

Webinar:

**Post-Covid multilateral cooperation – a chance to achieve a nuclear-weapons-free world?**

**September 8, 2020 -14: 00-15: 30 BST time, 19: 00-20: 30 Nur-Sultan time**

**Online**

**Speakers:**

1. Yerzhan Ashikbayev, Deputy Minister, MFA RK
2. Dastan Eleukenov, Director, Department of International Security, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan, former Ambassador of Kazakhstan to Sweden (to be confirmed)
3. Wendy Morton MP, Minister for European Neighboring States of the Americas, Department of Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs of the United Kingdom (TBD)
4. Cardinal Peter Turkson, Prefect of the Dicasteria for Integral Human Development, Vatican City (TBD)
5. Lassina Zerbo, Executive Secretary of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (TBD)
6. Lord Hannay of Chiswick, Co-Chair of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Global Security and Nonproliferation [Former UK Resident Representative to the UN]
7. Vladimir Shkolnik, Chairman, Pugwash Committee of Kazakhstan (to be confirmed)
8. Peter Jenkins, Chair, UK Pugwash Committee
9. Tom Plant, Director of Proliferation and Nuclear Policy, RUSI (TBD)

**Moderators:**

Dan Plesch, Director of the Center for International Studies and Diplomacy, SOAS University of London

Erlan Idrissov, Ambassador, Embassy of Kazakhstan in the UK

Overview / Context of the event

The Covid-19 pandemic is becoming a test not only for the political systems of different countries, but also for multilateral cooperation. Global issues such as “non-proliferation and disarmament” continue to be on the international agenda. The Russell-Einstein Manifesto highlighting the dangers of nuclear weapons was released in 1955, and the United Nations celebrates its 75th anniversary and world leaders continue to call for peace. The problem is compounded by growing geopolitical rivalry and a crisis of confidence.

While some believe that the world will become even more fragmented, conflict and dangerous after COVID-19, others hope that collective action at the international level will make possible a faster and more peaceful way out of the crisis. Speakers will discuss the role of multilateral cooperation in the context of COVID-19 and beyond.

Can humanity afford to wait indefinitely for “the right moment to end the existence of nuclear weapons?”. Countries need to think about how to promote international cooperation to combat global threats. Like-minded states, organizations and people must step up their activities. In this context, the importance of an effective multilateral approach [multilateral cooperation] becomes even more acute, which will strengthen their voice and position on world issues.

This session provides an opportunity to hear the views of experts on non-proliferation, disarmament and international cooperation, as well as to join the discussions on the prospects for a world free of nuclear weapons.

Kazakhstan, as a country affected by the aftermath of nuclear tests, has evolved from having the world's fourth-largest nuclear arsenal of more than 1,000 deadly ICBMs to a leading country in nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. Kazakhstan, contributing to the global non-proliferation process and promoting regional and international security, took part in the creation of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Central Asia.

The Center for International Studies and Diplomacy at SOAS University of London is promoting the SCRAP project, a Strategic Framework for Weapons Elimination and Proliferation. SCRAP is a campaign to use proven agreements as the basis for general and complete disarmament. The SCRAP proposal began as a provocation for those who believed that multilateral and comprehensive disarmament, that is, nuclear, was impossible. SCRAP is an initiative of students, alumni and staff of the Center for International Studies and Diplomacy (CISD), SOAS University of London, and is actively supported by a committee of academics and NGO representatives with experience in government.

This event, dedicated to the International Day against Nuclear Testing and the 75th anniversary of the United Nations, is being hosted by the Center for International Studies and Diplomacy at SOAS University of London in partnership with the Kazakh Embassy in the UK.

Please note that the event will be recorded.

To take part, follow this link. You will receive a confirmation email.

In addition, you can watch the event live on the Facebook page of the Embassy of Kazakhstan.

Event contacts:

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