

April 29, 2010

The Permanent Mission of the Federal Republic of Germany to the United Nations and the New York Office of the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES) invite you to a side event during the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation on Nuclear Weapons (Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty – NPT):

**“Towards a Nuclear-Weapon’s-Free World:
German Parliamentarians in Support of a Successful NPT Review Conference”**

Wednesday, May 5, 2010, 1:00 – 2:45 p.m
Conference Room, 22nd floor
Permanent Mission of Germany to the UN
871 United Nations Plaza (1st Avenue between 48th and 49th Street)

In the run-up to the 2010 Review Conference of the NPT, the geostrategic role of nuclear weapons has come under scrutiny on a number of accounts. For example, the United States, in its recently finished nuclear posture review, further limited the scenarios’ under which nuclear weapons would be deployed. A similar exercise is currently underway as part of a strategic review of NATO. Moreover, the United States and Russia agreed on a follow-up treaty to the START-1 treaty, thereby further reducing their nuclear arms arsenals. On the other hand, progress has also been made with regards to the non-proliferation-pillar of the NPT regime: In April 2010, the Nuclear Security Summit in Washington adopted concrete steps to safeguard nuclear materials.

Yet progress at the NPT Review Conference will not come easily and require that joint efforts of all Parties to the Treaty will be aided by other initiatives. While selectively German parliamentarians have long been engaged in the cause of nuclear disarmament, on March 26, 2010, for the first time in history, Germany’s Parliament, the Bundestag, adopted with an overwhelming majority a resolution that stipulated the contributions that Germany should make to create a world without nuclear weapons.

At this discussion event, the Bundestag’s leading parliamentarians on nuclear disarmament –representatives of government as well as opposition faction – will address a number of key challenges for nuclear disarmament and Germany’s could potential role towards that end. Topics for discussion will be inter alia:

- Nato’s new strategic concept and the diminishing role of nuclear weapons;
- The removal of tactical nuclear weapons from Europe;
- Proposals to achieve a nuclear-weapons-free world;
- Prospects for a nuclear weapons-free zone in the Middle East.

Tentative Program and Speakers:

Welcome remarks:

Ambassador Peter Gottwald, Commissioner of the Federal Government for Arms Control and Disarmament, Federal Foreign Office, Berlin (tbc.)

Presentations:

Uta Zapf, MP Germany, SPD, Chair, Sub-committee on Disarmament

Roderich Kiesewetter, MP, CDU, Sub-committee on Disarmament

Ambassador Maged A. Abdelaziz, Permanent Representative of Egypt to the UN (tbc.)

Alyn Ware, Global Coordinator of Parliamentarians for Nuclear Nonproliferation and Disarmament

Marit Nybakk, MP Norway, Labour Party (tbc.)

Hideo Hiraoka, Executive Director of the Democratic Party of Japan (DPJ) Nuclear Disarmament Group

Roundtable Discussion:

Chaired by **Marius Müller-Hennig**, Program Coordinator for Global Peace and Security Policy, FES Headquarters.

Format:

The event provides the opportunity for an off-the-record exchange between the German parliamentarians and some 30 participants. Invited will be UN Missions; delegations to the NPT Review conference; nuclear disarmament experts; and non-governmental organizations. Refreshments will be served.