raised concern about an independent Pentagon-commissioned report that supports the shipment of chemical-weapon disposal waste to treatment sites, Defense Environment Alert reported.

 [back to top](#)

News articles and publications found on the DTIRP website are compilations of open source current news articles and commentary concerning significant arms control treaty and related national security issues. The publications aim to give a balanced representation of how the public, other government organizations, and the media may view these arms control and threat reduction programs and issues. They are intended to serve the informational needs of Department of Defense (DoD) officials in the continuing assessment of defense policies, programs and actions. Further reproduction or redistribution for private use or gain is subject to original copyright restrictions. The views and opinions expressed in these articles are not necessarily those supported by DoD, the Defense Threat Reduction Agency, or the DTIRP.



BI-WEEKLY TREATY REVIEW



18 November – 01 December 2008

DTRA

Beirut Officially Joins Chemical Weapons Convention

The Daily Star, 01 December 2008, <http://www.dailystar.com.lb/>

Lebanon has become the 185th country to sign up to an international convention banning the use of chemical weapons, more than a decade after it was launched. The 1997 Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) outlaws the production, stockpiling and deployment of chemical weapons, and calls for signatory states to destroy their stocks of such devices.

"The government of Lebanon deposited its instrument of accession to the Chemical Weapons Convention with the secretary general of the United Nations," on Friday, according to a statement released by the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons [OPCW], the international agency tasked with implementing the treaty.

"Upon official confirmation of the receipt of the instrument by the United Nations, the Convention will enter into force for Lebanon 30 days after the deposit and this country will become the 185th state party to the CWC," the statement added.

Lebanon's signing of the Convention was welcomed by OPCW officials, who said that the organization's goal of a universal ban on chemical weapons was closer to being achieved.

"We call upon those 10 remaining states that have not yet adhered to the CWC to do so without delay," said the organization's director general, Rogelio Pfirter.

It is hoped that Lebanon's signature will start a final push that will see all 195 UN member states outlaw the use of chemical weapons. Three states in the Middle East - Iraq, Syria and Egypt - are still yet to sign the treaty, while Israel has signed but has failed to ratify the agreement.

Under the terms of the Convention, countries which admit to having stockpiles of chemical weapons are given a deadline by which to destroy them. Last year Albania became the first nation to destroy its entire chemical weapons stockpile. The United States and Russia have both promised to eliminate their respective stocks by 2012.

Lebanon is expected to sign another arms control treaty later this week. On Wednesday, delegations from capitals around the world will meet in Norway for a two-day conference to sign an international convention outlawing the use of cluster bombs. Lebanon has voiced strong support for the treaty, which will ban the production, stockpiling and use of cluster munitions.

 [back to top](#)

News articles and publications found on the DTIRP website are compilations of open source current news articles and commentary concerning significant arms control treaty and related national security issues. The publications aim to give a balanced representation of how the public, other government organizations, and the media may view these arms control and threat reduction programs and issues. They are intended to serve the informational needs of Department of Defense (DoD) officials in the continuing assessment of defense policies, programs and actions. Further reproduction or redistribution for private use or gain is subject to original copyright restrictions. The views and opinions expressed in these articles are not necessarily those supported by DoD, the Defense Threat Reduction Agency, or the DTIRP.



BI-WEEKLY TREATY REVIEW



18 November – 01 December 2008



An international campaign to create a treaty on cluster bombs gathered momentum after Israel's use of the controversial weapons in Lebanon during the summer war of 2006, when millions of the deadly explosives were dropped on Southern Lebanon in the final 72 hours of the conflict.

Many of these failed to detonate on impact, becoming de facto anti-personnel mines which have since wounded more than 270 people. More than 40 people, mostly civilians, were killed by cluster munitions during the same period.

More than 100 countries have expressed their intention to sign the treaty, but several powers, including the United States, Russia and Israel, have refused to sign. Campaigners are hoping that the sheer number of countries that will sign the convention will force non-signatory nations to change the way they use the weapons or face international condemnation. They say a similar convention on land mines has dramatically cut their use despite not being supported by the same powers.

 [back to top](#)

News articles and publications found on the DTIRP website are compilations of open source current news articles and commentary concerning significant arms control treaty and related national security issues. The publications aim to give a balanced representation of how the public, other government organizations, and the media may view these arms control and threat reduction programs and issues. They are intended to serve the informational needs of Department of Defense (DoD) officials in the continuing assessment of defense policies, programs and actions. Further reproduction or redistribution for private use or gain is subject to original copyright restrictions. The views and opinions expressed in these articles are not necessarily those supported by DoD, the Defense Threat Reduction Agency, or the DTIRP.



