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BI-WEEKLY TREATY REVIEW

05 April – 18 April 2011

DTRA

GENERAL ARMS CONTROL

States Continue Work on Arms Trade Treaty

Arms Control Today, April 2011, www.armscontrol.org

In a recent meeting that many governments and nongovernmental organizations called a success, states grappled with some of the issues that lie at the heart of the effort to create a legally binding arms trade treaty (ATT). *(513 words)* ***Click here for full text.***

NATO Sets Up Arms Control Committee

Arms Control Today, April 2011, www.armscontrol.org

NATO defense ministers agreed in principle during a March 10-11 meeting to set up a new arms control body, but discussions about the committee's task and its relationship to a broader review of NATO deterrence posture continue. *(519 words)* ***Click here for full text.***

BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION (BWC)

BWC Review Conference Chairman Aims to Bolster Treaty Regime

Global Security Newswire, 12 April 2011; www.globalsecuritynewswire.org

The Biological Weapons Convention review conference this year should look at ways to strengthen the international prohibition against the offensive use of disease materials, according to the chairman of the upcoming meeting. *(2,054 words)* ***Click here for full text.***

Army Starts Clinical Testing of Ricin Vaccine

Global Security Newswire, 13 April 2011; www.globalsecuritynewswire.org

The U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases on Wednesday announced the beginning of a clinical evaluation of a potential vaccine against the biological agent ricin. *(312 words)* ***Click here for full text.***

Biological Weapons Convention Meeting Prepares for 2011 Comprehensive Review

UN Office at Geneva, 15 April 2011, www.unog.ch

States Parties to the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) met in Geneva, Switzerland from April 13-14, 2011 at the Preparatory Committee for the Seventh Review Conference of the BWC. *(671 words)* ***Click here for full text.***

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CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION (CWC)

ACWA Getting a Handle of Chemical Weapons: Estimate Near on How Many are Leaking in Destruction Process

The Pueblo Chieftain, 09 April 2011, www.chieftain.com

The Defense Department agency charged with destroying Pueblo's stockpile of chemical weapons should have a better estimate later this month on how many of those weapons won't be able to go through a water neutralization process. *(283 words)* **Click here for full text.**

Seminar on the OPCW's Contribution to Security and Non-Proliferation of Chemical Weapons Concludes in The Hague

Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, 13 April 2011, www.opcw.org

An international seminar was held on 11 and 12 April 2011 at the OPCW Headquarters. *(365 words)* **Click here for full text.**

CONVENTIONAL ARMED FORCES IN EUROPE TREATY (CFE)

Clinton Urges Russia Transparency for Treaty

Agence France Presse, 15 April 2011, accessed via Early Bird

U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton voiced hope Friday for reviving a treaty with Russia on conventional weapons but insisted that Moscow be fully transparent on its military deployments. *(273 words)* **Click here for full text.**

Lavrov Calls for Talks on Conventional Arms Control

RIA Novosti, 15 April 2011, en.rian.ru/russia/

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov called on foreign leaders on Friday to begin negotiations on conventional arms control to overcome a stalemate in the sphere. *(284 words)* **Click here for full text.**

FISSILE MATERIALS

Nations Seen on Course to Meet Nuclear Security Pledges

Global Security Newswire, 12 April 2011; www.globalsecuritynewswire.org

Nations that participated in the April 2010 Global Nuclear Security Summit in Washington are on course to meet the security pledges made one year ago. *(682 words)* **Click here for full text.**

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NEW START TREATY (NST)

BCC Joint Statement Number 1: Arrival Time at the Point of Entry

U.S. Department of State, 08 April 2011, www.state.gov

The four-hour time period provided…for provision at the point of entry of notifications…should be calculated from the time of the arrival of the inspection team at the room determined by the inspected Party…for the examination of equipment… *(326 words)* ***Click here for full text.***

BCC Joint Statement Number 2: Photography during Type One Inspections

U.S. Department of State, 08 April 2011, www.state.gov

In the event questions and ambiguities relating to an object or building located within an inspection site are not resolved during Type One inspections, the inspecting Party should not request photographs during inspection procedures… *(193 words)* ***Click here for full text.***

START-3: A Move to Global Zero

The Voice of Russia, 09 April 2011, english.ruvr.ru

The Americans delivered their reports on the condition of the U.S. Strategic Nuclear Forces on March 20, and got a respective report from Russia on March 22. *(768 words)*
Click here for full text.

Russia to Have New Heavy ICBM 2018 – Missile Force Commander Adviser

ITAR-TASS, 12 April 2011, www.itar-tass.com

Russia in 2018 will have a new heavy silo-based liquid propellant megaton-class ICBM that will replace the RS-20 missile Voyevoda… *(672 words)* ***Click here for full text.***

U.S. Studying Options for New Generation of ICBMs

National Defense Magazine, 13 April 2011, www.nationaldefensemagazine.org

Strategic Command has begun to study options for the replacement of the Minuteman III… *(279 words)* ***Click here for full text.***

U.S. Begins First New START Nuclear Check

Global Security Newswire, 14 April 2011; www.globalsecuritynewswire.org

A group of U.S. officials were set on Wednesday to begin the first inspection inside Russia… *(210 words)* ***Click here for full text.***

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States Continue Work on Arms Trade Treaty

Arms Control Today, April 2011, www.armscontrol.org

In a recent meeting that many governments and nongovernmental organizations called a success, states grappled with some of the issues that lie at the heart of the effort to create a legally binding arms trade treaty (ATT).

During the February 28 – March 4 preparatory committee meeting at the United Nations, countries dealt with the question of what types of weapons and transfers might be included in a future accord, as well as the criteria that countries should use in deciding whether to make a particular arms deal. Under his own authority, the meeting's chairman, Roberto García Moritán of Argentina, presented draft papers without requiring consensus, as he had done when countries met last July.

