



COMMENTS BY PARTICIPANTS ABOUT THE 2017 MOSCOW NONPROLIFERATION CONFERENCE

“I am pleased to be attending the Moscow Nonproliferation Conference (MNC). I see many familiar faces here in the audience – my diplomat colleagues, other representatives of foreign states, as well as the past and incumbent heads of international organisations who are involved in nonproliferation. Thank you all for attending this event, which we regard as a very important one. We are especially grateful to Conference organisers, namely the Centre for Energy and Security Studies together with CENESS Director Anton Khlopkov. The Foreign Ministry has been productively cooperating with CENESS for a long time now and will continue to do so.

Over the period since the first MNC, this forum has become an important discussion venue that brings together respected nonproliferation experts, including diplomats, military professionals, researchers, experts, and all those who are deeply concerned with such vital aspects of global security as the nonproliferation of weapons of mass destruction as well as arms control.”

*Sergey **LAVROV**
Minister of Foreign Affairs, Russian Federation*

“I would like to say once again how very grateful we are to you for this opportunity to gather here and spend two days in energetic, interesting, sometimes heated, but always useful discussions. It’s a pleasure to immerse oneself in this energy, talk to friends and colleagues, and see the diplomatic and expert community in action. It is safe to assert that the Moscow Nonproliferation Conference has become a major factor – an international factor – in these efforts. This year’s event has been a great success”.

*Sergey **RYABKOV**
Deputy Foreign Minister, Russian Federation*

“My sincerest thanks to the Center for Energy and Security Studies and the Russian Federation Ministry of Foreign Affairs for inviting me to participate today. This Conference has consistently proven itself as a venue for valuable open and frank debates that take forward our shared commitment to a world free of nuclear weapons”.

*Izumi **NAKAMITSU**
High Representative for Disarmament Affairs,
Under-Secretary-General, United Nations*



“I would like to begin by thanking the Center for Energy and Security Studies and its head Mr. Anton Khlopkov for organizing this important Conference. I would also like to thank the Government of the Russian Federation for its support in conveying this event”.

Vladimir VORONKOV

Under-Secretary-General, United Nations Office for Counter-Terrorism

“Let me congratulate you on the success of the Moscow Nonproliferation Conference 2017 and reiterate my gratitude for your invitation and warm welcome. As before, it has been a pleasure and an honour for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO) to be partnering the event.

This year’s Conference has proven once again that the Center for Energy and Security Studies (CENESS) offers a unique platform for dialogue and constructive exchanges on nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament issues, which is today more critical than ever. Your dedicated efforts also serve as strong evidence of CENESS’ commitment to the shared goal of a world free from the dangers of nuclear weapons.

CENESS has been consistent in its support for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty. I am grateful to you as its Director for being a close friend and a major advocate of the Treaty and I look forward to continuing our extensive partnership and to discovering additional avenues for cooperation”.

Lassina ZERBO

*Executive Secretary, Preparatory Commission,
Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO)*

“Let me thank Center for Energy and Security Studies and our friend Anton Khlopkov for organizing this meeting. I am especially thankful to him for organizing this panel on the JCPOA and for the composition of this panel”.

Abbas ARAGHCHI

*Deputy Foreign Minister for Legal and International Affairs,
Islamic Republic of Iran*

“It is my pleasure to be here. It is very timely Conference, because we are facing unprecedented threats, unfortunately, also in non-proliferation domain”.

Helga SCHMID

*Secretary General,
European External Action Service (EEAS), European Union*



“[...] Wanted to express my gratitude for the invitation and the participating in the 2017 Moscow Nonproliferation Conference. It was a great experience for me. Not only to learn new perspectives and point of views regarding familiar issues such as Iran, JCPOA, Israel and NPT, also to be exposed to new issues such as the Korean Peninsula crisis, and to learn from the best experts and most relevant people regarding these issues. I hope that the good cooperation and dialogue will continue”.

*Yifat **AMIDY***

*Counselor for Middle East and Strategic Affairs,
Embassy of Israel to the Russian Federation*

“Non-proliferation Conference was a success. Compared to previous such Conferences, it became not only bigger in quantitative terms, but also richer in terms of agenda and quality of speakers and level of attendees”.

