

Programme

The WMD Summer Programme provides clear insights into the functioning of the four international WMD treaty organisations and illustrates the main challenges each organisation faces today.

During this intensive week the summer programme aims to provide an integral and comprehensive overview of weapons of mass destruction starting with a historical overview of arms control concepts and approaches. It will consider the role of WMD disarmament and non-proliferation in the context of international law, security policies and geopolitical considerations.

The keynote speaker of this year's WMD Summer Programme will be H.E. Ahmet Üzümcü, Director-General of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons who will speak on **Preventing Re-emergence of Chemical Weapons: Lessons for Non-Proliferation**.

More than two decades since the end of the Cold War, WMDs disarmament has made fitful progress. The Conference on Disarmament has offered little prospect of new agreements being negotiated any time soon. Tangible and rapid progress has, nonetheless, been made in global chemical disarmament. The lessons that can be drawn from the success of the Chemical Weapons Convention are worth studying amid a shifting strategic landscape, where technology, non-state actors and globalisation are challenging traditional non-proliferation measures - as well as suggesting some solutions.

The Summer Programme will address **why countries want to obtain WMDs** and how the different thresholds of exploration, pursuit and acquisition of WMDs are relevant in determining whether a state is considered a WMD possessor. In this session we will also explore whether the demand for each category is driven by the same factors and whether chemical and biological weapons are seen as a substitute or complementary to having nuclear weapons. We will discuss different proliferation models such as the security model, the domestic politics model and the norms model and how these play out in practice. The complexities of these issues will be illustrated by recent situations such as Ukraine, Iran, or North Korea.



We will look more closely at the relationship between **International Humanitarian Law and WMDs** in particular how the rules of armed conflict limit the use of WMDs. What are the restrictions on the use of nuclear weapons and what are the prohibitions on the use of chemical and biological weapons? Since a few years the discussion on nuclear weapons is shifting and is increasingly concerned with the humanitarian impact of these weapons. In 2011 the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement adopted a resolution stating that it is difficult to envisage how any use of nuclear weapons could be compatible with the rules of international humanitarian law, in particular the rules of distinction, precaution and proportionality. In March 2013, 127 countries and civil society organisations attended the first Conference on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons hosted by Norway, followed by a second conference a year later in Oslo.

Furthermore, the **legal framework for each of the categories of WMDs** is elaborated on, including the pertinent security considerations, political challenges and scientific aspects. During the course of the summer programme we will go into:

- History leading to the adoption of the conventions;
- The mandate of the organisation;
- The inter-sessional meetings and review conferences;
- Current challenges and policy considerations.

A historic nuclear deal has been concluded between Iran and the P5+ (China, France, Russian Federation, United Kingdom, United States, Germany). Under the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) Iran will restrict its nuclear programme to peaceful purposes. In exchange economic sanctions will be lifted. The IAEA will closely monitor the implementation of the JCPOA and will have unrestricted access to any sites any time. We will also look at the concept of break out time.

Science and technology directly inform many key articles of international disarmament treaties, ranging from the definitions of classes and categories of weapons, to articles that govern mechanisms and verification of compliance, inspection, assistance and protection. Likewise, treaty negotiation and implementation requires sound technical advice to inform forward looking and robust policy; advice that requires scientific expertise.

Yet, despite the complementary nature of science and policy, these two thematic areas often appear at odds. This tension between science and security is especially evident in the chemical and life sciences. The increasingly multidisciplinary approach to scientific research coupled with modern capabilities to generate,

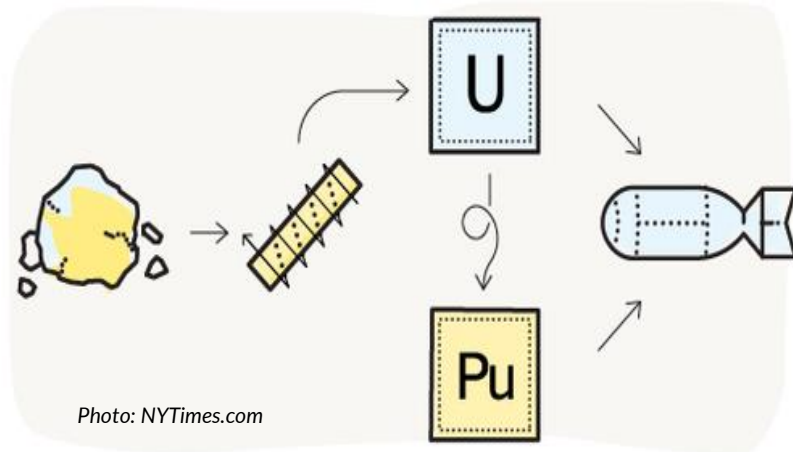


Photo: NYTimes.com

analyse, and share information is driving new technology development at an increasingly rapid pace. These issues will be discussed in the context of scientific advice and review of scientific developments in treaty implementation.

In sum, the objectives of the programme are:

- To offer a broad, comparative review of the history, purpose and provisions of WMD treaties;
- To provide an understanding of the diplomatic, legal and technical aspects of organisations dealing with WMDs;
- To explore how WMD treaties are implemented at national level; and
- To create networking opportunities for participants by bringing them in direct contact with officials of leading organisations in the field of WMDs.



Photo: UN/Global Issues

The programme content is delivered by experienced officials from the OPCW and other treaty organisations together with academics, diplomats and independent experts in the fields of international law, security and related disciplines. The sessions are interactive and will provide the participants hands-on knowledge from key professionals in the field, seasoned with the personal experiences of the speakers with the issues.

Last year's speakers included, inter alia:

1. H.E. Ahmet Üzümcü, Director-General of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW);
2. Daniel Feaks, Head of the Biological Weapons Implementation Support Unit;
3. Dr. Oliver Meier, Senior Research Fellow, German Institute for International and Security Affairs;
4. Dr. Jean Pascal Zanders, formerly an expert on chemical and biological weapons at the EU Institute for Security Studies in Paris, and founder of The Trench www.the-trench.org;
5. Mr. Richard Guthrie, an independent authority on chemical and biological weapons and frequent media commentator on the situation in Syria.



Photo: H.E. Ahmet Üzümcü



Photo: Mr. Richard Guthrie