

2024 ANNUAL MEETING

Moving Back from the Nuclear Brink

Arms Control
Association

ALARM
RESET

June 7, 2024
National Press Club
Washington, D.C.

#ACA2024

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Moving Back from the Nuclear Brink

Dear Arms Control Association members and friends,

Following more than a decade of deteriorating relations between the major powers, and inaction on disarmament diplomacy, the dangers posed by nuclear weapons are growing.

The three states with the largest nuclear arsenals—Russia, the United States, and China—are on the precipice of an unconstrained era of dangerous nuclear competition. Key U.S.-Russian arms control agreements that helped reduce tensions and maintain stability in the past are either gone, are being ignored, or are in jeopardy. The last remaining treaty constraining U.S. and Russian strategic nuclear weapons will expire in about 600 days. Billions of dollars are being spent by the world's nine nuclear weapons possessor states to maintain and upgrade their deadly arsenals.

In the past year alone, Russia de-ratified the 1996 Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, deployed sub-strategic nuclear weapons in Belarus, and is alleged to be developing a nuclear-armed space weapon. Its deadly and illegal assault on Ukraine continues. The Kremlin also rejected the U.S. offer—announced at ACA's 2023 Annual Meeting—to engage in talks on a new U.S.-Russian nuclear arms control framework to help reduce nuclear risk.

Now, as China expands and diversifies its smaller arsenal, some members of the U.S. nuclear weapons establishment are proposing to spend even more of our tax dollars to expand the already massive U.S. nuclear arsenal for the first time in decades.

Meanwhile, Israel's war against Hamas in Gaza, made possible with U.S. weapons supplies, has killed some 35,000 civilians, and created a humanitarian catastrophe that U.S. arms transfer policies and laws were supposed to help prevent. In the absence of agreed limits on its nuclear program and tougher international monitoring, the risk that Iran leaders may pursue nuclear weapons remains all too high, which is, in turn, leading Saudi Arabia to seek sensitive nuclear technologies from Washington.

ACA's long-running efforts to help establish and defend the norms against nuclear weapons use, threats of use, nuclear testing, nuclear proliferation, and nuclear weapons buildups, and to advance progress on nuclear disarmament, are now more important than ever.

You can count on the ACA team to be at the forefront of the effort to create new momentum.

We're also counting on you to stay engaged and to help us press our elected leaders to pursue saner, more responsible, policies that reduce the nuclear danger.

We're grateful for your support. Our efforts to help move us back from the brink depend on people like you.

Onward,



Daryl G. Kimball, Executive Director

8:15 a.m.	Registration begins; coffee and pastries available
9:00 a.m.	Welcome Daryl G. Kimball, Executive Director
9:10 a.m.	KEYNOTE ADDRESS: A Congressional Perspective on Nuclear Weapons Spending and Arms Control Rep. John Garamendi (D-Calif.)
10:10 a.m.	PANEL I: Looming Decisions on U.S. Nuclear Force Size and Spending <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hans M. Kristensen, Nuclear Information Project, Federation of American Scientists• Madelyn Creedon, Congressional Commission on the U.S. Strategic Posture• W. J. Hennigan, <i>The New York Times</i>• Moderator: Xiaodon Liang, Arms Control Association
11:25 a.m.	Special Video Message from UN Secretary-General António Guterres
11:35 a.m.	Pre-lunch break
12:05 p.m.	LUNCH & KEYNOTE ADDRESS: Update on U.S. Nuclear Weapons Policy and Future Directions for Arms Control Pranay Vaddi, Special Assistant to President Biden and Senior Director for Arms Control, Disarmament, and Nonproliferation at the National Security Council

1:00 p.m.	Post-lunch break
1:10 p.m.	SPECIAL REMARKS: Charting Future Paths for Nuclear Arms Control and Disarmament Thomas Countryman, ACA Board Chair
1:35 p.m.	PANEL II: Preventing Further Proliferation in the Middle East <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sharon Squassoni, Elliot School, George Washington University• Kelsey Davenport, Arms Control Association• Negar Mortazavi, Center for International Policy• Moderator: Arshad Mohammed, Reuters
2:45 p.m.	Coffee break
2:50 p.m.	PANEL III: Achieving More Effective Implementation of U.S. Arms Transfer Policy <ul style="list-style-type: none">• John Ramming Chappell, Center for Civilians in Conflict• Ari Tolany, Center for International Policy• Mira K. Resnick, State Department• Moderator: Rachel Stohl, Stimson Center and member of the ACA Board
4:05 p.m.	CLOSING: ACA's Plan of Action Daryl G. Kimball



