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Position: Senior Researcher and Project Manager, Multinational Approaches to the Nuclear Fuel Cycle

Over the next three years, the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) will carry out a detailed study on the political and legal aspects of the various proposals for multinational approaches to the nuclear fuel cycle. The purpose of the study will be to examine these proposals, delineate their pros and cons and stimulate discussion in the wider international community in a manner that makes the scientific and technical aspects accessible to those working within a legal and political framework. The project will thus enable a debate among diplomats and experts working at the international level on aspects of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation.

UNIDIR is seeking a senior researcher to conduct the research and manage the research project from UNIDIR's offices in Geneva. The researcher will be a mid-career expert on the management of fissile materials and other aspects of civil and military nuclear industries.

The study will involve working with experts from all over the world, including experts from the International Panel on Fissile Materials and the Independent Group of Scientific Experts, and from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

Through original research, expert-level workshops and seminars the project will produce a series of study papers in English and Russian detailing fundamental political and legal questions posed by the various proposals. These papers will be timed for input into bilateral coordination mechanism meetings, the Conference on Disarmament, the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty meetings, meetings at the IAEA and other relevant forums. Special emphasis will be placed on dissemination and outreach activities, ensuring awareness and increased uptake by the international community of the proposals developed. Close collaboration with other research institutes and international organizations, including the IAEA, is envisaged.

Description of responsibilities

Working under the direction of the Director and Deputy Director of UNIDIR and under the supervision of the Chief (Projects and Publications), the Senior Researcher will have the following responsibilities:

- research project implementation;
- direction and content of study papers;
- liaising with international experts and commissioning study papers;
- writing papers and presentations;
- representing UNIDIR at international meetings;
- assistance in raising funds for the project;
- drafting or rewriting text as necessary; and
- participating in the work of the Institute as required.

Qualifications required

The successful candidate will need:

- an advanced university degree (MSc, PhD), preferably in nuclear physics although international law or a related field would be considered;
- thorough knowledge of the scientific and technical aspects of fissile materials, as well as the legal and political aspects of the issue;

- knowledge of nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation treaties;
- fluency and proven writing skills in both English and Russian, other languages would be an asset; and
- other relevant skills, including strong management and supervisory skills, the ability to work independently and with others, good organizational skills, proven communication skills in a multicultural environment, attention to detail and a strong commitment to deadlines.

Terms

The Senior Researcher will work full time at the Institute, located at the Palais des Nations in Geneva, Switzerland.

Salary: CHF 9,500 per month (which includes the Institute's contribution to a health insurance and pension plan of the researcher's choice).

The duration of appointment shall be for an initial period of one year with the possibility of extension.

Application procedure

Applications should be sent by post to the attention of "Chief (Projects and Publications)", UNIDIR, Palais des Nations, 1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland.

No phone calls or emails will be accepted concerning this position.

Only complete applications (an introductory letter, CV, the name/contact details of three references and two samples of previous work: one in Russian, one in English) will be considered. The letter should note the earliest availability of the applicant.

Deadline for submission of applications is **15 April 2008**. Only short-listed candidates will be contacted.

About UNIDIR

The United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research develops practical ideas for building peace and security through forward-looking analysis of disarmament and security issues.

UNIDIR's activities address the entire security spectrum—human, regional and global security—and seek to strengthen linkages to areas such as human rights, humanitarian law and public health. The Institute's work encompasses a diverse range of issues, from small arms to weapons of mass destruction, from the reintegration of former combatants to preventing an arms race in outer space.

Through its research projects, publications, conferences and expert networks, UNIDIR serves as a bridge between decision-makers, researchers, practitioners, civil society groups, Member States and United Nations agencies to promote creative thinking and dialogue on both current and emerging security challenges.

Established in 1980 by the General Assembly as an autonomous institute within the United Nations, UNIDIR is based in Geneva, the international centre for security and disarmament negotiations, the Conference on Disarmament, and humanitarian agencies.

UNIDIR is funded by voluntary contributions from governments and foundations. This ensures the Institute's freedom to conduct impartial and balanced research and provide policy recommendations to actors in the United Nations system and beyond.