*Sergey **BATSANOV***

*Director, Geneva Office, Pugwash Conferences on Science and World Affairs;
Fmr. Soviet Union and Russian Federation Ambassador to the
Conference on Disarmament in Geneva (1989–1993), Russian Federation*

“Many thanks for the opportunity to attend a fantastic Conference [...]. I enjoyed it immensely and well done for pulling together such a diverse range of speakers and attendees”.

*Wyn **BOWEN***

*Professor of Nonproliferation and International Security;
Co-Director, Centre for Science and Security Studies (CSSS), Department of War Studies,
King’s College London, United Kingdom*

“I want to thank you for all the personalized support. [...] You did a magnificent job on the Conference. I hope you will now have a little time to rest [...]. I look forward to our next meeting”.

*Linton **BROOKS***

*Senior Adviser, Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS),
Fmr. Under Secretary of Energy for Nuclear Security and
Administrator of National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA, 2003–2007), United States*

“Thanks, [...] all aspects of the logistics – and I know this is a simple term that doesn't do justice to the complexities involved – were superb. [...] You must be exhausted after the months of effort to make the Conference a success, and a success it surely was”.

*Robert **CARLIN***

*Visiting Scholar, Center for International Security and Cooperation (CISAC),
Stanford University, United States*



“Thank you very much for all your work in support of the Conference. All the arrangements have worked perfectly!”

*John **CARLSON***

Nonresident Fellow, Lowy Institute;

*Fmr. Director-General, Australian Safeguards and Non-proliferation Office (ASNO, 1989–2010),
Australia*

“Congratulations on an outstandingly successful Conference on Nonproliferation. I am also obliged for your kind hospitality. [...] I am extremely thankful for your kind support and assistance in visa arrangements, registration and application procedures”.

*Zafar Iqbal Muhammad **CHEEMA***

President and Executive Director, Strategic Vision Institute (SVI), Pakistan

“I would like to express my thanks to Mr. Anton Khlopkov, the Director of CENESS for the excellent arrangement of the [...] Moscow Nonproliferation Conference and inviting me to this Conference”.

CHOE Son Hui

President, Institute for American Studies (IFAS), Ministry of Foreign Affairs, DPRK

“I would very much like to thank you profusely for making our recent trip to the Russian Federation an affair to remember. Marvellous hospitality, excellent organisation, and personal attention. Couldn't ask for anything more”.

*Asad **DURRANI***

*Lt.-Gen. (ret.), Fmr. Director-General of the Inter-Services Intelligence (1990–1992);
Fmr. Ambassador to Germany (1994–1997) and Saudi Arabia (2000–2002),
Pakistan*

“Congratulations on a very well accomplished Conference. I indeed enjoyed the combination of interesting panelists, well carved program, and the fact that you managed to ensure sufficient time for Q&A and discussions”.

*Snofrid Byrlokken **EMTERUD***

Counsellor, Embassy of Norway to the Russian Federation

“Let me congratulate you and your team sincerely for the outstanding Conference! My delegation was impressed and very satisfied”.

*Patric **FRANZEN***

*Minister and Deputy Head of Mission,
Embassy of Switzerland to the Russian Federation*



“Thank you for inviting me to the most impressive MNC 2017 in Moscow. You managed to attract a rich seam of talent for your panels and discussions and ran the Conference with a rod of iron sheathed in gentle persuasion.

The organisation, from the paperwork, the visas and transportation to every moment in Moscow was of the highest quality and I thoroughly enjoyed my second-only visit to your magnificent capital. This being in October, rather than the previous time when it was May, the city sparkled in the clear autumn air and I think that invigorated debate. Your team of Volunteers were assiduous and very efficient and helped all aspects flow smoothly. Please thank them on my behalf.

I was particularly impressed to see you achieve three important panels which, given the state of current geopolitics, could not have been convened elsewhere: the two panels including the senior representatives from DPRK and the panel on the JCPOA, where you gathered together the truly inspirational negotiators of that landmark agreement [...].

I made many new and useful contacts over these few days in Moscow and I look forward to taking many points forward, using these and your Conference as a catalyst. I hope we find ground upon which we can continue to work in the future”.

John GOWER

*Rear Admiral (ret.), Director, Mimir Consulting Ltd;
Fmr. Assistant Chief of Defence Staff (Nuclear, Chemical, Biological, 2011–2014),
Ministry of Defence, United Kingdom*

“Thanks for a really fantastic Conference. It was really amazing how many key-people you could gather! I am really, really impressed. And a nice, smooth atmosphere”.

