



BI-WEEKLY TREATY REVIEW



28 December 2011 – 10 January 2012

DTRA

BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION (BWC)

BWC Review Conference Ends Three Week Session

BioPrepWatch, 27 December 2011; www.bioprepwatch.com

When the Seventh Biological Weapons Convention Review Conference ended its three week session, the conference adopted a final document, which includes a series of recommendations and decisions. (261 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION (CWC)

Umatilla Chemical Depot Finishes Stockpile Incinerations

BioPrepWatch, 29 December 2011; www.bioprepwatch.com

Inspectors have confirmed that 50 years after the Army's Umatilla Chemical Depot in Eastern Oregon began stockpiling chemical weapons, the last of the stockpile has been incinerated. (273 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

Blue Grass Chemical Disposal Plant 45 percent Complete

Global Security Newswire, 03 January 2012; www.globalsecuritynewswire.org

Construction of the neutralization facility that will eliminate the Blue Grass Army Depot's stockpile of chemical arms is 45 percent finished, the Lexington Herald-Leader reported last month. (297 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

Money for Pueblo Chemical Depot

Pueblo Chieftain, 04 January 2012; www.chieftain.com

As work continues on the demilitarization facility at Pueblo Chemical Depot [PCD], Congress has approved and President Obama has signed legislation providing for \$15.3 million in continued expenditures on the project. (210 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

COMPREHENSIVE NUCLEAR TEST-BAN TREATY (CTBT)

U.S. Conducted 3rd Plutonium Test to Check Nuke Arsenal Last Summer

The Mainichi Daily News, 06 January 2012, <http://mdn.mainichi.jp/>

The United States conducted a third experiment using plutonium to examine the capabilities of its nuclear arsenal last summer, according to data from a nuclear research institution. (229 words) [Click here for full text.](#)



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COMPREHENSIVE NUCLEAR TEST-BAN TREATY (CTBT) (CONT.)

U.S. Simulated Nuke Test Doesn't Draw Flak

The Japan Times, 07 January 2012, accessed via Lexis-Nexis

Japan will not lodge a complaint against the U.S. government for conducting a third experiment using plutonium to test the capabilities of its nuclear arsenal last summer, Chief Cabinet Secretary Osamu Fujimura said Friday ... stressing that the experiment was not banned under the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty [CTBT]. (262 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

CONVENTION ON CLUSTER MUNITIONS (CCM)

Cluster Munitions Protocol Fails

Arms Control Association, December 2011, www.armscontrol.org/

Unable to bridge their differences over a cluster munitions protocol, States Parties to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW) did not adopt the controversial provision... (1,667 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

FISSILE MATERIAL CUTOFF TREATY (FMCT)

Frustration Evident in UN First Committee

Arms Control Association, December 2011, www.armscontrol.org/

Complaints about the stagnation in the United Nations' disarmament forums were a prominent feature of debates in the UN General Assembly's First Committee this year, with many countries expressing frustration that multilateral bodies tackling disarmament issues have been dysfunctional. (1,815 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

IAEA SAFEGUARDS

Science Essential in Verifying Peaceful Use of Nuclear Material

IAEA, 06 January 2012, <http://www.iaea.or.at/>

The IAEA is now in the midst of a multi-phase project to modernize its safeguards analytical capabilities that will help it meet the verification challenges of the next 30 years and beyond. (421 words) [Click here for full text.](#)



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NEW STRATEGIC ARMS REDUCTION TREATY (NEW START)

Russia's Strategic Rocket Forces Plan 11 ICBM Launches in 2012

Itar Tass, 04 January 2012, <http://www.itar-tass.com/>

Russia's Strategic Rocket Forces (RVSN) plan 11 intercontinental ballistic missile launches for 2012, RVSN spokesman, Colonel Oleg Koval told Itar-Tass on Wednesday, January 4.

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

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BWC Review Conference Ends Three Week Session

BioPrepWatch, 27 December 2011; www.bioprepwatch.com

On Thursday, the Seventh Review Conference to the States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction ended its three week session. The conference adopted a final document at the time, which includes a final declaration on the convention's articles and a series of recommendations and decisions.

The declaration retains the previous structures of annual meetings of experts followed by meetings of States Parties, establishes a database system to facilitate offers of and requests for the exchange of cooperation and assistance among state parties, adopts revised reporting forms for all confidence building measure [CBM] submissions, creates a sponsorship program to increase the participation of developing States Parties in the intersessional program meetings, requests that States Parties promote universalization of the convention through regional and multilateral activities as well as through bilateral contacts, and renews the mandate of the implementation support unit [ISU] from 2012 to 2016.

Idriss Jazairy, the ambassador of Algeria, was named as president of the intersessional period in 2012. In addition, the conference agreed to hold the next meeting of experts from July 16-20, 2012 and the next States Parties meeting from December 10-14, 2012. The eighth review conference was scheduled for 2016.

