

PRESS ADVISORY: 22 JUNE 2011

**OFFICIAL TALKS ARE NOT ENOUGH
KEY "TRACK II" MEETING OF SENIOR INTERNATIONAL CONFLICT RESOLUTION
EXPERTS TO MEET IN BERLIN
NOBEL-PRIZE WINNING GROUP HOLDS CRUCIAL WORLD SUMMIT**

An international meeting in Berlin from 1-4 July will see an audience of over 250 senior officials, former officials, academics and experts discuss reducing the dangers of armed conflict, particularly in areas where nuclear weapons pose a serious threat.

Among the many sessions open to the public, participants will have a special focus on nuclear disarmament and European security, whether talking to the Taliban could help prospects in Afghanistan, the Iranian nuclear programme, decreasing tensions between India and Pakistan, the Arab Spring, progress in the Israel-Palestine conflict, and nuclear energy post-Fukushima. Participants will be drawn from around the world including members of the Egyptian revolution, the Palestinian Government, Israel, Iran, the Taliban, and North Korea and include 8 current ministers, four former intelligence chiefs, and several sitting MPs.

The meeting is convened by the [Pugwash Conferences on Science and World Affairs](#), a non-governmental organisation with over 50 years experience in the fields of arms control and conflict resolution. The first day is co-organized with the European Leadership Network, led by former UK Defence Secretary Lord (Des) Browne of Ladyton. The meeting is made possible thanks to the generous support of the German Federal Foreign Office, where the meetings will take place, and other funders.

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FOR FURTHER DETAILS CONTACT

David Cracknell, BigTentCommunications, david@bigtentcommunications.com +44 (0)7703 492993

Poul-Erik Christiansen, Programmes Assistant poulerik.christiansen@gmail.com, +44 (0)77177 47157

Sandra Ionno Butcher, Senior Programmes Coordinator sibutcher@earthlink.net +44 (0)7920747560

NOTES FOR EDITORS

The purpose of the Pugwash Conferences is to bring together, from around the world, influential scholars and public figures concerned with reducing the danger of armed conflict and seeking cooperative solutions for global problems. Meeting in private as individuals, rather than as representatives of governments or institutions, Pugwash participants exchange views and explore alternative approaches to arms control and tension reduction. Yet, because of the stature of many of the Pugwash participants in their own countries, insights from Pugwash discussions tend to penetrate quickly to the appropriate levels of official policy-making.

The Pugwash Conferences take their name from the location of the first meeting, which was held in 1957 in the village of Pugwash, Nova Scotia, Canada.