

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: Ariel Levite, Nonresident Senior Associate, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace

I intend to focus my presentation on 4 questions:

(1) What do the 3 "de facto" nuclear states have in common and what sets them apart. I intend to point out that this group does not have all that much in common besides the label assigned for grouping them, and moreover the DPRK could easily be considered a fourth member of that category. I will proceed to describe some key features of these 3 states that are germane for addressing the other questions you raise.

(2) I will move on to consider the connections between the aforementioned 3 and the 2 (Iran and the DPRK), as well as between the latter and other potentially relevant states. I will try to separate facts from fiction but also past from presently relevant interactions that have a bearing on the prospects for concern about their activity as well as grounds for optimism about their constructive engagement.

(3) I will then examine the actual prospects for engaging the DPRK and Iran to give up on their nuclear programs, expressing great skepticism that this is a realistic goal in either case. I will lay out instead a series of more modest goals that strike me as more realistic and highly desirable (capping, enhancing transparency, reorienting resource allocation, anchoring activities in an agreed framework...).

(4) Finally I intend to tackle the goal of universalizing the NPT, raising questions about the viability, necessity, and above all desirability of this goal. In particular I intend to touch on several options for universalizing the NPT and their implications (e.g. on the basis of the existing Treaty or with modifying it, after a transformation in the global and regional order or in its absence. I intend to close by discussing the implications of linking progress with Iran and the DPRK nuclear programs to a breakthrough in universalizing the NPT.

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