Waclaw GUDOWSKI

*Professor, Department of Reactor Physics,
Royal Institute for Technology (KTH), Sweden*

“I would like to personally congratulate you on an exceptional Conference. Everything, from the smallest details to the most complex substantive discussions, was perfectly conducted and respectfully undertaken. You have set an incredibly high standard, and rightly so!”

Rita GUENTHER

*Senior Program Officer, Committee on International Security and Arms Control,
National Academy of Sciences, United States*

“[...] Congratulations for the fantastic Conference. The planning was superb and the execution impeccable. You were able to bring together key people from all over the world to engage in dealing with the world's most difficult nuclear challenges. Congratulations on a job well done”.

Siegfried HECKER

*Senior Fellow, Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies, Stanford University;
Fmr. Director of the Los Alamos National Laboratory (1986–1997), United States*



“I am the one who should express my gratitude for the invitation and the opportunity to attend this Conference. It was an amazing event, both in terms of substance and organization. I must say that this is one of the best Conferences I have ever attended throughout my entire career. You were able to bring to a table countries, which would not sit at the same table under other circumstances. Besides countries presented there, you had an amazing line up of experts. For two days we heard presentations and discussions which broadened our views and understanding of the complex issues we face today.

Also, I want to say that you are an amazing host and a chair. Keeping all discussions focused and on time is a gift and you have such gift.

Finally, the organization of the Conference was perfect. I believe that each guest was treated individually and all our questions have been addressed immediately.

Thank you very much! I hope that I will be able to participate in your events in the future”.

*Margarita **KALININA-POHL**
Senior Program Manager and Research Associate,
James Martin Center for Nonproliferation Studies (CNS),
Middlebury Institute for International Studies at Monterey (MIIS),
United States*

“I wish to thank you and congratulate you on an excellent Conference, something I said to Russian media”.

*Mahmoud **KAREM**
Head, Centre for Egypt and Middle East Studies, British University in Egypt (BUE);
Fmr. Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Egypt to Japan (1999–2003)
and the Kingdom of Belgium (2005–2010), Egypt*

“Thank you once again for the invitation to this Conference and for the opportunity to speak. That gratitude is especially well-deserved when one considers what a small team was behind the organization of such a major event. That is an example worth emulating.”

*Vladimir **KOZIN**
Leading Expert, Center for Military and Political Studies,
Moscow State Institute for International Relations (MGIMO–University), Ministry of Foreign Affairs,
Russian Federation*

“Switzerland is really honored to be one of the Partners of this Conference. Congratulations for the excellent program you have put together, and it is really impressive to see all the participants set up for these two days”.

*Benno **LAGGNER**
Ambassador; Chair, Nuclear Suppliers Group;
Chair of the Subsidiary Body 1 at the 2015 NPT Review Conference, Switzerland*



“[...] Many congratulations on making this year's MNC a huge success. Let me express my deep appreciation for your kind hospitality as well as your excellent stewardship during the entire event. I am very happy to have had the opportunity to partake in many fruitful discussions and I learned a lot from all the different sessions. Thanking you once again for the very well organized meeting, I look forward to meeting you again soon either in Seoul or in Moscow”.

LEE Sang-hwa

*Director-General for North Korean Nuclear Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
Fmr. Assistant to the U.N. Secretary General (2007–2014), Republic of Korea*

“Thank you for this excellent Conference. The organization was superb. I hope we will continue our cooperation in the future.”

Daria LOBANOVA

Programs Director, The Alexander Gorchakov Public Diplomacy Fund, Russian Federation

“I would like to express my thanks and deep appreciation for your inviting me to participate in the 2017 Moscow Conference on Nonproliferation and your hospitality during my stay in Moscow”.

NGUYEN Nhi Dien

*Senior Researcher, Vietnam Atomic Energy Institute (VINATOM);
Fmr. Director of the Dalat Nuclear Research Institute (1998–2016), Vietnam*

“Let me once again thank you for the possibility to participate at your Conference. The lineup of speakers and participants was really impressive and I felt very honored to be among them”.

Klemen POLAK

*Head, JCPOA Procurement Channel Section;
Counsellor, European Union Delegation to the International Organizations in Vienna*

“Conference was excellent. I hope you get some well-deserved rest.”

