

Panel: Building Global Nuclear Security Architecture (Grand Ballroom III)

Date/Time: Wednesday, February 20, 2013 /09:00-10:15

Talking Points for: John Bernhard, Former Ambassador of Denmark to the IAEA and CTBTO

- As described in the presentation by Ambassador Ken Brill, the current regime has many weaknesses and gaps.
- They need to be addressed in order to create a comprehensive and effective global nuclear architecture.
- Traditional national sovereignty considerations have made it difficult to achieve significant progress at the international level.
- Though it is valuable that groups of likeminded states take the lead, as in the NSS process, this is not sufficient in the long term. A universal threat like nuclear terrorism has to be dealt with at the universal level.
- The ideal international regime should supplement existing instruments by still lacking elements, and the IAEA should continue to have a central role
- This goal may be reached in various ways, but the most efficient way to establish an effective, unified and comprehensive architecture is to work towards an international framework convention, thereby finally establishing a solid treaty basis.
- A framework convention should, besides building on existing international instruments, establish a set of common standards for national nuclear security regimes, rules about transparency, cooperation and assessment mechanisms, both at the national and international level.
- While confidentiality of sensitive information would naturally have to be maintained, confidence about the effective implementation of obligations would be promoted through such steps.
- The convention should cover all nuclear and other radioactive materials, including non-civil nuclear materials.
- The Conference of the State Parties should meet regularly, inter alia to discuss the implementation and to consider the need for amendments to the convention.
- As long as a framework convention is far from being a reality, states have to continue the efforts to effectively implement, and, where possible, strengthen current instruments. This will contribute to achieve the end goal, a global nuclear security architecture.

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