Despite disagreement on specific topics by major arms suppliers and recipients, that approach has kept controversial items in the discussion. Final decisions are unlikely to be made before states meet in 2012 for a four-week UN conference that will aim to "elaborate a legally binding instrument." That meeting, according to the UN General Assembly resolution authorizing it, will operate "on the basis of consensus."

In the chairman's papers, circulated before the recent meeting and revised on March 3, conventional weapons were defined rather broadly and included small arms, light weapons, and ammunition. The United States, while supporting the inclusion of small arms and light weapons, rejected ammunition. China argued for an even more limited scope, saying that a future ATT at first should include only those weapons defined in the seven categories of the 20-year-old UN Register of Conventional Arms.

Whether that register serves as a good model for the treaty has long been a point of debate. The voluntary register lists seven categories of major conventional weapons, such as tanks, combat aircraft, and warships. It does not include small arms and lights weapons as a core category, despite the efforts of many states-parties to change it to do so. Ammunition is also not an official category.

García Moritán's March 3 draft strengthened the language on criteria, removing earlier draft terms such as "take into consideration." Instead, the paper said states "shall apply criteria" and "shall not authorize a transfer of conventional arms if there is a substantial risk" that those weapons would be "used to commit or facilitate serious violations of" international humanitarian law or human rights law. The draft also references UN Security Council resolutions, terrorist

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acts, genocide, crimes against humanity, socioeconomic development, and other topics as criteria to be used in the treaty.

In a March 4 statement, Alistair Burt, parliamentary undersecretary of state in the British Foreign and Commonwealth Office, said, “This week real progress was made on developing the shape and content” of the ATT. Baffour Amoa, a spokesman for the international nongovernmental Control Arms coalition, praised the meeting for its “big step” toward a “robust” pact. “Despite serious efforts by some states to derail or weaken the process, we are now beginning to see a principled treaty take shape,” he said.

The UN process continues with another preparatory meeting July 11-15. How to implement an ATT will be a central topic at that gathering.

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NATO Sets Up Arms Control Committee

Arms Control Today, April 2011, www.armscontrol.org

NATO [North Atlantic Treaty Organization] defense ministers agreed in principle during a March 10-11 meeting to set up a new arms control body, but discussions about the committee's task and its relationship to a broader review of NATO deterrence posture continue.

The creation of the new body, known as the WMD (Weapons of Mass Destruction) Control and Disarmament Committee, was in response to a directive from member states at last November's Lisbon summit, where they agreed to a new Strategic Concept to guide alliance actions in the coming years. At that meeting, the members directed the NATO Council, the alliance's principal political decision-making body, to establish a new arms control committee in the context of a larger review of NATO's deterrence and defense posture.

A senior U.S. official told Arms Control Today on March 17 that he expects the new committee not only to provide arms control and disarmament input into NATO's deterrence review, but also to offer a forum for appropriate consultations among NATO members on nuclear and conventional arms control more generally. "We hope that this committee would remain completely independent of the deterrence review and will become a permanent body, though that is still opposed by one party," he said, clearly referring to France. Paris in the past has argued the disarmament body should cease to exist once the deterrence review is completed. Germany supports the U.S. positions, diplomatic sources said.

The committee could meet at the level of deputy heads of NATO missions in Brussels, but could be reinforced by officials from capitals when needed, the U.S. official said. There is no agreement yet on the mandate of the committee and how it will be related to other NATO bodies concerned with arms control, disarmament, and nonproliferation, he said.

The U.S. official described possible areas of work of the disarmament body by saying that "it could support NATO's role in arms control if and when tactical nuclear weapons are included" in talks about a New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty follow-on agreement or "if we have talks on a [Conventional Armed Forces in Europe Treaty] follow-on agreement."

Defense ministers also approved terms of reference for the deterrence and defense posture review, but NATO members continue to disagree on the focus and timing of that review. Because of these disagreements, diplomatic sources said, the classified guidelines simply repeat broad language from the Lisbon summit declaration, which stated that essential elements of the review "would include the range of NATO's strategic capabilities required, including NATO's nuclear posture, missile defense and other means of strategic deterrence and defense."

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A work plan for the deterrence review is likely to be approved by NATO foreign ministers when they meet in Berlin April 14-15. That meeting also could mark the beginning of an exploratory phase, to last through the summer, during which member states are expected to present their views on the scope and purpose of the review. Even though the terms of reference do not explicitly say so, most observers expect the review to be finished by the next NATO summit, likely to take place in the United States during the spring of 2012.

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BWC Review Conference Chairman Aims to Bolster Treaty Regime

Global Security Newswire, 12 April 2011; www.globalsecuritynewswire.org

The Biological Weapons Convention [BWC] review conference this year should look at ways to strengthen the international prohibition against the offensive use of disease materials, according to the chairman of the upcoming meeting.

"It is important that we at least try to strengthen this regime," Paul van den Ijssel, president-designate for the review conference, said last week in a telephone interview. "The regime is more than the convention. It's also the [confidence-building measures] and annual meetings. I think it's worthwhile and based on what I hear from all states parties, I haven't heard anyone disagreeing."

Diplomats and public health experts from around the world will gather in Switzerland on Wednesday to begin preparations for the 2011 review conference. Delegates from all 163 of the treaty's member states, specialists from the World Health Organization and other international bodies, and experts from the nongovernment community are expected in Geneva for the three-day meeting that will set the stage for the conference this December.

The preparatory meeting will be devoted mainly to procedural issues that range from setting the draft agenda for the seventh review conference; selecting the three-week event's two vice presidents; and determining what background documents the convention's Implementation Support Unit [ISU] will produce to assist attending delegations, according to van den Ijssel.

"We will discuss a number of procedural issues, which have to be discussed before we start work on the substance," said van den Ijssel, who also serves as Dutch disarmament ambassador and is Amsterdam's representative to the international Conference on Disarmament.

The Biological Weapons Convention, which entered into force in 1975, prohibits the development, production and stockpiling of weaponized disease agents such as anthrax, smallpox and plague. The review conferences, conducted every five years, examine the implementation of the pact during the intervening period and can recommend improvements to the nonproliferation regime.