The Biological Weapons Convention [BWC] prohibits the development, production, transfer, acquisition, stockpiling, retention and use of biological and toxic weapons and is a major effort of the international community's efforts to address the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. The convention opened for signature in 1972 and entered into force in 1975.

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BioPrepWatch, 29 December 2011; www.bioprepwatch.com

Inspectors have confirmed that 50 years after the Army's Umatilla Chemical Depot in Eastern Oregon began stockpiling chemical weapons, the last of the stockpile has been incinerated.

The chemical weapon stockpile represented approximately 12 percent of the nation's entire stockpile, originally consisting of 3,717 tons of VX, sarin and mustard gas. The Army, which began burning the weapons in 2004, has told approximately 600 workers at the depot that their jobs will go away in the coming years, the *Seattle Times* reports.

"No denying it: There was a lot of bad stuff out here," Jim Stearns, the emergency manager for Umatilla County, said, according to the *Seattle Times*. "People used to ask me, 'Doesn't it worry you to live there?' My answer was always, 'Yes, but I still feel safer than I would driving in Seattle.' I'm just glad it's gone, and I'm ready to see what happens next."

The incineration process went off without any major incidents and cost approximately \$2.5 billion. It will be a few years before the Army completes the cleanup, as it must tear down the incinerator and do some restoration of the environment. Community leaders have come up with several plans for use of the space, which was originally selected to stockpile conventional military weapons in 1939.

In a plan still awaiting congressional action, the Oregon National Guard would take more than 7,400 acres, 5,600 acres of shrug steppe would be managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as a wildlife refuge and two other areas would be set aside for commercial and industrial development. The community has fielded inquiries from Amazon and the Red Cross.

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Blue Grass Chemical Disposal Plant 45 percent Complete

Global Security Newswire, 03 January 2012; www.globalsecuritynewswire.org

Construction of the neutralization facility that will eliminate the Blue Grass Army Depot's stockpile of chemical arms is 45 percent finished, the Lexington Herald-Leader reported last month.

The Blue Grass Chemical Agent Destruction Pilot Plant [BGCAPP] in Madison County, Kentucky, is anticipated to be completed in 2016. Disposal of the depot's stockpile of 523 tons of World War II-era chemical warfare materials is expected to wrap up in 2021.

"We've had good progress over the last 12 months," site project manager Jeff Brubaker said at a December public hearing. The complete "life-cycle" price tag of the facility has increased from \$3.6 billion to the present-day projection of \$4.5 billion. Meanwhile, it is growing more probable that the 155 mm mustard-agent filled munitions held at the Kentucky depot will be disarmed in a separate fashion from the nerve agent-filled weapons.

A final determination is expected this year on whether to use a special detonation chamber to eliminate the roughly 15,000 shells. A sample group of close to 100 mustard shells subjected to X-rays revealed that 85 percent had a minimum of 30 percent congealment, according to earlier reports. Congealed material has been a problem for separate chemical weapons disposal sites around the country.

A citizens advisory group is expected this month to offer guidance on whether the mustard shells should be detonated. The Blue Grass Army Depot's entire chemical arsenal encompasses 101,767 shells and rockets that are held in 44 igloos spread across 250 acres. The installation holds just 2 percent of the United States' original chemical arsenal -- the least of any of the nation's nine chemical stockpiles.

All chemical weapons have been destroyed at six sites, while disposal operations continue in Utah. Construction also continues on a demilitarization plant at the Pueblo Chemical Depot in Colorado.

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Money for Pueblo Chemical Depot

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As work continues on the demilitarization facility at Pueblo Chemical Depot [PCD], Congress has approved and President Obama has signed legislation providing for \$15.3 million in continued expenditures on the project. PCD houses 2,600 tons of mustard agent in obsolete shells. The process of destroying the agent will entail use of hot water to neutralize it. At this point, the target to begin the demil operation is in 2015.

The largest outlay in the bill for Colorado will go to Fort Carson, where nearly \$286 million will be used, mostly to begin building facilities for a new helicopter brigade. That construction is expected to take four years and cost about \$730 million. The military bill also included a combined \$10 million for National Guard facilities in Alamosa and Aurora. A Reserve center in Fort Collins will get \$13.6 million. And \$13.4 million is targeted for an inspection station at the Air Force Academy.

Buckley Air Force Base in Aurora will get \$70 million for a new building to house the National Security Agency. A similar amount is expected next year. These projects will provide jobs for the ailing construction industry. In the long run, the economy needs to get back on track so that much more building can be undertaken.

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U.S. Conducted 3rd Plutonium Test to Check Nuke Arsenal Last Summer

The Mainichi Daily News, 06 January 2012, <http://mdn.mainichi.jp/>

The United States conducted a third experiment using plutonium to examine the capabilities of its nuclear arsenal last summer, according to data from a nuclear research institution. The test, which did not involve an atomic explosion, was similar to a subcritical nuclear test, but the experiments did not require powder or a nuclear-testing site.