BI-WEEKLY TREATY REVIEW



18 November – 01 December 2008

DTRA

Malawi Ratifies the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty

CTBTO, 24 November 2008, <http://www.ctbto.org/>

On 21 November 2008, Malawi ratified the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) which bans all nuclear explosions on Earth. This brings the total number of Treaty ratifications to 147. Malawi signed the CTBT on 9 October 1996, shortly after it had opened for signature.

Tibor Tóth, the Executive Secretary of the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO), welcomed Malawi's ratification. Malawi has shown political support for the Treaty by participating in past conferences aimed at promoting the entry into force of the Treaty (so-called Article XIV conferences) and by voting for the CTBT resolutions at the United Nations General Assembly's First Committee. Malawi has also hosted a national workshop on the CTBT in its capital Lilongwe in February 2006.

The adherence to the CTBT is almost universal. 180 countries have already signed the Treaty. To enter into force, however, the Treaty must be signed and ratified by the 44 States listed in Annex 2 to the Treaty. These states participated in the negotiations of the Treaty in 1996 and possessed nuclear power or research reactors at the time. Thirty-five of these States have ratified the Treaty, including three nuclear weapon states: France, Russia, and the United Kingdom. The nine remaining states are China, North Korea, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Iran, Israel, Pakistan, and the United States.

A verification regime is being built to monitor compliance with the CTBT. 337 facilities worldwide will monitor the underground, the oceans and the atmosphere for any sign of a nuclear explosion. Today, over 230 facilities have been certified and incorporated into the network, and can send data to the International Data Center at the CTBTO in Vienna.

[back to top](#)

News articles and publications found on the DTIRP website are compilations of open source current news articles and commentary concerning significant arms control treaty and related national security issues. The publications aim to give a balanced representation of how the public, other government organizations, and the media may view these arms control and threat reduction programs and issues. They are intended to serve the informational needs of Department of Defense (DoD) officials in the continuing assessment of defense policies, programs and actions. Further reproduction or redistribution for private use or gain is subject to original copyright restrictions. The views and opinions expressed in these articles are not necessarily those supported by DoD, the Defense Threat Reduction Agency, or the DTIRP.



BI-WEEKLY TREATY REVIEW



18 November – 01 December 2008

DTRA

Lebanon Ratifies the CTBT

CTBTO, 25 November 2008, <http://www.ctbto.org/>

On 21 November 2008, Lebanon ratified the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) which bans all nuclear explosions on Earth. This newest ratification, which was published today by the Journal of the United Nations, brings the total number of Treaty ratifications to 148. Lebanon signed the CTBT on 21 September 2005.

Tibor Tóth, the Executive Secretary of the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO), welcomed Lebanon's ratification.

Lebanon has shown its political support for the CTBT by participating in past conferences aimed at promoting the entry into force of the Treaty (so-called Article XIV conferences), by voting repeatedly for the CTBT resolutions at the United Nations General Assembly's First Committee, and through participation in CTBTO workshops.

In the Treaty-defined region of Middle East and South Asia, the ratification by Lebanon brings the number of countries that have ratified to 15 out of 26 States. 21 countries in the region have signed the CTBT, the only non-signatories being Bhutan, India, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Syria...

 [back to top](#)

News articles and publications found on the DTIRP website are compilations of open source current news articles and commentary concerning significant arms control treaty and related national security issues. The publications aim to give a balanced representation of how the public, other government organizations, and the media may view these arms control and threat reduction programs and issues. They are intended to serve the informational needs of Department of Defense (DoD) officials in the continuing assessment of defense policies, programs and actions. Further reproduction or redistribution for private use or gain is subject to original copyright restrictions. The views and opinions expressed in these articles are not necessarily those supported by DoD, the Defense Threat Reduction Agency, or the DTIRP.



BI-WEEKLY TREATY REVIEW



18 November – 01 December 2008

DTRA

Some 100 Countries to Sign Cluster Bomb Ban in Oslo

Agence France Presse, 01 December 2008, accessed via Lexis Nexis

Some 100 countries will ban the use of cluster bombs with the signing of a treaty Wednesday [3 December] in Oslo but major producers such as China, Russia and the United States are shunning the pact.

The treaty, agreed upon in Dublin in May, outlaws the use, production, transfer and stockpiling of cluster munitions which primarily kill civilians.

"It's only one of the very few times in history that an entire category of weapons has been banned," said Thomas Nash of the Cluster Munitions Coalition (CMC) umbrella group that comprises some 300 non-governmental organizations.

"It's unlikely now that you're going to see large scale use of cluster bombs," he said.

Dropped from planes or fired from artillery, cluster bombs explode in mid-air to randomly scatter hundreds of bomblets, which can be three inches (eight centimeters) in size. Many cluster bomblets can fail to explode, often leaving poverty-stricken areas trying to recover from war littered with countless de-facto landmines.

According to Handicap International, about 100,000 people have been maimed or killed by cluster bombs around the world since 1965, 98 percent of them civilians. More than a quarter of the victims are children who mistake the bomblets for toys or tin cans.