Two topics required by the treaty to be on the docket in December are an evaluation of the pact's provisions and the impact of science and technology on the agreement, the Dutch diplomat told Global Security Newswire.

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"What does the immense progress, especially in the field of life sciences, mean for the convention and the entire framework of the" convention, van den Ijssel said. "I think there is no other field of science and technology which is growing so fast as the area of life sciences, which is directly related to the convention."

Life sciences encompass all research that involves the scientific study of living organisms, such as plants, animals and human beings. The results of potentially "dual-use" research could be misused to pose biological threats to public health or national security.

Other topics for possible discussion in December that have come up in recent meetings with states parties include the fate of the treaty's "intersessional process" and support staff; a possible revamp of the treaty's confidence-building measures; and increasing the number of member nations to the convention, according to the ambassador. He emphasized that subjects could change before the review conference.

Verification

One topic yet to make it on the list of possible topics is an international verification regime for the 36-year-old pact.

The debate over verification ended in 2001 when White House officials abruptly withdrew from almost seven years of negotiations aimed at creating an inspections protocol. The Bush administration concluded such a system would prove ineffective at increasing confidence in adherence to the international agreement and financially burdensome to U.S. biodefense efforts and the biotechnology industry.

The Obama administration reaffirmed U.S. opposition to a verification regime when it unveiled its approach to the convention in 2009.

"The motto of my presidency is 'ambitious realism.' I hope for ambition because we need not have a final document which is the lowest common denominator," according to van den Ijssel. "We should try to get things done, but on verification that may be difficult so we have to find, perhaps, more realism than ambition."

The Dutch diplomat said that while he is "very much aware that we have very different and outspoken views that perhaps make it a little more difficult to make real substantive progress" on the verification issue, he would keep an open mind to possible compromise. He did not say what a compromise might entail.

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That is "a pragmatic view," according to policy analyst Jonathan Tucker. "Van den Ijssel wants the review conference to produce a consensus document and it's clear that the United States and other countries remain strongly opposed to a legally binding verification protocol." "The chairman is a realist and he knows that devising a formal verification regime for the BWC is a bridge too far," he added in a telephone interview last week.

The ambassador's comments suggest that member states that have backed verification, including some in the European Union, "should give it up. Let's be realistic, this isn't going to happen," said Barry Kellman, president of the International Security and Biopolicy Institute. He noted that several diplomats who participated in the lengthy verification negotiations are still associated or working on the treaty.

"It's a reflex reaction. Say 'Biological Weapons Convention' and the knee kicks and people respond 'verification protocol.' There are a lot of people in that mode," according to Kellman, who will attend this week's preparatory meeting.

Universality

The chairman said that one goal for the December review conference would be to increase membership in convention, which has traditionally lagged behind to other international agreements. The Chemical Weapons Convention, which entered into force in 1997, boasts 188 member nations.

The ambassador said while many of the states still outside the pact have no qualms about its contents, they have yet to join because defense against biological weapons does not constitute a foreign policy priority. "I see as my task to tell them ... the battle against biological weapons is a global one," van den Ijssel said. "A biological weapon doesn't know boundaries and this is something where the world community at large should help."

Van den Ijssel said another prong of his strategy will be to highlight Article 10 of the treaty, which encourages states parties to exchange equipment, materials and scientific and technological expertise related to the use of biological agents and toxins for peaceful purposes.

"That's definitely a carrot to get developing countries that remain outside the BWC to join because they feel that they can benefit economically from participation in the treaty," according to Tucker. He noted, however, that the convention "is predominantly a security treaty that has an economic component, rather than an economic treaty with a security component." […]

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Confidence-Building Measures [CBMs]

Member nations at the review conference also could examine ways to update the confidence-building measures on their adherence to the convention's nonproliferation rules. The forms for the declarations, which were originally prepared in 1986 and last updated in 1991, offer data on matters including infectious diseases outbreaks and similar occurrences caused by toxins and information on vaccine production facilities.

In 2010, only 72 of the convention's 163 members submitted an annual report, according to the website for the convention's Implementation Support Unit. Of those 72 documents, only 15 are accessible online and, in the case of the United States, the report is a public version of a classified submission.

"It's true that participation could be better," van den Ijssel acknowledged. "It is very appropriate to examine the CBMs with a critical eye and look at a number of things. First of all, is this really helping to create confidence? Is this not overly burdensome? If you ask for a lot of information, but don't do anything with it, then why do you need the information in the first place?"

The measures "are enormously relevant to the people inside the convention because it's the only matter that deals with compliance currently," according to Kellman. "For anybody who is broadly concerned about security from the use of biological weapons, it's irrelevant. It's inside the treaty baseball."

Tucker suggested that the review conference establish a formal working group to revise the CBM declarations format, not only in terms of how they are structured but also the types of data requested. Convention member states could also agree to make the annual data declarations legally mandatory, as opposed to the "politically binding obligation" that exists today, he [said].

Beyond submitting confidence-building data declarations, BWC member nations should do more to increase the transparency of their biological defense activities, Tucker argued. He noted that the United States and others have greatly expanded such programs since the September 11 terrorist attacks, raising concerns that some countries may be concealing offensive biological weapon development behind their defensive efforts.

Fate of the Intersessional Process and the ISU

Delegates to the December review conference must determine the final fate of the treaty's "intersessional process" and its Implementation Support Unit [ISU].

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After the sixth review conference in 2006, the United Nations in Geneva began hosting two convention meetings every year, focused on different topics that ranged from natural disease outbreaks to the prevention of bioterrorism. Last year marked the fourth and final installment of the process.

In each summer session, experts met to give and hear presentations related to the chosen topic. In the winter conference, representatives from member states evaluated the conclusions of the summer meeting and passed along recommendations, or "common understandings," for the review conference.