According to the National Nuclear Security Administration, an entity under the U.S. Energy Department, the new test complemented nuclear subcritical tests. Conducted at the Sandia National Laboratories in New Mexico, it followed one in November 2010 and March in 2011.

The United States has conducted nuclear subcritical tests three times since President Barack Obama took office in January 2009. The continued tests aimed at maintaining the country's nuclear arsenal may draw criticism as Obama has called for a world without nuclear weapons.

The NNSA documents showed that the latest test used "Z machine" equipment capable of generating the strongest X-rays in the world to simulate the fusion that occurs in nuclear weapons. Researchers at the facility studied the behavior of plutonium under extreme pressure and temperature conditions similar to a nuclear explosion.

The United States has not conducted underground nuclear tests since 1992. But it has continued nuclear subcritical tests since 1997 and new plutonium tests since 2010 to see if its nuclear weapons built during the Cold War era remain in an operational state.

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U.S. Simulated Nuke Test Doesn't Draw Flak

The Japan Times, 07 January 2012, accessed via Lexis-Nexis

Japan will not lodge a complaint against the U.S. government for conducting a third experiment using plutonium to test the capabilities of its nuclear arsenal last summer, Chief Cabinet Secretary Osamu Fujimura said Friday.

Like subcritical nuke tests, the new type of experiment did not involve an atomic bomb explosion. It didn't even require explosives or a nuclear test site. Fujimura stressed the experiment was not banned under the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty.

"We have absolutely no intention of filing some sort of complaint or notice," Fujimura said. "We understand that the U.S. conducted the experiment . . . to maintain the safety and capability of its nuclear weapons stockpile."

According to the U.S. National Nuclear Security Association [NNSA], the test was conducted between July and September at the Sandia National Laboratories in New Mexico. Similar tests were also held in November 2010 and March 2011.

Fujimura's comments were Japan's first official response to the latest experiment. Despite his call for a "world without nuclear weapons," President Barack Obama has seen three subcritical tests since taking office in January 2009. Obama won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2009 largely based on this vision and he is likely to face harsh criticism for the experiments.

"We will continue cooperating with the United States to aim for President Obama's (vision of) a world without nuclear weapons and would like to lead such discussions in the international community," Fujimura said.

The NNSA report on experiments conducted within the U.S. Stockpile Stewardship Program showed that the latest test used the "Z-machine," the world's strongest X-ray generator and capable of simulating a nuclear explosion of extremely high pressure and temperature.

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Cluster Munitions Protocol Fails

Arms Control Association, December 2011, www.armscontrol.org/

Unable to bridge their differences over a cluster munitions protocol, States Parties to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW) did not adopt the controversial provision and ended their November 14-25 review conference badly divided over it.

At the Geneva conference, states that produce cluster bombs were willing to agree to some new restrictions on use of the weapons but argued that the bombs still serve important military purposes, while non-producers cited humanitarian concerns in pushing for broader restrictions.

The opportunity to pass the proposal, which would affect the world's largest producers of the weapons, is unlikely to re-emerge for years to come, according to sources involved in the debate. More than 50 of the CCW's 114 parties voiced opposition to the proposal on the last day of the conference. The 1980 treaty, which limits the use of conventional weapons "deemed to be excessively injurious or have indiscriminate effects," requires consensus on any additions to the treaty; a new protocol is binding only on countries that ratify it.

Cluster munitions are bombs, rockets, or artillery shells that disperse smaller submunitions over broad areas. Some of these submunitions fail to explode on impact and pose a risk to civilians decades after they are deployed.

A draft protocol, submitted by the chair of the review conference's preparatory sessions, Jesus S. Domingo of the Philippines, served as the basis for negotiations. Several revised versions of the text were issued by Eric Danon of France, who led one of the conference's main committees. The final text would have prohibited the use, development, production, acquisition, and retention of cluster bombs produced prior to January 1, 1980, and set restrictions on cluster munitions manufactured on or after that date.

The draft received at least tacit support from most major cluster munitions producers, including China, India, Israel, Russia, and South Korea. The United States, a leading producer, strongly backed the measure and said it was "deeply disappointed" by the review conference's outcome.

The cluster munitions protocol offered "the only chance of bringing the world's major cluster munitions users and producers...into a legally binding set of prohibitions and regulations," said Phillip Spector, the head of the U.S. delegation to the CCW, in a November 14 opening statement.

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Spector said the protocol's ban on cluster munitions made prior to 1980 alone would prohibit the use of more than 2 million such weapons in the U.S. stockpile. Russia and Ukraine also announced that the 1980 rule would prohibit the use of large amounts of their stocks.