William POTTER

*Director, James Martin Center for Nonproliferation Studies;
Sam Nunn and Richard Lugar Professor of Nonproliferation Studies,
Middlebury Institute of International Studies at Monterey, United States*

“Congratulations [...] on a fantastic Conference”.

Leon RATZ

Program Officer, Nuclear Threat Initiative, United States



“Congratulations on organizing a most excellent Conference, as there was universal agreement among the participants that the Conference was exceptionally high level, informative, well organized and well managed (your chairmanship was exemplary in keeping to the time schedule)”.

*Tariq **RAUF***

*Fmr. Head of Verification and Security Policy Coordination,
Office of External Relations and Policy Coordination (2002–2011);
Fmr. Alternate Head of IAEA NPT Delegation, International Atomic Energy Agency (2003–2011),
Canada*

“The Conference was a big success – cheers to your great endeavour.”

RHEE Dong–Yeol

Minister Counselor, Embassy of the Republic of Korea to the Russian Federation

“It was a terrific Conference, and I want to thank you and your team. I learned a lot and connected with some friends and potential new partners. Thanks for including me”.

*Carl **ROBICHAUD***

*Program Officer, International Peace and Security,
Carnegie Corporation of New York, United States*

“Congratulations once again on a superbly organized and very successful Conference, and thank you for inviting me to attend.”

*Vitaly **SHCHUKIN***

*Senior Safeguards Technology Expert, Office for Verification in Iran,
Department of Safeguards, International Agency of Atomic Energy (IAEA)*

“Thank you very much for the invitation, for excellent organization, and for informative speeches.”

*Yury **SHIYAN***

*Deputy Head (Nonproliferation, Arms Control), External Relations Department, Russian
Academy of Sciences (RAS), Russian Federation*

“Congratulations on a perfectly organized Conference!”

*Victor **SLIPCHENKO***

*Fmr. Expert of the Committee Established Pursuant to U.N. Security Council Resolution
1540 (2004) (2005–2009), Russian Federation*



“An excellent Conference, in terms of both substance and organization.”

Nikolai SOKOV

*Senior Fellow, James Martin Center for Nonproliferation Studies (CNS),
Middlebury Institute for International Studies at Monterey (MIIS),
United States*

“[...] Congratulations on a very successful Conference!”

Elena SOKOVA

*Deputy Director, James Martin Center for Nonproliferation Studies (CNS),
Middlebury Institute for International Studies at Monterey (MIIS),
United States*

“I would like to congratulate you for your successful Conference. I am also obliged to thanks you and your colleagues. In the Conference your management and discipline in diplomatic manner was admirable”.

Ali Asghar SOLTANIEH

*Senior Researcher, Institute of Political International Studies (IPIS), Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
Fmr. Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary and Permanent Representative
to the United Nations and other International Organizations in Vienna (2006–2013), Iran*

“[...] The Conference [...] was outstanding in terms of the subjects and the participants. [...] You did a great job and I am thankful for the opportunity to be there”.

Shimon STEIN

*Senior Research Fellow, Institute for National Security Studies (INSS);
Fmr. Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Israel to Germany (2001–2007),
Israel*

“It is really a great pleasure to be here and this is my second time to attend such an important Conference and I highly appreciate the sponsors’ effort to organize such a big Conference at this crucial moment”.

TENG Jianqun

*Director, Center for Arms Control and International Security Studies,
China Institute of International Studies (CIIS),
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, China*



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**The Moscow Nonproliferation
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Nuclear Energy | Disarmament | Nonproliferation



“First of all, compliments for this Conference! I remember quite a number of years ago when we started this process and you had so many ideas, so it is really impressive to see how many people we have here today”.

Henk Cor VAN DER KWAST

*Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to Slovakia;
Chair of the First Session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2020 NPT Review Conference,
The Netherlands*

“I would like to express my sincere gratitude and appreciation for a most interesting and well organized Conference. The timing of the Conference was really excellent, I met many interesting colleagues and I learnt a lot. And thanks also for your hospitality”.

Eva WALDER,

*Ambassador for Disarmament, Ministry for Foreign Affairs;
Fmr. Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Sweden
to Singapore (1998–2002) and Finland (2006–2009), Sweden*