"I think that the intersessional process has proved its value. I think it's worthwhile to look at the continuation of the process," van den Ijssel said. "That's not saying we necessarily have to continue in the present format." He said that states parties have floated a number of format ideas, including having a single, combined annual conference.

"In principle, you can have as many formats as you can think of," van den Ijssel said. "From the point of the BWC, it would be a loss if we would have no meetings between now and five years from now" because of the continued rapid growth in biotechnology.

A modification to the intersessional process is needed because there is a growing feeling among BWC states parties that the rules for the annual meetings are "too restrictive" and that delegates at the winter session should possess some decision-making authority, according to Tucker.

The Bush administration put the process in a "straitjacket" in 2006 when it insisted that the annual meetings serve only to facilitate exchanges of information and best practices between BWC member states, he said. "Invariably the agendas for the intersessional process are the lowest common denominator because you have to get consensus," Kellman said. "Anything that really goes to the heart of keeping people safe almost doesn't stand a prayer."

Meanwhile, the mandate that established the treaty's Implementation Support Unit is set to expire with this year's review conference. The office, composed of three people and headquartered within the UN Disarmament Affairs Office in Geneva, provides administrative support to the intersessional meetings as well as implementation of the pact.

The unit is "the spine of the treaty," argued van den Ijssel, because it disseminates knowledge to states parties and helps them prepare for the yearly meetings and the upcoming review

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conference. "It would be unwise to stop having an ISU," the Dutch diplomat said, noting that some countries believe the office should be expanded to include a few more staffers.

The United States has resisted such a move in the past out of fear of creating a new international bureaucracy, according to Kellman. However, the Obama administration could "mellow" on that stance if the pending review conference "can figure out something for the ISU to do, which is not a bad argument," he said in a telephone interview last week.

Results of the December Conference

For his part, van den Ijssel said he believes the three-week review conference will yield progress on nonproliferation regime issues of importance mentioned to him by the member states.

"Just a final communiqué based on the lowest common denominator is not something we should strive for," the ambassador told GSN. "At the end of the day we have to make some compromises and some of the things which I think are possible today may not turn out to be possible but in other fields I may be surprised."

"This is a type of weapon which you should never be allowed to use," the chairman added. "I think we are united on that." […]

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Army Starts Clinical Testing of Ricin Vaccine

Global Security Newswire, 13 April 2011; www.globalsecuritynewswire.org

The U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases [USAMRIID] on Wednesday announced the beginning of a clinical evaluation of a potential vaccine against the biological agent ricin.

The Phase 1 trial is intended to examine the safety of the ricin vaccine candidate and its capacity to produce an immune reaction from a limited pool of participants. Depending on the results of the Phase 1 trial, further testing could be conducted on an expanded number of people.

Two individuals have received the vaccine so far this month. Both study volunteers are doing fine, according to USAMRIID Clinical Research Department researchers.

There is presently no cure for exposure to ricin, a toxin derived from castor beans that can be deadly in very small doses. The commercial prevalence of castor beans around the world has increased biodefense experts' fears that ricin might become a tool of terrorism.

Following inhalation, ricin particles cause very strong respiratory problems that result in lung failure within three days. Ricin, if consumed, can produce strong gastrointestinal problems that result in "vascular collapse and death," according to a USAMRIID press release.

The Army institute has spent years seeking to create a ricin vaccine. This study is a key point in that program, according to senior research scientist Leonard Smith. "In the recent past, [U.S. Department of Defense] acquisition strategy involved USAMRIID's developing medical products to a specified maturity and then handing them off to another agency for advanced development," Smith said in provided remarks. "Now we have been able to do the initial production of the vaccine ... as well as the Phase 1 clinical trials, right here at USAMRIID. This early product evaluation in-house saves both time and money." […]

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has approved the vaccine candidate for investigational testing. In all, 30 participants would receive three vaccine doses in a roughly two-month time line.

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Biological Weapons Convention Meeting Prepares for 2011 Comprehensive Review

UN Office at Geneva, 15 April 2011, www.unog.ch

States Parties to the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) met in Geneva, Switzerland from April 13-14, 2011 at the Preparatory Committee for the Seventh Review Conference of the BWC. The Preparatory Committee considered and agreed upon the following with respect to the Seventh Review Conference: date and duration; a provisional agenda; draft rules of procedure; background documentation; publicity; final documents; appointment of a provisional Secretary-General; as well as financial arrangements for the Review Conference. […]

The Preparatory Committee, under its mandate from States Parties from their last review in 2006, put in place the procedural arrangements necessary for a successful outcome to the Seventh Review Conference. Ambassador Paul van den Ijssel (Netherlands) chaired the meeting and has also been nominated to act as President of the forthcoming high-profile Seventh Review Conference …. Representatives from ninety-three States Parties, three signatories and one observer state attended the Preparatory Committee.

Speaking at the conclusion of the Preparatory Committee on April 14, the Chairman said the meeting had taken all the necessary decisions, and paved the way for a full and comprehensive review of the Biological Weapons Convention in December 2011. He said States Parties had "worked in a collegial, constructive and highly-focused way, keeping our overall goal in sight, and resolving our differences through careful listening, respectful dialogue, and flexible approaches".

He called on States Parties to turn their attention now "to developing practical proposals, to bridging differences and building consensus", adding that he was confident that "if we continue in the way we have begun at this Preparatory Committee, we will succeed in achieving a strong and wide-ranging consensus outcome at the Review Conference that significantly strengthens the Convention and genuinely reduces the threats posed to international security by biological weapons".

The Seventh Review Conference, to take place in Geneva from December 5-22, 2011, is expected to:

- review the operation of the objectives and provisions of the Convention;
- take into account any relevant scientific and technological developments;
- consider the work of the 2007 – 2010 intersessional meetings and decide on any further action; and

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- decide on any future action necessary to strengthen the implementation and effectiveness of the BWC.

