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**Global Regulation of the
Usage and Storage of Nuclear
Weapons**

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Introduction

In 2010, five Allies called for a discussion of NATO's nuclear policy with the objective of reducing the importance of nuclear weapons in Alliance security policies. Allies continue to see the role of nuclear weapons as part of a mix of capabilities needed to guarantee their security in an uncertain and fragmented international system. While NATO will continue to be a nuclear alliance, important aspects of nuclear policy may be adjusted in line with present economic, political and strategic realities. Whether nuclear weapons will only deter nuclear attacks or play a role in deterring other forms of aggression is ripe for discussion.

Governments in some of the European countries that are central to the Alliance's nuclear policy have ensured that the role of nuclear weapons in European security will be debated during 2010 as part of the discussion of a new NATO Strategic Concept. The current version of this document, described as a core mission statement for the Alliance and dating back to 1999, lays out the main parameters of NATO nuclear policy today. This version also reflects the important changes in NATO membership and missions since the previous document was agreed upon.

The role of nuclear forces and force postures has recently been evaluated in several key NATO countries in parallel with a new interest in probing the prospects and options for nuclear arms control and further arms reductions. NATO itself is also undertaking an internal review of nuclear deterrence requirements for the twenty-first century.

Whether nuclear weapons will still be seen as central to deterring aggression against the Alliance or whether their role would be limited to deterring nuclear attacks is another question ripe for discussion. However, tailored deterrence has not been widely explained or discussed in Europe and neither its feasibility nor its desirability has been debated.

General Overview

Nuclear weapons are the greatest threat that countries face in their diplomatic relations with other countries in our present day. At the very least, the countries that are threatening other member states are also threatening the environment, which affects all of the nations in the world. The usage and the storage of these kinds of weapons must be regulated regardless of the laws in each state. The states that are keeping their nuclear weapons as means of protection or defense must be re-considered due to many reasons and concerns that the UN has. The most important issue countries must address in these types of questions is to be transparent with the UN and its members.

Definition of Key Terms

Tactical nuclear weapon: Tactical nuclear weapons typically refer to short-range weapons, including land-based missiles with a range of less than 500 km and air and sea launched weapons with a range of less than 600 km.

'Strategic' nuclear weapons: Often referred to as 'high-yield' or 'thermonuclear' nuclear weapons. The first generations of these weapons were called 'hydrogen bombs' because they used (and still use) atomic bombs as triggers to generate enough heat to cause the nuclear fusion of hydrogen atoms. Most modern thermonuclear weapons are 20 to 50 times more powerful than the Hiroshima size bombs and weapons more than 1000 times as powerful still exist in the global nuclear arsenal.

'Operational', 'Active' and 'Deployed' nuclear weapons: Fully functional weapons, which are either mated to delivery systems or available for immediate combat use.

Launch-on-Warning capability: Early Warning Systems (EWS), high-alert nuclear-armed ballistic missiles, and nuclear command and control systems, all working together, provide U.S. and Russia the capability to LoW.

Launch-on-Warning policy: LoW capability can be eliminated by introducing physical changes to nuclear weapons systems that prevent their rapid use (de-alerting). In other words, LoW requires high-alert forces that can be launched in 15 minutes or less. If a state removes nuclear forces from high alert, they cannot LoW.

Launch-on-Warning (LoW) status: The combination of Launch-on-Warning capability with LoW policy has created what is commonly referred to as LoW status.

'Low-yield' nuclear weapons: Generally refers to simple fission weapons, first described as 'atomic bombs', which have a nominal explosions power of about 15 kilotons, roughly the size of the bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. These are the types of weapons, which would be produced by emerging nuclear weapon states such as India and Pakistan or by terrorist organizations.

UN Peace building Commission: The Peace building Commission (PBC) is an intergovernmental advisory body that supports peace efforts in countries emerging from conflict, and is a key addition to the capacity of the International Community in the broad peace agenda.

IMF (International Monetary Fund): The IMF's primary purpose is to ensure the stability of the international monetary system-the system of exchange rates and international payments that enables countries (and their citizens) to transact with each other.

Major Parties Involved and Their Views

USA: Piecing together evidence from an array of sources, the Natural Resources Defense Council has determined that the United States is still deploying 4801 Nuclear weapons in Europe. This was unexpected by most parties. Until now, most observers believed that there were no more than half of that number of weapons still left on the

continent. Declassified documents obtained under the U.S. Freedom of Information Act, military literature, the media, non-governmental organizations, and other sources show that the 480 bombs are stored at eight air bases in six NATO countries – a formidable arsenal larger than the entire Chinese nuclear stockpile.

