

## NPT Preparatory Conference 2017 Concept Note: FMCT Side Event

### “The FMCT preparatory group process and possible characteristics of a future FMCT”

May 3<sup>rd</sup> 2017: 13:00 – 15:00, Room: M2

#### Participants:

- Heidi Hulan, Chair of the High-level FMCT expert preparatory group
- Alice Guitton, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of France to the Conference on Disarmament
- Zia Mian, Co-Director Princeton University Program on Science and Global Security and Co-Chair of the International Panel on Fissile Materials
- Tim Caughley, Resident Senior Fellow UNIDIR

#### Background:

UN General Assembly Resolution 71/259 established a High level FMCT expert preparatory group (preparatory group), *inter alia* mandated to consider and make recommendations on substantial elements of a future non-discriminatory, multilateral and internationally and effectively verifiable treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices, on the basis of CD/1299 and the mandate contained therein. This preparatory group process began with an Informal Consultative Meeting held in New York on March 2-3, 2017, open to all UN Member States. The outcomes of that meeting will be conveyed to the 25-member preparatory group when it meets from July 31 – August 11, 2017. Another informal consultative meeting and preparatory group session will occur in 2018 (dates TBC).

#### Format:

The side event will begin with opening remarks by Heidi Hulan, including a presentation on the Chair’s takeaways from the recent informal consultative meeting in March 2017. Following these remarks, a panel discussion will take place on the possible characteristics of a future FMCT. Panelists should be prepared to give a 5-10 minute presentation (see ideas for possible topics below), which will be followed by a general discussion, moderated by Heidi Hulan. Since panellists represent governments/institutions that are familiar with treaties on this topic, one prompting question about those treaties will be asked by the moderator to each of the panellists prior to opening the floor to a general Q&A. These prompting questions will be shared with panellists in advance of the event. A light lunch will also be served at the beginning of the event. The event will be carried out under Chatham House rules. The event will be open to civil society. No interpretation services will be provided.

#### Topics:

For their presentations, panelists are free to focus on the treaty characteristic(s) of their choosing. Potential topics could include the following:

- Potential approaches to scope
- Characteristics required for a ‘non-discriminatory’ treaty
- Verification mechanisms within the treaty or alongside the treaty
- Possible transparency and confidence building measures
- Legal and Institutional characteristics