According to a July 2008 Department of Defense press release following the most recent update of U.S. policy on the issue, the United States views cluster munitions as "legitimate weapons with clear military utility in combat...[that] provide distinct advantages against a range of targets...[and] reduce unintended harm to civilians during combat, by producing less collateral damage to civilians and civilian infrastructure" than weapons that do not contain submunitions.

Consensus over the protocol, even among producers, remained uncertain throughout the negotiation process. In a November 15 statement, Pakistan, a producer of cluster bombs, objected to the 1980 cutoff, calling it an "arbitrary" deadline that was "discriminatory in nature." India also expressed some reservations with the text.

The most significant opposition to the chair's text came from a number of nonproducing countries that are signatories to the most comprehensive international treaty on cluster bombs – the 2008 Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM). The International Committee of the Red Cross, the UN High Commission for Human Rights, and many international nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) also criticized the chair's text at the review conference. The CCM prohibits a much wider array of cluster munitions than the CCW. Major producers of cluster munitions have not signed the CCM, but are party to the CCW.

Fundamental Differences

Negotiations over the protocol "failed ultimately because two fundamentally different concepts on how the [cluster munitions] issue should be addressed could not be reconciled," Alexander Kmentt, director of arms control, disarmament, and nonproliferation at the Austrian Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs, said in a November 25 email to Arms Control Today. "One is the CCM focus on victims and the effects of [cluster munitions], and the other is a security policy and arms control focus that was the foundation of the draft by the chair."

Although parties opposed to the chair's text welcomed the provision requiring destruction of producers' older stockpiles, they objected to language permitting newer models of cluster bombs, currently in use, which are prohibited by the CCM.

"This is a matter of lives, limbs, and principles," Steffen Kongstad, the head of the Norwegian delegation, said November 14. "We cannot support a new protocol on cluster munitions in the

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CCW that in fact perpetuate[s], rather than prevent[s], the civilian suffering caused by cluster munitions.” “Humanitarian values basically overcame a process that was designed to achieve just the opposite,” Juan José Gómez Camacho, Mexico’s ambassador to the UN office in Geneva, said of the outcome during a phone interview shortly after the conference ended.

During a November 16 press briefing, U.S. Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Rule of Law and Detainee Policy, William Lietzau, argued that the CCM does not, in fact, ban all cluster munitions, citing as examples the German SMArt 155 and the French/Swedish BONUS. In a November 21 interview, Stephen Greene, vice president of communications at Textron Systems, made a similar point. U.S.-based Textron produces the CBU-97 cluster bomb.

A few CCM states, including Australia and Germany, expressed willingness to work with the chair’s text even though its requirements fell short of the CCM.

Opponents of the chair’s text said they never consented to the draft as a basis for negotiation, let alone a final protocol, and maintained that their objections were ignored for years during the negotiating process. The chair’s text appears to be “a non-negotiated and static text that through several meetings...has not been changed according to the many concerns and suggestions that have been presented,” said Kongstad. “This is not an acceptable way of negotiating.”

After repeated attempts in preliminary sessions to have their concerns incorporated in the text, Austria, Mexico, and Norway submitted an alternative draft protocol on July 20. The alternative proposal lacks many of the legally binding aspects of the chair’s text and does not contain a definition of cluster munitions. Its proponents claim such ambiguity is necessary to accommodate otherwise irreconcilable views.

Some countries referred to this draft during the review conference, but the alternative protocol itself was not actively debated in the forum. Still, despite several revisions submitted by Danon and a last-minute amendment proposed by the U.S. delegation, opponents maintained that their objections continued to be ignored.

“Only a limited number of High Contracting Parties and observer States have had their views and concerns reflected in this text,” said the Costa Rican delegation in a November 23 statement. “It can thus come as no surprise that the text does not enjoy agreement of all High Contracting Parties and does not command the consensus of this room.”

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Pre-1980 Munitions

Many CCM parties found the text's 1980 deadline objectionable on the grounds that it reflected no improvement in terms of the weapons' indiscriminate effects. During his speech to the forum, Kongstad said that findings from UN field organizations and international NGOs showed that 90 percent of cluster munitions victims were civilians, "regardless of the production year of the weapon."

Responding to Spector's assertion that the 1980 deadline would remove millions of munitions and that this action alone would have a humanitarian impact, a diplomatic source from a CCM state said in a November 16 interview that "[t]he humanitarian argument only works if you have an actual intention of using these weapons," which the source said was a doubtful prospect given their age.

In exchange for the offer, the draft protocol asked CCM States Parties for a "seal of approval for continued use" of cluster munitions, Kmentt said in the November 25 email.

Several meeting participants and observers noted that U.S. policy already is in compliance with or, in some cases, exceeds requirements in the chair's text. The 2008 Defense Department policy prohibits the use of cluster munitions with a failure rate higher than 1 percent after 2018. Prior to the deadline, use of cluster bombs with a higher failure rate must be approved by a combat commander; a similar stipulation is made in the chair's text.