UN Secretary-General António Guterres

Guterres was appointed the ninth secretary-general of the United Nations in 2017. Speaking before the UN Security Council this March 18, he said: "Voice after voice, alarm after alarm, survivor after survivor are calling the world back from the brink." "And what is the response?" he asked. "States possessing nuclear weapons are absent from the table of dialogue. Investments in the tools of war are outstripping investments in the tools of peace. Arms budgets are growing, while diplomacy and development budgets are shrinking," the secretary-general said.

Guterres urged that the nuclear-armed states in particular "must reengage" to prevent any use of a nuclear weapon, including by securing a no-first-use agreement, stopping nuclear saber-rattling, and reaffirming moratoriums on nuclear testing.

Guterres served as the UN High Commissioner for Refugees from 2005 to 2015, during a challenging period when the number of displaced people increased dramatically due to war and crises in Syria, Iraq, South Sudan, the Central African Republic, and Yemen. Prior to joining the United Nations, Guterres was the prime minister of Portugal (1995-2002) and was first elected to the Portuguese parliament in 1976.



Rep. John Garamendi

John Garamendi represents California's 8th Congressional District in the U.S. House of Representatives. First elected in 2009, Garamendi is a member of the House Armed Services, and Transportation and Infrastructure Committees. In addition to being the ranking Democrat on the Subcommittee on Readiness of the House Armed Services Committee, he is also a co-chair of the Congressional Nuclear Weapons and Arms Control Working Group. Prior to his election to Congress, Garamendi served as the Lieutenant Governor of California. During the Clinton administration, he was appointed Deputy Secretary of the Interior and performed that role from 1995 to 1998. He has also served as the California Insurance Commissioner and in both chambers of the California state legislature.



Pranay Vaddi

Pranay Vaddi is special assistant to the President and senior director for arms control, disarmament, and nonproliferation at the National Security Council. From 2018 to 2021, Vaddi was a fellow with the Nuclear Policy Program at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. He previously served in the Department of State's Bureau of Arms Control, Verification, and Compliance where he worked on U.S.-Russian arms control and deterrence issues. Vaddi was an advisor to the U.S. delegation to the New START Treaty's Bilateral Consultative Commission and chaired the relevant interagency backstopping committee. He also coordinated interagency efforts supporting the diplomatic strategy on the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty and participated in the 2017 Strategic Stability Talks with Russia. Earlier, he was a congressional advisor at the Bureau of Legislative Affairs at the State Department, where he managed the department's relations with Congress on a number of foreign policy and national security issues.



Hans M. Kristensen

Hans M. Kristensen is director of the Nuclear Information Project at the Federation of American Scientists. An expert in using open sources to estimate and analyze the status of nuclear forces, Kristensen is co-author of the Nuclear Notebook column in the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists and the World Nuclear Forces overview in the *SIPRI Yearbook*, which he has co-authored since 2001.



Madelyn Creedon

Madelyn Creedon chaired the Congressional Commission on the Strategic Posture of the United States as established by the FY2022 National Defense Authorization Act. Previously, Creedon served as the principal deputy administrator of the National Nuclear Security Administration between 2014 and 2017, and as the assistant secretary of defense for global strategic affairs from 2011 to 2014.



William J. Hennigan

William J. Hennigan is national security, foreign policy, and conflict correspondent for *The New York Times'* Opinion section. He is the lead writer of the "At the Brink" series on the dangers of a new nuclear age. Hennigan previously received the Gerald R. Ford Journalism Prize for Distinguished Reporting on National Defense for his coverage while at *Time* magazine of the U.S. military's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Before that, he was part of a news team at the *Los Angeles Times* that won the 2016 Pulitzer Prize for Breaking News Reporting.



Xiaodon Liang (moderator)

Xiaodon Liang is the senior policy analyst for nuclear weapons policy and disarmament at the Arms Control Association, covering U.S. nuclear policy and posture as well as bilateral relations with China and Russia. He previously worked at the World Peace Foundation and the National Bureau of Asian Research.