The 2007 – 2010 intersessional process saw States Parties assemble to discuss:

- ways and means to enhance national implementation, including enforcement of national legislation, strengthening of national institutions and coordination among national law enforcement institutions;
- regional and sub-regional cooperation on implementation of the Convention;
- national, regional and international measures to improve biosafety and biosecurity, including laboratory safety and security of pathogens and toxins;
- 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 bio-science and bio-technology research with the potential of use for purposes prohibited by the convention;
- enhancement of international cooperation, assistance and exchange in biological sciences and technology for peaceful purposes, promoting capacity building in the fields of disease surveillance, detection, diagnosis, and containment of infectious diseases; and
- the provision of assistance and coordination with relevant organizations upon request by any State party in the case of alleged use of biological weapons, including improving national capabilities for disease surveillance, detection and diagnosis and public health systems.

The Biological Weapons Convention, which opened for signature in 1972 and entered into force in 1975, is the first multilateral disarmament treaty banning an entire category of weapons. It currently has 163 States Parties, with a further 13 having signed but not yet ratified.

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ACWA Getting a Handle of Chemical Weapons: Estimate Near on How Many are Leaking in Destruction Process

The Pueblo Chieftain, 09 April 2011, www.chieftain.com

The Defense Department agency charged with destroying Pueblo's stockpile of chemical weapons should have a better estimate later this month on how many of those weapons won't be able to go through a water neutralization process.

There are about 500 weapons that have been packed in steel cylinders because of leaking or because they've been tested over the years. It was anticipated that another 500 leaking weapons would be found in the move of ordnance to the destruction facility.

Those with leaks can't be processed in the plant and likely will have to be exploded in containment chambers.

Leaders of the Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives [ACWA] program at one point proposed blowing up 150,000 of the 780,000 artillery shells and mortar rounds containing mustard agent. That idea was scrapped last year after an environmental assessment came under fire.

A new assessment is under way dealing only with the problem weapons – a number that is considerably higher than the 1,000 originally predicted.

Part of that is because of problems encountered at the Anniston, Alabama, Army Depot, where a robotic system planned for Pueblo ran into difficulties defusing the weapons and removing explosives.

Then-ACWA chief Kevin Flamm told the Colorado Chemical Demilitarization Citizens Advisory Commission in September that he hoped the number of problem weapons would be a lot lower than the 37,595 anticipated in a model for the new environmental assessment.

On Thursday, ACWA engineer Scott Susman said in a Facebook session that the Anniston data is being studied and he should have more information April 27 when the Design Options Working Group, a commission subcommittee, meets in Pueblo. The full commission meets that night at 6 p.m. at the McHarg Community Center in Avondale.

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Seminar on the OPCW's Contribution to Security and Nonproliferation of Chemical Weapons Concludes in The Hague

Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, 13 April 2011, www.opcw.org

An international seminar was held on April 11-12, 2011 at the OPCW Headquarters. The seminar discussed how the implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) can contribute to the international objectives of achieving security and nonproliferation with regard to toxic chemicals, and how the OPCW's role as a forum for international cooperation can be strengthened.

The seminar raised issues of how to adapt the OPCW to changing realities so that its verification and implementation measures under the CWC continue to help prevent the re-emergence of chemical weapons. The completion of destruction of chemical weapons stockpiles in the coming years will shift the global focus from disarmament to preventing the recurrence of chemical warfare in any form.

In his opening statement the OPCW Director-General, Ambassador Ahmet Üzümcü, said: "The OPCW represents a successful example of multilateral cooperation to promote peace and security. The firm commitments of the States Parties to ensure that the norms of the Convention are translated into concrete actions has yielded significant results. Over the last 14 years, steady progress has been made…toward the goal of a chemical weapons free world."

The seminar provided opportunities to exchange information on best practices in safety and security at chemical plants and in transportation, as well as on capacity-building programs of the OPCW and other organizations. Participants also discussed implications of the convergence of chemistry and biology on the CWC. The program included a thematic exhibition showcasing collaborative efforts towards security and non-proliferation.

In her concluding statement, OPCW Deputy Director-General Grace A. Asirwatham, said that the conclusions of the seminar would "make an important contribution to the enhancement of the role of the OPCW in ensuring the nonproliferation of chemical weapons". She noted that the participation and contribution of all stakeholders are of paramount importance as the OPCW moves forward to meet the challenges that lie ahead.

The Seminar attracted more than 180 participants from 47 countries, including Permanent Representatives to the OPCW, scientists and policy makers, as well as representatives of… national agencies, chemical industry, international organizations, academia and non-governmental organizations…. Edited proceedings of the seminar will be published to ensure the widest possible access for all stakeholders to the ideas and proposals put forward.

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Clinton Urges Russia Transparency for Treaty

Agence France Presse, 15 April 2011, accessed via Early Bird

U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton voiced hope Friday for reviving a treaty with Russia on conventional weapons but insisted that Moscow be fully transparent on its military deployments.

Russia suspended compliance in 2007 with the Conventional [Armed] Forces in Europe [CFE] Treaty amid rising tension with the United States. But relations have improved since President Barack Obama took over, with the two sides sealing a landmark treaty on reducing nuclear arms [the New START Treaty].

Clinton, meeting with Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov, said an agreement on conventional weapons would follow up on the goodwill seen last year in Lisbon when President Dmitry Medvedev visited a NATO summit in Lisbon.

"Nothing would advance the spirit of Lisbon like launching new negotiations to strengthen and modernize conventional arms control for the 21st century," Clinton told Lavrov on the sidelines of NATO [North Atlantic Treaty Organization] talks in Berlin. "But to get there, Russia must be willing to talk to its neighbors about its equipment and forces in disputed territories," she said, according to the prepared remarks.

"And in light of the extensive reorganization of the Russian military over the last few years, it must be completely transparent about its military forces," she said.

The [CFE], a key agreement at the end of the Cold War, was signed in 1990 in Paris and governed the deployment of weapons all the way from the Atlantic Ocean to the Ural Mountains.

