

Panel: De Facto Nuclear Weapon States and the Non-proliferation Treaty Regime
(Regency Room)

Date/Time: Wednesday, February 20, 2013 / 14:00-15:15

Talking Points for: Mushahid Hussain Sayed, Senate Committee on Defence & Defence Production, Senate of Pakistan

I. Global nuclear scenario post 9/11

- Nuclear weapons seem to have become more “fashionable” post 9/11 with the US Senate lifting a decade long ban on the research and development of mini-nukes in May 2003 ostensibly for induction in the “war on terror”;
- The US decision to go for a nuclear deal with India for political/strategic purposes in contravention of the NPT as well as its own laws, which were later re-written to accommodate the Indian deal;
- Double standards on the nuclear programme with Iran, threatened with war although it says it is not building Bomb, while North Korea, which has tested the Bomb, treated with kid- gloves, although the US National Intelligence Estimate (NIE) proclaims in 2007 that Iran not building the Bomb, while North Korea tested nuclear weapons twice, in 2006 and 2009;
- A double standards is also apparent in treatment of Pakistan viz-a-viz India, both nuclear weapon states (like the preferential treatment given to India via deals for civil nuclear technology, NSG waiver);
- Supporting nuclear weapons free zone in the Korean Peninsula while opposing it in the Middle East.

II. Dealing with Iran and North Korea

- Regarding Iran and North Korea, the best way-forward is political and diplomatic engagement, rather than sanctions, or attempts to demonize/isolate these countries or threaten them with “regime change” through war.
- US Defence Secretary, Donald Rumsfeld’s press talk on October 16, 2002 is instructive in that he was asked: “**Why the United States is planning to go to war with Iraq merely on the basis of allegations of WMD, while, conversely, North Korea is being treated differently and engaged in 6-party talks**”, he crisply

* The views expressed herein do not necessarily reflect the views of the Asan Institute for Policy Studies.

replied: “Because North Korea has nuclear weapons”. In other words, he accepted that the mere presence of nuclear weapons deters war or even threat of war by a super-power against a small state.

III. Can NPT become truly universal?

- The NPT regime can truly become universal provided states having nuclear weapons like Pakistan and India are treated equally with same standards and both are inducted into the NPT by an Additional Protocol;
- Instead of country specific waivers as the one granted to India courtesy the United States in the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG), it would be better to have a criteria-based approach.

IV. Pakistan’s Nuclear Transparency/Safety and Security Mechanism

Pakistan has established a very tightly controlled and transparent system regarding the control of nuclear weapons to prevent any possible proliferation through such steps as:
2000 – Establishment of National Command Authority which is headed by the Prime Minister and includes all the relevant stakeholders within its ambit (became law under Act of Parliament in February 2010);

2001 – Establishment of Pakistan Nuclear Regulatory Authority (PNRA), which is quite independent and autonomous, for instance, it even stopped KANNUP from working due to the safeguards issue, despite opposition by the Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission;

2004 – The Pakistan’s Parliament passed the Export Control Act to prevent possible proliferation.

2007 – PNRA launched Nuclear Security Action Plan (NSAP), including Nuclear Safety & Security Training Centre, and Nuclear Security Emergency Coordination Centre.

Additionally, the Nuclear Emergency Management System (NEMS) is also in place.