Sharon Squassoni

Sharon Squassoni is a research professor of international affairs at the Elliott School of International Affairs at George Washington University. She has held senior positions at the State Department, Arms Control and Disarmament Agency, and the Congressional Research Service, as well as the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace and the Center for Strategic and International Studies. She serves on the boards of the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists, the PIR Center, the Wisconsin Project on Nuclear Arms Control, and the Center for Arms Control and Nonproliferation. Squassoni is also a co-founder of the Climate-Security Initiative.



Kelsey Davenport

Kelsey Davenport is the director for nonproliferation policy at the Arms Control Association, where she focuses on the nuclear and missile programs in Iran and North Korea and on international efforts to prevent proliferation and nuclear terrorism. She is a member of the advisory board for the Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies at the University of Notre Dame, serves on the advisory committee for the National Committee on North Korea, and is a member of the board of directors for the Herbert Scoville Jr. Peace Fellowship.



Negar Mortazavi

Negar Mortazavi is an award-winning journalist and commentator, editor and host of the Iran Podcast, and a senior fellow at the Center for International Policy, based in Washington, DC. She has been covering Iranian and Middle Eastern affairs, as well as U.S. foreign policy towards the Middle East for over a decade.



Arshad Mohammed (moderator)

Arshad Mohammed is Reuters' diplomatic correspondent based at the Department of State. Since joining Reuters in 1988, he has reported from Algiers, New York, and Paris, in addition to covering the White House.



John Ramming Chappell

John Ramming Chappell is the advocacy and legal fellow at the Center for Civilians in Conflict's U.S. program. Chappell engages with policymakers on U.S. law and policy related to civilian harm, arms sales, and security assistance. A lawyer by training, Chappell also has experience working at foreign policy think tanks and as a political organizer.



Ari Tolany

Ari Tolany is the director of the Security Assistance Monitor program at the Center for International Policy. Previously, she was the U.S. program manager at the Center for Civilians in Conflict and a Herbert J. Scoville Peace Fellow at the Stimson Center's South Asia Program. Tolany is also an expert with the Forum on the Arms Trade.



Mira K. Resnick

Mira K. Resnick is the deputy assistant secretary of state for regional security at the U.S. State Department's Bureau of Political-Military Affairs. Resnick oversees the Office of Regional Security and Arms Transfers, which manages government-to-government arms transfers and regulates direct commercial sales. Resnick was previously the senior professional staff member for the Democratic staff of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, with a focus on the Middle East and North Africa.



Rachel Stohl (moderator)

Rachel Stohl is senior vice president of research programs at the Stimson Center and director of the Stimson Center's Conventional Defense Program. Previously, Stohl was an associate fellow at Chatham House and a senior analyst at the Center for Defense Information. She was the consultant to the U.N. Arms Trade Treaty process. Stohl is also an adjunct professor in the Security Studies Program at Georgetown University, and is a member of the Arms Control Association's board of directors.



Thomas Countryman

Thomas Countryman is the chair of the board of directors of the Arms Control Association. He served for 35 years as a member of the U.S. Foreign Service until January 2017, achieving the rank of minister-counselor. In October 2016, he was appointed to the position of acting undersecretary of state for arms control and international security. He simultaneously served as assistant secretary of state for international security and nonproliferation, a position he had held since September 2011.



Daryl G. Kimball

Daryl G. Kimball has been involved in the nuclear arms control and disarmament field for more three decades and has served as ACA's executive director since 2001. He has shaped the Arms Control Association's education and research programs and publications and led its policy advocacy campaigns on a range of issues, including halting new nuclear weapons production, ending nuclear testing, negotiation and ratification of New START, conclusion of the 2015 P5+1 nuclear deal with Iran, strengthening the nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, and reinforcing the norms against nuclear use, threats of use, and against nuclear testing.

INFORMATION. INFLUENCE. IMPACT.

Since 1971, we've provided authoritative information, news, and analysis on a range of weapons-related global security challenges and pragmatic solutions to eliminate the threats posed by the world's most dangerous weapons.

Our timely research reports, issue briefs, fact sheets, e-newsletters, and our flagship journal, *Arms Control Today*—all available online at armscontrol.org—make us the go-to resource for diplomats, reporters, scholars, students, and citizen advocates the world over.

We don't simply observe the world around us. The Arms Control Association is a "think and do" tank that aims to advance pragmatic solutions to steer policy outcomes in a safer and saner direction.