[The treaty] was updated in 1999…but NATO countries refused to ratify the amended [Adapted CFE] treaty until Russian troops withdrew from the ex-Soviet republics of Georgia and Moldova.

The Western alliance said the deployment violated the deal, charges denied by Moscow.

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Lavrov Calls for Talks on Conventional Arms Control

RIA Novosti, 15 April 2011, en.rian.ru/russia/

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov called on foreign leaders on Friday to begin negotiations on conventional arms control to overcome a stalemate in the sphere.

During a Russia-NATO Council meeting at the level of foreign ministers in Berlin, Lavrov discussed the issue with U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton.

"This regime has been in a very deep deadlock. We are interested...in beginning talks to overcome the existing situation," Lavrov said after the talks.

Russia has long been calling on NATO countries to ratify the adapted Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe (CFE Treaty), signed in 1999 and so far ratified only by Russia, Ukraine, Belarus and Kazakhstan.

The original CFE Treaty was signed in 1990 by 16 NATO countries and six Warsaw Pact members and came into force in 1992. The treaty set equal ceilings for each bloc on five key categories of conventional armaments and military hardware, including tanks, combat armored vehicles, artillery, assault helicopters and combat aircraft.

The CFE Treaty played a crucial stabilizing role during the breakup of the Soviet Union and its satellite states in Eastern Europe. However, the later document became largely outdated and irrelevant amid large-scale changes in the military and political environment.

Russia imposed a unilateral moratorium on the CFE treaty in December 2007, citing concerns over NATO's eastward expansion, U.S. missile defense plans for Europe, and the alleged refusal of the alliance's new members to ratify the adapted treaty.

Moscow has repeatedly said it will resume its participation in the CFE if NATO member states ratify the adapted treaty.

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Nations Seen on Course to Meet Nuclear Security Pledges

Global Security Newswire, 12 April 2011; ***www.globalsecuritynewswire.org***

Nations that participated in the April 2010 Global Nuclear Security Summit in Washington are on course to meet the security pledges made one year ago, according to an expert assessment [report published by the Arms Control Association and Partnership for Global Security] released on Monday.

Forty seven nations took part in the summit convened by the Obama administration. They unanimously pledged to secure worldwide caches of vulnerable nuclear material within four years. A number of nations offered up specific actions they would take in pursuit of that goal, such as Ukraine's pledge to eliminate its stockpile of highly enriched uranium by 2012. […]

Roughly 60 percent of the individual state pledges made at the 2010 summit have already been met and significant advancements have been made on an additional 30 percent, according to the report.

A follow-on summit is to take place next spring in South Korea to assess nations' work in meeting their 2010 pledges. The Seoul conference is expected to also plan further global initiatives to protect vulnerable weapon-grade material. […]

Individual state security pledges that have been fulfilled include Chile's handing over to the United States' of its entire stockpile of weapon-grade uranium, which amounted to 40 pounds of nuclear material; the completion of a long-term effort in Kazakhstan to safeguard enough HEU material and plutonium to fuel more than 770 warheads; and the cessation in Russia of plutonium generation and the renewal of a plutonium disposal agreement with Washington.

Some of the progress made in other states toward meeting their security commitments includes a January memorandum on U.S.-Chinese collaboration on the establishment of a nuclear security training facility in China, along with the withdrawal of more than half of Ukraine's stock of HEU material to a more secure location.

"The progress made in implementing the national commitments demonstrates the promise of the [Nuclear Security Summit] process in generating concrete outcomes and improvements in global nuclear material security," the report reads.

The authors state that existing global stocks of weapon-grade uranium could fuel in excess of 60,000 nuclear bombs and that with protective measures surrounding the materials vary greatly. They urge nations to use the Seoul summit to acknowledge "that nuclear material security is an

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ongoing, long-term challenge that will require new initiatives, funding streams, and collaborations to confront evolving threats and prevent nuclear terrorism."

A White House release cited 54 security pledges offered by 29 of the participating nations at the 2010 summit. However, some commitments were not made public, according to the report.

The U.S. statement addressed a number of security issues that include participation in international treaties, withdrawal and safeguarding HEU stocks, new collaboration with the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA], passing new domestic legislation and working to halt the trafficking of nuclear substances, according to the report.

Following their security pledges, Armenia, Georgia and the United Kingdom have ratified the International Convention on the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism. Though Argentina and Australia also pledged to ratify the convention, steps toward that goal have not been publicly shared.

A pledge by Mexico to give up its quantity of HEU material is to receive regional support from Canada and the United States, with Ottawa agreeing to pay for the uranium's removal. Ottawa has also pledged to financially support the withdrawal of highly enriched uranium from Vietnam.

In October, a yearlong effort in Poland to repatriate 1,000 pounds of highly enriched uranium – enough material to fuel 18 warheads – to Russia was completed with U.S. assistance.

Moscow and London followed through on pledges to provide financial support to the IAEA Security Fund. In December, Russia committed to provide $6.5 million to the fund and last month the [IAEA stated] that London had agreed to contribute $6.4 million to the security effort.

Other countries that as of last June had provided contributions to the IAEA fund or announced plans to do so included Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Ireland, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, South Korea, Spain, Sweden and the United States, the report states (Arms Control Association and Partnership for Global Security report, April 2011).

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BCC Joint Statement Number 1: Arrival Time of the Inspection Team at the Point of Entry

U.S. Department of State, 08 April 2011, www.state.gov

The Delegation of the United States of America to the Bilateral Consultative Commission and the Delegation of the Russian Federation to the Bilateral Consultative Commission, acting in accordance with the Treaty between the United States of America and the Russian Federation on Measures for the Further Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms of April 8, 2010, hereinafter referred to as the Treaty, have reached the following mutual understanding:

The four-hour time period provided for in subparagraph 14(a) of Section VI of Part Four of the Protocol to the Treaty for provision at the point of entry of notifications provided for in subparagraphs 14(a) and 14(b) of Section VI of Part Four of the Protocol to the Treaty should be calculated from the time of the arrival of the inspection team at the room determined by the inspected Party and intended for the examination of equipment, which is situated within the airport associated with the point of entry on the territory of the inspected Party, as provided for in paragraph 4 of Section IV of Part Five of the Protocol to the Treaty.