The military and political justifications given by the United States and NATO for U.S. nuclear weapons in Europe are both obsolete and vague. Long-range weapons in the United States and Britain supplant the unique role the weapons once had in continental Europe, yet it seems NATO officials have been unwilling or unable to give them up. The deployment irritates efforts to improve relations with Russia and undercuts global efforts and those of the United States and Europe – to persuade rogue nations from developing nuclear weapons. The American government and the NATO alliance should address this issue as a matter of global nuclear security, and the United States should withdraw all of its nuclear weapons from Europe.



RUSSIA: As of November 2010, the so-called “New START (Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty)” treaty between the United States and Russia which was signed in Prague, Czech Republic, on April 8, 2010, awaits a ratification vote in the Senate. Regardless of the arguments for and against it that have emerged since it was signed, it is clear that the outcome of the ratification vote will not only materially affect the American government’s previous reset policy towards Russia, but also the strategic nuclear forces of both signatories. Indeed, throughout the Cold War, both sides built up their forces based on what each was thought to have or be building. Although the Bush administration (2001-2009) rhetorically announced its intention to sever this mutual hostage relationship, it failed in that regard. As a result, critical aspects of that relationship still survive in Russia’s orientation to the United States and in the language of the treaty, especially in its preamble, which explicitly affirms a link between nuclear offense and defense.

Therefore, whatever the fate of the treaty and the reset policy, it is clear that both Moscow and Washington stand before crossroads in regard to the future of their strategic nuclear programs and force structures. Moreover, each side’s course of action will tangibly affect the future course of action of the other side regarding the panoply

of issues and policies connected with the development of nuclear weapons and the missions for them. With this in mind, the Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD) organized a conference bringing together several distinguished experts on Russian nuclear weapons.

Timeline of Events

Date of Event	Description of Event
August 1942	The US starts the Manhattan Project to develop the first nuclear weapon.
August 6th 1945	The US detonates the uranium bomb over the Japanese city Hiroshima, killing more than 140,000 people within months. Many later die from radiation-related illnesses.
August 9th 1945	The US explodes a plutonium bomb over Nagasaki. An estimated 74,000 people die by the end of 1945. Little can be done to ease the suffering of the victims who survive the blast.
January 24th 1946	In its first resolution, the UN General Assembly calls for the complete elimination of nuclear weapons and sets a commission to handle the problem of the atomic discovery.
August 29th 1949	The Soviet Union explodes a nuclear weapon code-named 'First Lightning' in Semipalatinsk, Kazakhstan. They become the second nation to develop and successfully test a nuclear device.
February 17th 1958	The Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament in UK holds its first meeting. Its iconic emblem becomes one of the most widely recognized symbols in the world.
October 30th 1961	The Soviet Union explodes the most powerful bomb to date. https://www.ctbto.org/specials/testing-times/30-october-1961-the-tsar-bomba/
September 22nd 1979	A nuclear test explosion occurs over the South Indian ocean off the Cape of Good Hope. It is thought to have been conducted by South Africa with the assistance of Israel.
June 1st 1996	Ukraine becomes a nuclear-weapon-free state after transferring the last inherited Soviet nuclear warhead to Russia for destruction. Ukraine's president calls on other nations to follow their path.
October 9th 2006	The North Korean government announces that it has successfully conducted a nuclear test, becoming the eight country in the world to do so. This leads to international condemnation.
March 27th 2017	At the United Nations, the overwhelming majority of the world's governments begin negotiations on a treaty to prohibit nuclear weapons, leading towards the total elimination of these weapons.
July 7th 2017	Following weeks of intensive negotiations, two-thirds of the world's nations vote to adopt the landmark UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

Evaluation of Previous Attempts to Resolve the Issue

In 24 January 1949 in its first resolution, the UN General Assembly calls for the complete elimination of nuclear weapons and sets a commission to deal with the problem of the atomic discovery.

In 17 February 1958 the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament in UK holds its first meeting. Its iconic emblem becomes one of the most widely recognized symbols in the world.

In 27 March 2017 at the UN, the overwhelming majority of the world's governments begin negotiations on a treaty to prohibit nuclear weapons, leading towards their total elimination.

Possible Solutions

The very first step against the regulation of Nuclear Weapon usage and storage must be taken from the leading countries that were stated above. They must be transparent with each other in terms of the amount of the nuclear weapons that are been kept in storage or the further plans of using them. If these conditions are not sustained than unfortunately the problem cannot be solved.

The first thing that must concern the states is the overall harm that this non-transparent environment, has already caused and will cause in the future in terms of political relations.

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