

U.S.-Russian Nuclear Arms Control Diplomacy Remains In Mutual and Global Security Interests

Statement by the Deep Cuts Commission and the Young Deep Cuts Commission

The Deep Cuts Commission and the Young Deep Cuts Commission regret the postponement of the meeting of the Bilateral Consultative Commission (BCC), which had been scheduled to take place in Cairo, Nov. 29-Dec. 6, 2022.

The BCC is a technical body, which normally meets at least twice a year to resolve problems related to implementation of the New START, the only arms control treaty currently limiting Russian and U.S. nuclear weapons.

The Cairo meeting would have been the first BCC meeting since 2021, when the Covid-19 pandemic stopped the regular dialogue on New START implementation.

Through the BCC, the two sides can resolve technical issues holding up the resumption of on-site inspections under New START, which were suspended in March 2020, also because of the Covid-19 pandemic. The Biden administration has made the resumption of on-site inspections a precondition for

restarting the dialogue with Russia on a new nuclear arms control framework to follow-on from New START, which expires in February 2026.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov has stated that it is “impossible to discuss strategic stability” against the background of the situation in Ukraine. Russian officials have also stated that they remain open to resuming dialogue on strategic stability and negotiating a new nuclear arms control agreement to supersede New START. But Moscow maintains that Washington would have to take the first step.

For fifty years, through times of tension, conflict and détente, Russian and U.S. leaders have recognized the value of dialogue to reduce nuclear risks and to fulfil their responsibility as parties to the nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty to pursue negotiations in good faith on reductions of their nuclear arsenals. Nuclear arms control diplomacy is all the more important today.

The Deep Cuts Commission and the Young Deep Cuts Commission

- believe that an early date for the next BCC meeting should be set as soon as possible. The BCC is the right forum to tackle any possible technical issues that might stand in the way of a resumption of inspections and any other technical concerns that Russia and the United States might have about New START implementation, including Russian concerns about the conversion of U.S. nuclear weapons delivery systems;
- urge both sides to formally agree to negotiate a new accord to replace New START before it expires; and

- encourage European governments and all other governments to speak out at the highest levels about the importance of a resumed Russian-U.S. dialogue on nuclear arms control.

Engagement on arms control should be seen neither as a favour to the other side nor as leverage on other national security issues. Waiting for an end to the conflict in Ukraine to resume engagement on nuclear arms control undermines the security of Russia, the United States and the world.

Commission members may not fully agree with each and every point included here, though as a group they are fully aligned in support of the recommendations.

About Deep Cuts

The Deep Cuts Commission provides decision-makers as well as the interested public with concrete policy options based on realistic analysis and sound research. Since it was established in 2013, the Commission is coordinated in its deliberations by the Institute for Peace Research and Security Policy at the University of Hamburg (IFSH), the Arms Control Association (ACA), and the Primakov Institute of World Economy and International Relations, Russian Academy of Sciences (IMEMO, RAN) with the active support of the German Federal Foreign Office.

For further information please see:

www.deepcuts.org
[@deepcutsproject](https://twitter.com/deepcutsproject)

Impress

Institut für Friedensforschung und
Sicherheitspolitik an der Universität
Hamburg (IFSH)

Beim Schlump 83
20144 Hamburg, Germany

Phone: +49 (0)40 86 60 77 70
Fax: +49 (0)40 866 36 15

Project Management:
Oliver Meier

Email: info@deepcuts.org