If the inspection team intends to return to the point of entry in order to conduct a sequential inspection, the four-hour time period provided for in subparagraph 14(a) of Section VI of Part Four of the Protocol to the Treaty for provision at the point of entry of notifications provided for in subparagraphs 14(a) and 14(b) of Section VI of Part Four of the Protocol to the Treaty should be calculated from the time of the arrival of the inspection team at a location, selected by the inspected Party, within the point of entry.

The time of the arrival of the inspection team at the room or location referred to in paragraphs 1 and 2 of this Joint Statement should be recorded in the inspection activity report as the time of arrival or return of the inspection team at the point of entry.

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BCC Joint Statement Number 2: Photography during Type One Inspections

U.S. Department of State, 08 April 2011, www.state.gov

The Delegation of the United States of America to the Bilateral Consultative Commission and the Delegation of the Russian Federation to the Bilateral Consultative Commission, acting in accordance with the Treaty between the United States of America and the Russian Federation on Measures for the Further Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms of April 8, 2010, hereinafter referred to as the Treaty, have reached the following mutual understanding:

In the event questions and ambiguities relating to an object or building located within an inspection site are not resolved during Type One inspections, the inspecting Party should not request photographs during inspection procedures for reentry vehicles emplaced on deployed ICBMs and deployed SLBMs, conducted in accordance with Section II of Part Six of the Annex on Inspection Activities to the Protocol to the Treaty.

In the event questions and ambiguities relating to an object or building located within an inspection site are not resolved during Type One inspections, the inspecting Party should not request photographs during inspection procedures for deployed heavy bombers, conducted in accordance with Section VI of Part Six of the Annex on Inspection Activities to the Protocol to the Treaty.

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START-3: A Move to Global Zero

*The Voice of Russia, 09 April 2011, **english.ruvr.ru***

The former Russian and U.S. topmost diplomats Igor Ivanov and Madeleine Albright have appealed, in an article in The New York Times, to Moscow and Washington to start talks on reducing to 1,000 the number of operational strategic warheads, as well as on negotiating the relevant reduction of delivery systems. Russia and the United States, Ivanov and Albright point out, could, besides, implement the provisions of START-3 [New START] by 2014 or 2015, rather than by 2018.

The Russian and U.S. Presidents, Dmitry Medvedev and Barack Obama, signed START-3 in Prague on April 8th 2010. The parties to the treaty have pledged to exchange information on their strategic forces on a regular basis, and also to notify each other of any change of their strategic force composition, structure or site of deployment. START-3 also authorizes the signatories to make on-site inspections of each other's strategic armaments. The parties to the treaty were to submit this kind of information for the first time 45 days after the exchange of their instruments of ratification on February 5, 2011.

The Americans delivered their reports on the condition of the U.S. Strategic Nuclear Forces on March 20, and received a respective report from Russia on March 22. On March 18 the U.S. military submitted their B-1B heavy bomber for inspection to Russian military experts at the Davis-Monthan Air Force base. Russia reciprocated by displaying its state-of-the-art mobile intercontinental ballistic missile RS-24 with a multiple independently targetable re-entry vehicle (MIRV) warhead.

Judging by moves of both Moscow and Washington, both countries stand to gain by having signed START-3. According to Steven Andersen, former director for the U.S. National Security Council defense policy, START-3 has made clearer the idea of a nuclear-free world (or Global Zero). Now this seems perfectly real and possible, he says. Russian analysts admit that START-3 could be described as the first step on the path to a nuclear-free world. But general assessments are more cautious.

Today we must concentrate on matters of greater urgency, says the Deputy Director of the Moscow-based Institute for the U.S. and Canada Studies, Pavel Zolotarev. Further progress on the way to scrapping all nuclear weapons is, of course, a long-term goal, Pavel Zolotarev says. A short-term objective could be an effort to ensure that START-3 will not be the last Russia-U.S. treaty. This will largely depend on whether the two countries reach mutually acceptable compromises on air defense system-related matters.

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But air defense systems are by no means the only obstacle in the way to a nuclear-free world, says the Chief Researcher of the Russian Academy of Sciences' Institute of World Economy and International Relations, Vladimir Dvorkin. The immediate barrier is the unsettled problem of Iran's and North Korea's nuclear programs, Vladimir Dvorkin says.

Yet another obstacle is the non-ratification of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty [CTBT] by the United States and China. There is also the treaty to ban the production of weapons-grade nuclear materials, and a treaty to control tactical nuclear warheads.

In any case, the year that has passed since the signing of START-3 has proved that the treaty is viable. This may be the first step, but it's a step that meets both the national interests of Russia and of the United States, and promotes global strategic security, claims the Chairman of the Russian Duma International Affairs Committee, Konstantin Kosachev.

Both Russia and the United States, Konstantin Kosachev says, are quite serious about the implementation of the [New START] treaty, since they realize that it is a very important stage in their further progress towards strategic nuclear arms reductions. Just how rapid that progress may prove is anyone's guess. Both countries welcome this progress and are aware what they should do to ensure it. But at the moment it is unfortunately premature to speak of all the problems in the way to attaining that objective, as well as of the time it will take both countries to settle such problems.

What is important is that things have got off the ground.

Under [New START], full-scale inspections could start 60 days after the exchange of instruments of ratification. Therefore, Russian military experts will start paying visits to the United States, while U.S. experts [will be coming] to Russia as early as later this month.

START-3 will thus fully come into force. All analysts are agreed that [New START] will positively affect both the strategic stability and the general climate of Russian-U.S. relations.

