



Berlin to Host Major Meeting on European Security and Nuclear Disarmament

Federal Foreign Office Hosts World Summit of Nobel Peace Prize Winning Group

Reducing Nuclear Dangers and Conflict Resolution in Nuclear Hot Spots is Key Focus

--For Immediate Release--

28 June 2011 -- On Friday 1 July, more than 300 current and former policy makers and experts from 43 countries will launch the 59th Pugwash Conference on Science and World Affairs with a special day-long Simons Symposium focusing on European Security and Nuclear Disarmament. The opening address will be given by German Foreign Minister Guido Westerwelle, whose strong international leadership in promoting the removal of US nuclear weapons from Europe prompted the ongoing NATO defense and deterrence review, which will be a major focus of this conference. Key arms negotiators Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov and US Under Secretary Rose Gottemoeller will address further steps in nuclear reductions.

The Simons Symposium is co-sponsored by the [European Leadership Network for Multilateral Nuclear Disarmament and Non-Proliferation](#). Former UK Defence Secretary Lord Browne of Ladyton, convener of ELN said, "Unlike during the Cold War, in a multi-polar world facing diverse security threats, nuclear weapons are the answer to few security problems and the cause of many. Across the world, there is a growing realization that nuclear weapons threaten our security and that our attitude towards them creates an incentive for proliferation of them. We have an opportunity to reverse that trend. Strong political leadership is emerging across the world for nuclear disarmament. It has not come quickly enough and this conference will generate further momentum along that road."

Pugwash President and former UN Under Secretary General Jayantha Dhanapala said, "Pugwash focuses on decreasing the salience of nuclear weapons, and promotes nuclear disarmament. The Simons Symposium will demonstrate the urgency of addressing broader security issues that will open the door for deeper nuclear cuts, and will seek to regain lost momentum following the 2010 NPT Review Conference. The European example is significant, and can have tremendous positive effects on decreasing nuclear threats in other parts of the world."

Pugwash Secretary General Paolo Cotta-Ramusino said, "This world-class gathering, devoted to the idea of seeking diplomatic solutions to conflict, will gather inspiration from the city of Berlin. If walls could come down in Berlin, then we also have the possibility to solve challenging issues in other parts of the world: South Asia, the Middle East, the Korean peninsula." Cotta-Ramusino added, "We also are very pleased to organize this event in cooperation with the [VDW](#), the German Pugwash Group, which has long historic leadership in promoting solutions to some of the world's most difficult challenges at the intersection of science and society."

Speakers will include: Prof. Egon Bahr, former Federal Minister for Special Affairs, Germany; Lord (Desmond) Browne of Ladyton, former UK Defence Secretary; Amb. Wolfgang Ischinger, Former Deputy Foreign Minister, Germany; Hon. Giorgio La Malfa MP, Former Italian Minister of European Affairs; Amb. Vyacheslav Trubnikov, former Director of Foreign Intelligence Service, Russia; Amb. Tacan Ildem, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Turkey to the OSCE; Gen. (ret) Bernard Norlain, Former Air Defense Commander and Air Combat Commander; Dr. Sergey Rogov, Director of the Institute of USA and Canadian Studies, Hon. Uta Zapf, and others. The meeting is generously supported by the German Federal Foreign Office, the Simons Foundation, and others.

The Pugwash Conference takes place from 1-4 July. Additional panels will address key issues such as 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, eliminating weapons of mass destruction, and nuclear energy post-Fukushima. Participants from around the world will include 8 current ministers, four former intelligence chiefs, several sitting MPs, among other leading voices from key regions. Additional information is available at www.pugwash.org.

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