



GLOBAL AND REGIONAL NUCLEAR ORDERS IN A MOMENT OF GEOPOLITICAL UNCERTAINTY

THURSDAY, MARCH 16, 2017

1:00-3:00 PM

United Nations, UN Delegates Dining Room 6

HOSTED BY

H.E. Mr. Jan Kickert

Permanent Representative of Austria

SPEAKERS

Ramesh Thakur

Director of the Centre for Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament, The Australian National University and Editor-in-Chief, Global Governance

Daryl G. Kimball

Executive Director, Arms Control Association

MODERATOR

Angela Kane

Senior Fellow, Vienna Centre for Non-Proliferation and Disarmament; former UN High Representative for Disarmament Affairs

CLOSING REMARKS

Bettina Luise Rürup

Executive Director, FES NY

Discussion Background

Recent geopolitical shifts continue to stress-test the existing regional and global nuclear orders: The international community grapples with an appropriate answer to North Korea's nuclear weapons program, tensions around the P5+1 agreement to limit Iran's sensitive nuclear activities are on the rise. Moreover, as a new US administration is taking office, there is a heightened awareness that changes in the American foreign and nuclear weapons policy may affect US-Russia nuclear relations and efforts countering proliferation risks in the Middle East and the Korean peninsula.

Against this backdrop, a conference with two sessions will be convened in New York this year (March 27-31 and June 15-July 7) to negotiate a treaty to ban nuclear weapons. Such treaty negotiations were agreed upon in December 2016, when the UN General Assembly adopted resolution 71/258. Calling for negotiations on a "legally binding instrument to prohibit nuclear weapons, leading toward their total elimination," the resolution was adopted by a substantial majority vote of 113-35, with 15 abstentions.

This co-sponsored discussion is planned as an exchange of ideas among those who embrace the upcoming negotiations as a global effort to delegitimize nuclear weapons and others who see such talks as a distraction from the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. Expert speakers will bring to the UN timely insights and analyses about global nuclear policy challenges as well as an update on US policy debates from Washington. It is intended to benefit UN Member States, Secretariat officials, and the wider UN environment in their preparations for the upcoming nuclear weapons prohibition treaty negotiations.