And we have made a difference. As the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation noted in 2011, ACA is an "exceptional organization that effectively addresses pressing national and international challenges with an impact that is disproportionate to its small size."

Today, we're working to:

- Head off an unconstrained, three-way nuclear arms race by maintaining sensible limits on U.S. and Russian strategic arsenals and advancing pragmatic disarmament diplomacy at the bilateral and multilateral level.
- Narrow the role of nuclear weapons in U.S. military strategy and slash the soaring costs of the multi-trillion dollar U.S. nuclear weapons modernization program.
- Develop and promote effective nonproliferation policy solutions to curtail the nuclear weapons capabilities of North Korea and the nuclear weapons potential of Iran.
- Protect the hard-won global prohibition against nuclear testing and push back against threats of nuclear weapons use by any nation for any reason.
- Reinforce the global taboos against chemical and biological weapons.
- Advance tomorrow's arms control solutions to address destabilizing new technologies, including the integration of artificial intelligence in conventional weapons systems and in nuclear command and control.

HOW DO WE DO ALL OF THIS?

ACA has always been a relatively small, but impactful organization thanks to its dedicated, highly professional, dynamic, creative, persistent, and hard-working staff, fellows, interns, and our stellar board of directors.

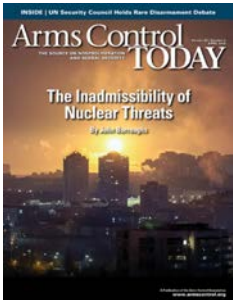
Shaping the debate: The news media is where the public and many policymakers get most of their information. ACA staff and Board experts are among the most widely cited and highly trusted sources in the field for reporters.

ACA's web site is the “go-to” source for information on nuclear and other weapons-related security challenges for policy practitioners, educators, students, journalists, and concerned citizens the world over.



Arms Control Today: Since it was launched in 1974 as a monthly publication, *Arms Control Today* has served as an authoritative source of information and a platform for scholarship, news and analysis, and interviews with policymakers on weapons-related security challenges.

Become an ACA member or subscriber for as little as \$25 to receive your copy of the journal. Visit armscontrol.org/join



Generating ideas: We do more than just describe problems. We develop and present practical solutions and engage with decision-makers the world over to put ideas into action.

ACA regularly produces in-depth research reports, issue briefs, policy white papers, and maintains a library of more than 100 at-a-glance fact sheets. Our webinars, workshops, briefings, and Annual Meeting deliver expert insights and information on the most pressing weapons-related challenges today.

Catalyzing executive branch and congressional action on nuclear disarmament:

We have a proven track record of pressing U.S. leaders to reduce the role, cost, and numbers of nuclear weapons, and to pursue nonproliferation through diplomacy.

ACA engages with officials and diplomats worldwide to inject proposals and ideas to catalyze action for nuclear threat reduction.

Training the next generation of arms

controllers: ACA has provided a start for hundreds of young analysts, interns, and Herbert Scoville Jr. Peace Fellows over the years.

Collaborating effectively: We have years of experience working with smart people and organizations in the United States and around the world who bring diverse strengths and perspectives to effect positive policy change.

- ACA hosts the Physicists Coalition for Nuclear Threat Reduction, a national network of activist scientists delivering fact-based advocacy for saner nuclear policies.
- ACA coordinates the Chemical Weapons Convention Coalition, a global network of civil society experts and advocates promoting implementation and compliance with the treaty.
- Since 2013, ACA has served as the lead U.S. partner for the U.S.-German-Russian “Deep Cuts Commission,” which facilitates dialogue and joint research involving top U.S., European, and Russian nuclear arms control experts.



U.S. National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan delivers a keynote address at ACA's 2023 Annual Meeting.

HOW YOU CAN HELP:

Join or renew your membership. Make a commitment to effective arms control solutions. Annual membership dues begin at \$25.

Learn more at armscontrol.org/join

Take action. Progress on arms control and disarmament depends on public engagement and pressure for national and foreign policy decisionmakers to take responsible action. Become part of our growing action alert network to learn how you can write, call, and meet with key policymakers.

