

Proposed Topics

Topic#1: The Future of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty in the looming nuclear arms race.

Abstract:

The Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) stands as one of the most remarkable diplomatic achievements of the post-WWII global order. Opened for signature 25 years ago, it is the only treaty that bans nuclear test explosions anywhere on the planet and verifies such a ban through a comprehensive multi-technology verification system. However, the Treaty rests in legal limbo as eight holdout countries, whose ratification is necessary for the Treaty to enter into force, remain skeptical of the Treaty and its enforceability. Furthermore, recent nuclear saber-rattling and an accelerating arms race might make the resumption of nuclear testing plausible.

What viable paths exist to prevent such a resumption and strengthen the moratorium that nuclear weapons states have embraced unilaterally?

Material: Piece published in Arms Control Today (attached)

Topic#2: Rethinking Nuclear Deterrence: The Role of nuclear weapons in the 21st century

Abstract:

Reliance on nuclear deterrence remains the central tenet of nuclear strategies around the world. Yet the concept and its practice have been historically contested and highly disputed. Since the end of the Cold War, for instance, legitimate questions have been raised about how universally appropriate nuclear deterrence is as the answer to existential security risks in a world of multiple nuclear weapons states, economic and technological global interdependencies, and widespread concerns over international humanitarian law and developmental challenges.

Dangerous geopolitical tensions demand a serious rethink of both defense and security strategies. Is the concept of nuclear deterrence still viable and valuable today, and if so, under

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what conditions and circumstances? And can alternative security mechanisms to nuclear deterrence be established in today's world?

Material:

1. National Interest Article (attached)
2. A short concept note (to be submitted)