Under an appropriations act signed by President Barack Obama on December 15, 2009, the United States no longer provides military assistance, sales, or technology transfers involving cluster munitions unless the weapons have a failure rate of less than 1 percent and the recipient agrees not to deploy the weapons "where civilians are known to be present."

In a November 1 letter, Senators Jon Kyl (R-Ariz.) and Richard Lugar (R-Ind.) urged Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton to resist pressure to accept the alternative protocol. The senators said the CCM employed "arbitrary" and "unscientific" metrics in distinguishing permitted weapons from prohibited ones. Kyl and Lugar also defended the 1 percent-failure-rate standard, calling it "the most accurate measurement of humanitarian impact."

Opponents of the chair's text also took issue with its deferral clause, which allows countries to extend their use of post-1980 cluster munitions that do not meet safety requirements for an additional 12 years after ratification. Cluster munitions producers, however, say that destruction of large quantities of munitions requires a great deal of money and time. The cost to producers

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of complying with the chair's text would be "billions, not millions, of U.S. dollars," Vladimir Yermakov, deputy head of the Russian delegation, said November 14.

At the November 16 press briefing, Lietzau defended the deferral clause as necessary to comply with the "very high standards" of the protocol. "[G]etting our munitions...and our operations to comply is something that you can't just do with a switch," he said. In a November 25 statement, the U.S. delegation said the country would "continue to implement its own voluntary policy" and encouraged other countries to take similar steps.

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Frustration Evident in UN First Committee

Arms Control Association, December 2011, www.armscontrol.org/

Complaints about the stagnation in the United Nations' disarmament forums were a prominent feature of debates in the UN General Assembly's First Committee this year, with many countries expressing frustration that multilateral bodies tackling disarmament issues have been dysfunctional.

This displeasure was aimed primarily at the Conference on Disarmament (CD), which has failed to make progress on substantive negotiations for the past 15 years. The CD is intended to be the world's sole multilateral negotiating body on disarmament and operates on a consensus basis. For the past several years, Pakistan has been the only country blocking consensus for agreement on a program of work.

During this year's session, which lasted from October 3 to November 1, the First Committee considered several resolutions intended to place pressure on the CD's 65 members to agree on a program of work and begin substantive negotiations next year. The failure of the CD to adopt a program of work has stymied movement on a Fissile Material Cutoff Treaty (FMCT), a key disarmament and nonproliferation goal.

A Canadian resolution addressed that issue directly, urging the CD to adopt and implement a comprehensive program of work that includes starting FMCT negotiations in early 2012. Under the Canadian proposal, the First Committee would "consider options" for negotiating an FMCT next year if the CD once more failed to reach consensus on a program of work. The resolution also encourages all member states to continue working to move negotiations forward by having meetings with scientific experts on the technical aspects of a proposed FMCT. Those meetings would take place inside and outside the CD.

The resolution initially called for the establishment of a group of governmental experts to consider options "including the necessary legal and procedural requirements" for an FMCT. That provision ultimately was removed due to opposition.

The resolution passed by a vote of 151-2, with 23 states abstaining. North Korea and Pakistan were the two "no" votes. Diplomatic sources said in November that the 19-member Arab Group abstained in response to Canada's opposition to the Palestinian bid for membership in the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

Pakistan said it opposed the measure on national security grounds, stating on October 13 that such a treaty "would allow the major nuclear powers to continue producing nuclear weapons

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even if such a treaty were to be negotiated successfully” because major nuclear states could continue to draw from large existing nuclear stocks even after an FMCT entered into force.

Shared Concerns

Canada’s unhappiness with the lack of progress in the CD was echoed by other delegations in statements and resolutions. Speaking at the First Committee on October 4, U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for Arms Control, Verification and Compliance Rose Gottemoeller said the U.S. frustration with the CD and the lack of movement on an FMCT is “shared by many countries,” according to a transcript of the statement. The United States has previously stated its growing weariness with the CD’s impasse and has indicated that its patience with the CD “is not unlimited,” said Gottemoeller.

The frustration with the “disarmament machinery,” as the various UN forums on that topic are collectively known, was especially evident in an October 24 statement by Christian Strohal, the Austrian permanent representative to the UN office in Geneva, who introduced a resolution co-sponsored by Austria, Mexico, and Norway. Strohal said that “since joining the CD in 1996, Austria has never seen one day of substantive negotiations.” The resolution, which was withdrawn without a vote, was intended to “stimulate a shift” from purely procedural matters to more substantive issues, according to Strohal.

The withdrawn resolution called for the CD to adopt and implement a program of work in 2012 “to enable the immediate commencement of negotiations” on disarmament matters. Should the CD fail to reach such an agreement, the First Committee, the UN body designated for disarmament and international security matters, would consider “alternative ways of taking forward multilateral disarmament negotiations” during next year’s session.