Dispersed in fields and pastures, the weapons make it perilous to cultivate the land and can claim numerous lives for decades after the end of a conflict.

On Wednesday [03 December], France and Britain will be represented by their foreign ministers, Bernard Kouchner and David Miliband. Japan, Canada, Germany and Australia will also sign the treaty.

But, as was the case with the Ottawa Convention that outlaws landmines, key countries such as the United States, Russia, China and Israel have objected to the ban and will not sign it...

The election of Barack Obama as president may however bring about a change in the U.S. position, activists hope.

 [back to top](#)

News articles and publications found on the DTIRP website are compilations of open source current news articles and commentary concerning significant arms control treaty and related national security issues. The publications aim to give a balanced representation of how the public, other government organizations, and the media may view these arms control and threat reduction programs and issues. They are intended to serve the informational needs of Department of Defense (DoD) officials in the continuing assessment of defense policies, programs and actions. Further reproduction or redistribution for private use or gain is subject to original copyright restrictions. The views and opinions expressed in these articles are not necessarily those supported by DoD, the Defense Threat Reduction Agency, or the DTIRP.



BI-WEEKLY TREATY REVIEW



18 November – 01 December 2008

DTRA

"Obama has voted for, previously, a national regulation in the United States for cluster ammunitions," said Grethe Oestern, a policy advisor at the Norwegian People's Aid organization and a co-chair of the CMC.

"So that's not just a theoretical possibility at all that we could see the United States onboard this treaty sometime in the future," she added.

In 2006, Obama voted in the U.S. Senate to ban the use of cluster munitions in heavily populated areas, but in the end the motion was rejected.

The Oslo Convention is nonetheless expected to stigmatize the use of the weapon even by non-signatory countries, according to activists.

NATO's decision not to use cluster bombs, including in Afghanistan, and the lightning-quick denial from Moscow when it was accused of using the munitions against Georgia in the August war shows that these countries also find the weapon "morally unacceptable," Nash said.

 [back to top](#)

News articles and publications found on the DTIRP website are compilations of open source current news articles and commentary concerning significant arms control treaty and related national security issues. The publications aim to give a balanced representation of how the public, other government organizations, and the media may view these arms control and threat reduction programs and issues. They are intended to serve the informational needs of Department of Defense (DoD) officials in the continuing assessment of defense policies, programs and actions. Further reproduction or redistribution for private use or gain is subject to original copyright restrictions. The views and opinions expressed in these articles are not necessarily those supported by DoD, the Defense Threat Reduction Agency, or the DTIRP.



BI-WEEKLY TREATY REVIEW



18 November – 01 December 2008

DTRA

Main Users of Cluster Bombs Fail to Agree on Pact

Reuters, 14 November 2008, <http://in.reuters.com/>

Big producers or users of cluster bombs, including the United States, China and Russia, have failed to win backing for a pact that would phase out some types of the munitions, diplomats and activists said on Friday [14 November]. Failure of the negotiations in Geneva left an international treaty that would ban the weapons entirely, to be signed by more than 100 countries in Oslo on 3 December, as "the only game in town", activists said.

Big producers or users sought an accord as an alternative to the Oslo treaty. They are still unlikely to sign up to the treaty next month, but its existence will start to apply moral pressure discouraging use of cluster bombs, activists said.

Cluster bombs, extensively used in the Vietnam war, can spread hundreds of bomblets over a target area. Many of these fail to explode immediately, posing a threat to civilians for many years after a conflict. Campaigners say they have killed or maimed tens of thousands of civilians...

"The treaty to be signed in Oslo next month is the only way to make sure there is no more use, production or transfer of these indiscriminate killers," said Thomas Nash, coordinator of the Cluster Munition Coalition.

The Geneva talks were aimed at updating a 1981 convention on exceptionally dangerous conventional weapons. Proposals under discussion would have given countries 13 to 20 years to phase out some cluster munitions, while allowing them to use, produce, stockpile and trade the rest, activists said.

"Our failure is all the more disappointing because the opportunity to agree to a protocol that would have had substantial humanitarian benefits was within our grasp," Stephen Mathias, head of the U.S. delegation to the Geneva talks, said in a statement.

Israel, India, Pakistan and South Korea were among other countries seeking an alternative agreement to Oslo, according to activists.

"It is expected that the continued stigmatization of this weapon around the world will accelerate with the widespread signature of the treaty in Oslo and that this will eventually lead to a vast reduction in its use, production and transfer, even by the limited group of states remaining outside its legal norms," the Cluster Munitions Coalition said in a statement.