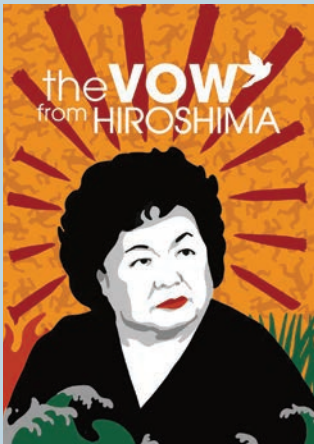
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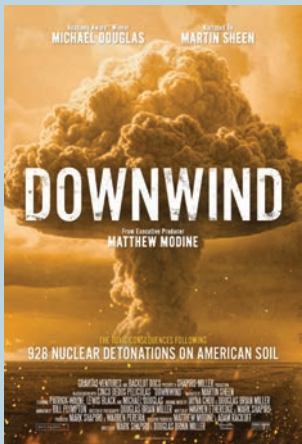
ACA is not only dedicated to reducing and eliminating the dangers posed by nuclear weapons. We also work to support efforts to address the toxic and radioactive legacy of past nuclear weapons testing, use, and production. We recommend these four important films that have recently been released and are available to stream online: “First We Bombed New Mexico,” which tells the story of the people harmed by the first nuclear test: “The Vow from Hiroshima,” a portrait of Setsuko Thurlow, a-bomb survivor and anti-nuclear campaigner: “Downwind,” an exposé of the impact of decades of nuclear blasts in Nevada: and “In Search of Resolution,” which examines the continuing dangers posed by nuclear weapons and possible ways forward.



firstwebombednewmexico.com



thevowfromhiroshima.com



backlotdocs.com



pbs.org/show/in-search-of-resolution/

The 2023 Arms Control Persons of the Year

Every year since 2007, the Arms Control Association staff and board have nominated several individuals and institutions that have advanced effective arms control, nonproliferation, and disarmament solutions and/or raised awareness of the threats posed by mass casualty weapons. The nominee that receives the highest number of votes in an online poll becomes the “Arms Control Person(s) of the Year.”



Workers and Technicians at the U.S. Army's Pueblo Chemical Depot in Colorado (L) and the Blue Grass Army Depot in Kentucky (R)

The workers and technicians at the two chemical stockpile depots were nominated for their successful and safe completion of eliminating the last vestiges of the United States' once enormous declared stockpile of lethal chemical munitions in the summer of 2023, as required by the 1997 Chemical Weapons Convention.

Under the supervision of the U.S. Army's Office of Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives, the last mustard gas munition was destroyed in June 2023 at Pueblo; Blue Grass destroyed the last missile loaded with Sarin nerve agent in July 2023. The elimination program cost an estimated \$13.5 billion.

"We applaud the highly professional work of all the people involved in the difficult destruction of the last remnants of the U.S. chemical weapons stockpile," remarked Daryl Kimball, executive director of the Arms Control Association.

"Their efforts bring to close an important chapter in the decades long global disarmament struggle to verifiably eliminate an entire class of weapons considered so inhumane that their use was condemned more than a century ago," he said.

"The successful work of the people and community watchdogs in and around the Pueblo Chemical Depot and the Blue Grass Army Depot is an important reminder that even after a major treaty, like the 1997 Chemical Weapons Convention, is concluded, there is hard, behind-the-scenes work to be done in order to ensure full implementation and ongoing compliance," Kimball added.

Previous Winners

2022

The **Energatom staff at Ukraine's Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant (ZNPP)** for their heroic efforts to maintain nuclear safety and security at the plant under conditions of immense hardship resulting from the illegal Russian military occupation of the facility, which is Europe's largest nuclear power plant, and amid continued shelling of the ZNPP facility.

2021

Secretary of Foreign Affairs **Marcelo Ebrard** and the Government of Mexico for their lawsuit against U.S. gun manufacturers and distributors, which takes a novel approach to combat illicit weapons trafficking from the United States into Mexico that is fueling violence and criminal activity.

2020

Ambassador **Bonnie Jenkins** and Women of Color Advancing Peace and Security for catalyzing support and action from leaders and practitioners in the national security and foreign policy communities to increase diversity in their ranks.

2019

Areg Danagouljian and colleagues at MIT for development of an innovative new nuclear disarmament verification process using neutron beams.

2018

4,000 Anonymous Google Employees whose open letter to company leadership led to Google ending its work on "Project Maven" with the Pentagon.