Alternate approaches would be led by open-ended working groups exploring issues of disarmament such as a fissile material ban, culminating with a report to the UN General Assembly in the 2013 session.

Many countries expressed concern that such a step would undermine the CD. In an October 11 statement, Pakistani Deputy Permanent Representative to the UN Raza Bashir Tarar blamed the body’s failure to commence with substantive disarmament work not on its “working methods” but on “the continued lack of political will” among member states. Indonesia, speaking on behalf of the Nonaligned Movement on October 3, echoed Pakistan’s belief that the lack of political will is the “main difficulty of the disarmament machinery.”

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In contrast, Austria's resolution described the international political climate as "conducive to the promotion of multilateral disarmament." Resolution L.39, sponsored by the Netherlands, South Africa, and Switzerland, also expressed "grave concern about the current status of the disarmament machinery." Adopted without a vote by the First Committee, it calls for states to "intensify efforts aimed at creating an environment conducive to multilateral disarmament negotiations." The resolution also encouraged the CD to approve and begin a program of work early in its 2012 session.

A resolution sponsored by Cuba, "Report of the Conference on Disarmament," passed without a vote. It too called for more-intense efforts and shared the goal of the CD adopting "a balanced and comprehensive" program of work early in its 2012 session.

The UN Disarmament Commission (UNDC) received limited mention, but was specifically addressed in an Iraqi resolution. Resolution L.20 "reaffirmed the mandate" of the UNDC as the "specialized, deliberative body within the United Nations...that allows for in-depth deliberations on specific disarmament issues." Iraq highlighted the importance of increased dialogue and cooperation among the First Committee, the UNDC, and the CD.

The resolution also establishes a three-week period, April 2-20, during which the UNDC is to meet and produce a "substantive report" to the UN General Assembly in the First Committee's 2012 session. The measure was adopted without a vote or comments.

Nuclear Disarmament

Although states were largely focused on overcoming the stagnation of the UN disarmament machinery, many also emphasized the need to make progress on the action steps agreed to during last year's nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT) review conference.

The New Agenda Coalition (Brazil, Egypt, Ireland, Mexico, New Zealand, South Africa, and Sweden) sponsored a resolution on nuclear disarmament with slight changes from previous years, including a statement of deep disappointment with the "absence of progress" in the CD. The 2011 resolution goes further toward emphasizing the "binding" nature of the NPT and calls on all states to "comply fully" with all commitments made at the review conferences.

As in previous years, the measure split members between the nuclear haves and have-nots. It passed with a vote of 160-6, with four abstentions. France, India, Israel, North Korea, the United Kingdom, and the United States voted against the measure, while China, Pakistan, and Russia

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abstained. Those nine countries are known to have nuclear weapons programs. Micronesia also abstained.

In another reprise from past sessions, Iran presented a disarmament resolution that urged NPT states to “follow up” on obligations highlighted at the NPT review conferences in 1995, 2000, and 2010. The resolution specifically cited unilateral initiatives to reduce nonstrategic nuclear weapons, “increased transparency by the nuclear-weapon States,” and a “diminishing role for nuclear weapons in security policies.” It passed 105-52, with 10 countries abstaining. Iran’s proposal drew opposition from Western members unhappy that Iran, a state they claim is in violation of its NPT obligations, is calling for others to take further action on NPT obligations. The United States, which voted against the measure, explained its vote by saying that “Iran should demonstrate its own commitment to the NPT, in word and deed.”

Japan, along with more than 60 co-sponsors, presented a resolution entitled “United action towards the total elimination of nuclear weapons.” Japan expressed concern with the “catastrophic humanitarian consequences” of the use of nuclear weapons and the growing dangers presented by nuclear proliferation. The resolution commended Russia and the United States for their implementation of the New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty, which came into force in February, and France, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States for releasing information on their nuclear stockpile statistics.

Japan also called for North Korea to halt its nuclear program, including the construction of a light-water reactor. The measure passed by a vote of 156-1, with 15 abstentions. North Korea was the only country to vote against it. China, India, and Israel were among the 15 delegations that abstained.

Other Issues

Egypt’s resolution on a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East was adopted without a vote. The resolution follows the October 14 announcement that Finland will host the planned 2012 conference on the establishment of a Middle Eastern zone free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction.

Using language similar to the NPT’s, the resolution affirmed the “inalienable right of all States to acquire and develop nuclear energy for peaceful purposes.” It also emphasized the need for measures to prohibit military strikes on civilian nuclear facilities. The resolution highlights the importance of mutually verifiable regional security agreements and emphasizes that the United Nations will play a large role in the establishment of the Middle Eastern zone.

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Although Israel voted for the measure, it did so with “substantive reservations” about the resolution. In a statement to explain its vote, Israel expressed concern with the “widely acknowledged” cases of “gross non-compliance” present in the Middle East and suggested that any measures toward a nuclear-weapon-free zone should begin with modest, regional confidence-building measures.