 [back to top](#)

News articles and publications found on the DTIRP website are compilations of open source current news articles and commentary concerning significant arms control treaty and related national security issues. The publications aim to give a balanced representation of how the public, other government organizations, and the media may view these arms control and threat reduction programs and issues. They are intended to serve the informational needs of Department of Defense (DoD) officials in the continuing assessment of defense policies, programs and actions. Further reproduction or redistribution for private use or gain is subject to original copyright restrictions. The views and opinions expressed in these articles are not necessarily those supported by DoD, the Defense Threat Reduction Agency, or the DTIRP.



BI-WEEKLY TREATY REVIEW



18 November – 01 December 2008

DTRA

North Korea Set to Receive Additional Nuclear Aid

GSN, 18 November 2008, <http://gsn.nti.org/gsn/>

North Korea appears set to receive additional energy assistance from South Korea in the near future, even while it disputes details of a plan to verify the scope of its nuclear activities, Reuters reported Sunday [16 November]

"With consultations with respective countries, 3,000 [metric tons] of steel pipes are likely to be processed soon," a diplomatic source in Seoul told the Yonhap News Agency.

Pyongyang last year agreed to give up its nuclear sector in exchange for a host of benefits, including 1 million tons of heavy fuel oil or equivalent energy assistance. Roughly half of the aid has been shipped to date. The denuclearization process has hit a number of snags, most recently when North Korea said it had not agreed to allow collection of nuclear samples as part of a verification agreement reached last month with Washington. Sampling would help determine the amount of plutonium produced in North Korea. Envoys from the six nations have not yet met to prepare a document that would set the specifics for verification. Pyongyang is said to oppose producing a written plan.

"Washington itself admitted a lot of ambiguities exist," South Korean Foreign Minister Yu Myung-hwan said last week. "Through consultations with other countries, we will ensure that sampling is an essential part of verification."

"The Japanese, South Koreans and ... Chinese are unhappy about the level of consultations, because now we have ambiguity, and they are frustrated that this situation has emerged," said Daryl Kimball, head of the Arms Control Association.

Meanwhile, a U.S. think tank is calling on President-elect Barack Obama to prepare his government for potential conflicts with North Korea and other nations, Yonhap reported... According to *Change for America: A Progressive Blueprint for the 44th President*, [a report] published by the Center for American Progress Action Fund, strong cooperation is needed with other nations to address North Korea's nuclear program and other atomic threats...

"With the right strategy aggressively implemented, the president could prevent nuclear terrorism, block the emergence of new nuclear states, reduce toward zero the risk of nuclear weapons use, and restore powerful global barriers to their spread," the report says.

 [back to top](#)

News articles and publications found on the DTIRP website are compilations of open source current news articles and commentary concerning significant arms control treaty and related national security issues. The publications aim to give a balanced representation of how the public, other government organizations, and the media may view these arms control and threat reduction programs and issues. They are intended to serve the informational needs of Department of Defense (DoD) officials in the continuing assessment of defense policies, programs and actions. Further reproduction or redistribution for private use or gain is subject to original copyright restrictions. The views and opinions expressed in these articles are not necessarily those supported by DoD, the Defense Threat Reduction Agency, or the DTIRP.



BI-WEEKLY TREATY REVIEW



18 November – 01 December 2008

DTRA

Russian Strategic Missile Forces Comply with Accords

Interfax-AVN, 26 November 2008, accessed via Open Source Center

Russia's Strategic Missile Forces (RVSN) strictly comply with international strategic weapons control agreements, the RVSN commander said on Tuesday [25 November].

"There have been 17 U.S. inspections of facilities belonging to the Strategic Missile Forces in 2008. On six occasions, the American side asked that mobile launch units be brought out to enable U.S. national technical control facilities to observe them," Col. Gen. Nikolai Solovtsov told reporters.

Altogether, RVSN have undergone 346 inspections since the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START I) came into force, and mobile launch units have been brought out on 97 occasions in the same period, he said.

Solovtsov also mentioned the Treaty on Medium- and Short-Range Missiles, the Treaty on Open Skies, the Vienna Document 1999, and the Hague Code of Conduct Against Ballistic Missile Proliferation, as accords bearing the Russian signature.

"The START treaty is the main treaty for the RVSN. Under this treaty, U.S. inspection groups carry out inspections at facilities belonging to the Strategic Missile Forces, information is exchanged, and armaments whose service life has expired are disposed of," he said.

There have never been any complaints from inspectors, the general said.

 [back to top](#)

News articles and publications found on the DTIRP website are compilations of open source current news articles and commentary concerning significant arms control treaty and related national security issues. The publications aim to give a balanced representation of how the public, other government organizations, and the media may view these arms control and threat reduction programs and issues. They are intended to serve the informational needs of Department of Defense (DoD) officials in the continuing assessment of defense policies, programs and actions. Further reproduction or redistribution for private use or gain is subject to original copyright restrictions. The views and opinions expressed in these articles are not necessarily those supported by DoD, the Defense Threat Reduction Agency, or the DTIRP.