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Russia to Have New Heavy ICBM 2018 – Missile Force Commander Adviser

ITAR-TASS, 12 April 2011, www.itar-tass.com

Russia in 2018 will have a new heavy silo-based liquid propellant megaton-class ICBM that will replace the RS-20 missile Voyevoda, which, unlike the well-known predecessor, will have increased survivability thanks to heavily fortified protection of the launcher and other measures of passive and active defense, an adviser to the commander of the Strategic Missile Force commander, former chief of staff of the Strategic Missile Force, Colonel-General Viktor Yesin told Itar-Tass.

"The adoption of this complex of measures will enhance the survivability of our new heavy silo-based missiles and will force a potential adversary to spend significantly more of its nuclear warheads and precision weapons capable of putting them out of order. But even that would not serve as a guarantee of destroying the entire group of new Russian heavy missiles, part of which will still be able to survive and strike back," said General Yesin.

Another source of Itar-Tass, holding a senior position in the Strategic Missile Force, has disclosed more specific information about the qualitatively new fortification means protecting the new heavy missiles and other means of silos' defense.

"Equipping new positions for new ICBMs would make no sense. Firstly, this would require enormous funds. Secondly, the main thing is to create a fundamentally new level of fortification protecting ICBM silos. This involves technological and other means of renovation; operational, engineering, and other means of camouflage; wide use of electronic jamming with the creation of a continuous field of impenetrable noise; organizational measures; passive defense of the silos; as well as active defense [of the silos] through the deployment of long-range S-400 ABM systems and high-altitude S-500 systems capable of destroying, on a par with space and air weapons, the warheads of ICBMs and [defending against] the enemy's precision weapons, including missiles and aircraft bombs and cruise missiles," he said.

"As a result of such actions the enemy will be forced to attack each silo not with two warheads, as is expected now, but at least with two to three times more units and other means. But even this will not guarantee the destruction of our entire group of heavy missiles. Part of them will be still able to fly in the enemy's direction and deal a retaliatory strike," said the Former Strategic Missile Force commander.

General Yesin said that the Defense Ministry must approve of the tactical and technical requirements of a new heavy ICBM before the end of the year. "The development and production of such missiles is included in the state program for armaments till 2020 in

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combination with the proper financing of the development of strategic nuclear forces," First Deputy Defense Minister Vladimir Popovkin has confirmed.

"The conceptual design of a new ICBM is already defined. Experience shows that development work on a new missile lasts 6-8 years. Thus, we can expect that after the testing the new heavy liquid propellant rocket will enter duty by the end of 2018," said Yesin.

"Of course, the missile will be a product of deep modernization of the Voyevoda missile, it will have a smaller mass, but alongside that it will carry all the necessary means of breaking the existing and any prospective missile defense, including the full set of heavy and other false warheads and decoys for ensuring the delivery of real warheads to targets. The combat equipment will be roughly the same megaton-class MIRVs with individually guided warheads."

General Yesin also said that involved in the work to build a new liquid propellant ICBM there would be all domestic defense companies that previously successfully created the sea-launched rocket Sineva, which has now armed all Russian submarines of the third generation of project 667 BDRM (under the classification of U.S. and NATO Delta 4).

The consultant to the commander of Strategic Missile Force said the New START treaty between Russia and the United States that has taken effect did not impose any restrictions on the parties in developing new delivery vehicles or their combat equipment. It merely requires staying within the quantitative limits on the delivery vehicles and warheads.

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U.S. Studying Options for New Generation of ICBMs

National Defense Magazine, 13 April 2011, www.nationaldefensemagazine.org

Strategic Command has begun to study options for the replacement of the Minuteman III intercontinental ballistic missile, said Air Force Gen. Robert Kehler, STRATCOM commander.

What size, weight, shape the missiles will take has not been determined, he told reporters at the Space Symposium here. The Nuclear Posture Review confirmed that the nation will need to sustain and invest in nuclear forces and the command is proceeding with studies and analysis as a result of the review, Kehler said.

Similarly, plans for a new long-range bomber are under way, although the Air Force is the lead on that program. STRATCOM would be the primary user of such an aircraft. Kehler said the command was mostly in agreement with the Air Force on bomber requirements. He declined to get into specifics other than to say that the aircraft should have a balance of survivability, range and payload performance.

STRATCOM still believes that it should have the option of having a prompt conventional global strike capability, which could deliver a non-nuclear weapon anywhere in the world within minutes and deep within an enemy's territory. The command has been looking at the hypersonic test vehicle as a possible solution and a second test is scheduled for this year. He didn't know of any other solutions in the works.

Original concepts would have placed conventional warheads aboard Trident missiles, but that idea was scrapped because the trajectory of the missile would be identical to a nuclear weapon. There were concerns that an enemy would not know the difference and assume that it was under nuclear attack. The hypersonic vehicle travels at a different trajectory and could not be mistaken as a nuclear weapon.

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U.S. Begins First New START Nuclear Check

Global Security Newswire, 14 April 2011; www.globalsecuritynewswire.org

A group of U.S. officials were set on Wednesday to begin the first inspection inside Russia under a new bilateral strategic nuclear arms control treaty [New START], the State Department announced.

The New START pact entered into force on February 5. It requires the United States and Russia to each reduce deployment of strategic nuclear warheads to 1,550, down from a cap of 2,200 mandated by next year under an older treaty. It also limits the number of fielded warhead delivery platforms to 700, with an additional 100 systems permitted in reserve.

The treaty authorizes both sides, beginning on April 6, to conduct a number of visits to the other nation's nuclear weapons facilities each year. The sides are also expected to periodically swap information on their respective strategic nuclear forces.

Moscow confirmed the nuclear check by U.S. auditors, Interfax reported.

"Inspections are key components of the regime for verify compliance with New START along with exchanges of information and notifications about strategic systems and facilities," the Russian Foreign Ministry said in a statement.

Shared information would incorporate quantities, placements and specifications of nuclear-weapon assets and sites covered under the agreement, RTT News reported.

Nuclear verification activities had been suspended following the December 2009 expiration of the 1991 Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty.

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