Egypt’s second proposal called for confidence-building measures and “practical and urgent steps” to be taken toward implementation of the Middle Eastern zone. The proposal emphasized the importance of Israel becoming a signatory to the NPT and subsequently drew harsh criticism from Israel, which said that the measure was “unbalanced” and unfairly targeted it. The United States sided with Israel and pointed to “the lack of any reference to Iran’s violations” of International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards.

More than 60 states co-sponsored a resolution on the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty, which was adopted by the First Committee 170-1, with India, Mauritius, and Syria abstaining. North Korea cast the lone vote against the resolution, which asks the UN secretary-general, in consultation with the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty Organization, to prepare a report on the efforts of states that have ratified the treaty to move toward universal ratification and on “possibilities for providing assistance on ratification procedures to States that so request it.” That report is to be submitted to the General Assembly during its 2012 session.

The resolution also recalled UN Security Council resolutions 1718 and 1874, which condemned North Korean nuclear testing and offered support for the six-party talks, which involve China, Japan, North Korea, Russia, South Korea, and the United States. North Korea conducted nuclear tests in 2006 and 2009.

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Science Essential in Verifying Peaceful Use of Nuclear Material

IAEA, 06 January 2012, <http://www.iaea.or.at/>

The IAEA is now in the midst of a multi-phase project to modernize its safeguards analytical capabilities that will help it meet the verification challenges of the next 30 years and beyond. This capital project, the largest ever undertaken by the IAEA, involves forecasting and defining analytical and infrastructure needs; designing the laboratories, site infrastructure and security improvements; and completing their construction on time and within budget without interrupting ongoing operations.

A major part of the project is the establishment of a new Nuclear Material Laboratory (NML) in Seibersdorf, Austria. The new NML will replace the existing NML that began operation in 1976. Since that time, the core mission of the NML has been the analysis and reporting of results from nuclear material accountancy verification samples, which may include uranium, plutonium, spent fuel, and high activity liquid waste materials.

Adding to the Laboratory's workload in the modern era are nuclear material samples collected outside the declared areas of safeguarded facilities. Such samples may have different forms and compositions compared with normal verification inspection samples, and may require special handling and analytical processing within the NML.

Director General Yukiya Amano said that, when completed in 2014, the new NML would "provide the IAEA with a modern and expandable capability for nuclear sample analyses, collected from all points along the nuclear fuel cycle." The new Laboratory brings together into a single building analytical activities that are currently dispersed among a number of buildings at Seibersdorf. The new Laboratory will also allow the IAEA to fully comply with its own latest guidelines on the physical protection of nuclear material, as well as with its nuclear safety requirements.

On December 16, 2011, Deputy Director General for Safeguards, Herman Nackaerts, was able to report to Member State representatives on the start of construction of this vital component of the Agency's analytical capabilities. The successful completion of the extension of clean laboratory space for the Environmental Sample Laboratory (ESL), on time and within budget, represented another significant project milestone. Recently acquired mass spectrometry equipment of unparalleled precision is now operating within this newly acquired space.

The ESL enables IAEA scientists to detect and measure minute particles of uranium found in the swipe samples collected by IAEA inspectors and to identify the isotopic composition of particles weighing as little as the DNA in one human cell. This capability, which IAEA scientists

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may extend in the future to the analysis of plutonium, constitutes a powerful tool for confirming the absence of undeclared materials and activities in States under safeguards.

Together, the NML and ESL comprise the IAEA Safeguards Analytical Laboratories. According to Director General Amano, "The role played by the IAEA's Analytical Laboratories in safeguarding nuclear material around the world is vital in upholding the integrity of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty."

At the December 16 briefing, representatives of Member States and the IAEA Secretariat conferred on the Agency's project plan and identified milestones on the way to its completion by the end of 2014. For this ambitious goal to be achieved, however, Member States will need to continue their generous financial support.

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Russia's Strategic Rocket Forces Plan 11 ICBM Launches in 2012

Itar Tass, 04 January 2012, <http://www.itar-tass.com/>

Russia's Strategic Rocket Forces (RVSN) plan 11 intercontinental ballistic missile launches for 2012, RVSN spokesman, Colonel Oleg Koval told Itar-Tass on Wednesday, January 4. "Four launches will be carried out for the purpose extending service life and seven under experimental programs to test new missiles and improve existing ones with a view to piercing missile defence systems," he said.

In the training year 2011 (from December 1, 2010 to December 1, 2011), RVSN made four ICBM launches. Two of them were experimental, one was carried out for the purpose of extending service life, and one under the Dnept conversion program. One more ICBM launch took place in late December 2011 for the purpose of extending the service life of RS-18B ICBMs to 33 years.