2017

Diplomats from the disarmament delegations of **Austria, Brazil, Ireland, Mexico, New Zealand, and South Africa**, and Ambassador **Elayne Whyte Gómez of Costa Rica** for their efforts to secure the historic 2017 Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

2016

The Republic of the Marshall Islands and its former Foreign Minister **Tony de Brum** for pursuing a case in the International Court of Justice against the world's nuclear-armed states for their failure to initiate nuclear disarmament negotiations in violation of the NPT and customary international law.

2015

Setsuko Thurlow and the *Hibakusha* (atomic bomb survivors) of Hiroshima and Nagasaki for their unyielding dedication to sharing first-hand accounts of the catastrophic and inhumane effects of nuclear weapons.

2014

Austria's Director for Arms Control, Nonproliferation, and Disarmament Ambassador **Alexander Kmentt** for organizing the third International Conference on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons.

2013

Executive Secretary of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty Organization **Lassina Zerbo** for providing real-time data regarding North Korea's third nuclear test explosion.

2012

General James Cartwright for calling on the United States to reduce its nuclear forces, scale back triad modernization plans, and reduce the alert status of deployed weapons.

2011

Reporter and activist **Kathi Lynn Austin** for her work to document and track arms smugglers and for highlighting the need for a robust global Arms Trade Treaty.

2010

Kazakhstan Deputy Foreign Minister **Kairat Umarov** and U.S. National Nuclear Security Administration Administrator **Thomas D'Agostino** for securing material containing highly enriched uranium and weapons-grade plutonium.

2009

Senator Richard Lugar (R-Ind.) for his long-running support for U.S. financial contributions to assist with the construction of Russia's chemical weapons demilitarization complex.

2008

Norway's Foreign Minister **Jonas Gahr Støre** and his ministry's Director-General for Security Policy **Steffen Kongstad**. Støre convened the Oslo process which led to the negotiation of the Convention on Cluster Munitions, and Kongstad led Norway's cross-departmental effort.

2007

Representatives **Peter Visclosky** (D-Ind.) and **David Hobson** (R-Ohio) for helping lead the effort for Congress to reject the Bush administration's proposal to fund research on a new, replacement warhead.

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ACA's robust work is done with a dozen staff and a total annual budget around \$1.75 million. Support from individuals like you is vital to sustaining our work.

There are many ways to give that may be meaningful to you and will support our work in the years to come.

For example, you may make gifts of stock, qualified charitable IRA distributions, employer matching gifts, and donor-advised fund grants.

We also invite you to join **ACA's Legacy Society**, open to all who notify ACA in writing that they have taken steps to provide a future planned gift to ACA through their estate plans.

See more about the many ways to give at armscontrol.org/give

For questions or assistance in making a gift, contact:

Kathy Crandall Robinson, Chief Operating Officer

Phone: (202) 463-8270 ext. 101, Email: kathycr@armscontrol.org

Send correspondence and checks to:

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Creative and Effective

“... ACA built support in Congress for Cold War-era arms control treaties ... and helped safeguard an international nuclear order that still benefits the American people today.

We continue to count on the valuable contributions of the Arms Control Association.”

—**President Joseph R. Biden**



“Recent global developments have demonstrated that the gains of disarmament cannot be taken for granted. They must be safeguarded with courage and decision.

As a non-partisan voice in the disarmament and non-proliferation field, the Arms Control Association is well placed to continue that defense.”

—**Fernando Arias, Director-General Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons**



“What’s really strikes me about ACA is the potential to shape the next generation of leaders on arms control and nuclear policy. This is something I witnessed firsthand as someone who was introduced to the field through ACA.”

—**Alicia Sanders-Zakre, International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons**



“[My time at ACA] prepared me very well for the position that I took following that with the State Department, where I helped to implement many of the policies that we tried to promote.”

—**Peter Crail, Business Executives for National Security**



“None of us knows what the future holds, but I know the Arms Control Association and its members are as deeply engaged in the difficult and vital work of finding solutions to the challenges we face today as you have always been.

It will take all of us working together—government officials, and diplomats, academic experts, and scientists, activists, and organizers—to come up with new and innovative approaches to strengthen transparency and predictability, reduce risk, and forge the next generation of arms control agreements.”

—**Wendy Sherman, former U.S. Deputy Secretary of State**

Thank You!

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Ethan Colvin

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