Difficult relations among some of the nuclear-armed powers have contributed to an atmosphere that lends itself to the onset of crisis. With a proportion of existing arsenals already on high alert status, the warning and decision time available to nuclear decisionmakers is short in crisis situations. How does this affect thresholds against use of nuclear weapons? What are feasible means to reduce the risk of nuclear detonations happening?

13:30 Welcoming Remarks

Ms. Sabrina Dallafior, Permanent Representative of Switzerland to the Conference on Disarmament

13:40Moderator’s Introduction

Dr. John Borrie, Chief of Research, UNIDIR

13:45The Korean Missile Crisis

Professor Scott D. Sagan, Senior Fellow, Center for International Security and Cooperation (CISAC) and the Freeman Spogli Institute, Stanford University

14:10The Unbearable Lightness of Luck in Nuclear Crises

Professor Benoît Pelopidas, Chair of Excellence in Security Studies, SciencePo, Centre de Recherches Internationales

14:35Cyber Threats and Nuclear Weapons

Dr. Patricia Lewis, Research Director—International Security, Chatham House (The Royal Institute of International Affairs)

15:00Questions and Discussion

15:25Concluding Remarks

The meeting will be held in English. A sandwich lunch will be available at 13:00 outside the room.

Interested participants are invited to register with their names and affiliations with wilfred.wan@un.org. For those without a UNOG badge, registration is obligatory.