A second regiment from the Teikovo missile force division in the Ivanovo region will be rearmed with the newest Yars RS-24 ICBM systems in 2012. Rearmament will also start at the Novosibirsk and Kozelsk missile divisions this year. "In the Kozelsk division the Yars system will be deployed in silos. In the future, several more divisions will be armed with these systems," Koval said earlier.

"When a second missile regiment is armed with the newest Yars systems consisting of MIRVed RS-24 ICBMs, the rearmament of the Teikovo missile force with Topol-M and Yars system will on the whole be completed," the spokesman for the Strategic Rocket Forces told Itar-Tass earlier.

With the start of the summer training season, special attention has been paid to combat duty practices in a simulated combat environment. The first missile regiment in the Teikovo missile force has already been fully manned.

"On March 4, the regiment composed of two missile divisions armed with the Yars system with the RS-24 intercontinental ballistic missile went on combat duty," Koval said. "The divisions carried out the tasks of trial duty and confirmed all of the declared tactical and technical characteristics of the missile system, its reliability," Koval said.

With the adoption of the RS-24 system, "the Strategic Rocket Forces increased their capability for piercing missile defense", the spokesman said. "This has strengthened the nuclear deterrence capabilities of the Russian strategic forces," he added. Koval said RS-24 missiles would replace RS-18 and RS-20 missiles that will be decommissioned upon the end of their service life. The RS-24 Yars missile system was put on combat duty in Russia last summer.

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Silo-based and mobile missile systems Topol-M, as well as RS-24 mobile missile systems were designed by the Moscow Heat Engineering Institute. The warheads of Russia's newest Topol-M and RS-24 intercontinental ballistic missiles can pierce any of the existing or future missile defenses, the current commander of the Strategic Rocket Forces Commander, Lieutenant-General Sergei Karakayev said earlier.

“The combat capability of silo-based and mobile Topol-M ICBMs is several times higher than that of Topol missiles. They can pierce any of the existing and future missile defence systems. RS-24 missiles have even better performance,” Karakayev said.

In December 2011, Karakayev said that the Strategic Rocket Forces' attack capabilities included more than 350 launch systems for different types of missiles, “two-thirds of all carriers and more than half of Russia's strategic nuclear weapons”. He said the strategic nuclear forces would have 86 Topol-M and Yars systems by the end of 2011.

The Strategic Rocket Forces have six regiments armed with silo-based Topol-M missiles and two regiments armed with mobile Topol-M missiles. Each missile carries a single warhead. Last year, Russia began deploying RS-24 ICBMs with MIRVs. There is currently one regiment armed with RS-24 missiles.

Speaking of other ICBMs, Karakayev said that RS-20V Voevoda (Satan by Western classification) would remain in service until 2026. “Their service life has been extended to 33 years,” he said. “This is the most powerful intercontinental ballistic missile in the world at the moment,” the press service of the Strategic Rocket Forces told Itar-Tass.

With a takeoff weight of over 210 tons, the missile's maximum range is 11,000 kilometers and can carry a payload of 8,800 kilograms. The 8.8-tonne warhead includes ten independently targetable re-entry vehicles whose total power is equal to 1,200 Hiroshima nuclear bombs. A single missile can totally eliminate 500 square kilometers of enemy defenses.

By 1990, Voevoda missiles had been placed on combat duty in divisions stationed outside of Uzhur, Krasnoyarsk Territory, and Derzhavinsk, Kazakhstan. Eighty-eight Voevoda launch sites had been deployed by 1992.

At the end of last year, the Russian Armed Forces adopted the Bulava ICBM for service. The Bulava carries the NATO reporting name SS-NX-30 and has been assigned the GRAU index 3M30. In international treaties, the common designation RSM-56 is used.

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The decision to launch Bulava missiles from aboard the Yuri Dolgoruky submarine was made after two successful launches from a submerged position. Until then Bulava missiles were launched from the submarine Dmitry Donskoi, which was used as the starting point in the Project 941 Akula (Shark), the world's biggest submarine.

Russia flight tested the Bulava intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) from aboard the new-generation nuclear-powered submarine Yuri Dolgoruky in 2011. The Bulava design is based on the SS-27 (Topol M), but is both lighter and more sophisticated. The two missiles are expected to have comparable ranges, and similar CEP and warhead configurations.

The Russian military developed Bulava to possess advanced defense capabilities making it nearly impervious to existing missile-defense systems. Among its claimed abilities are evasive maneuvering, mid-course countermeasures and decoys and a warhead fully shielded against both physical and EMP damage. The Bulava is designed to be capable of surviving a nuclear blast at a minimum distance of 500 meters.

The first launch of a Bulava solid-fuel intercontinental ballistic missile with a 10-MIRV warhead was carried out by the Dmitry Donskoi submarine on September 27, 2005. The vessel was surfaced and fired the missile from a point in the White Sea. On December 21 of the same year, the new missile system was tested underwater for the first time. It successfully hit a target at the Kura firing range on the Kamchatka Peninsula.

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