

# **Towards restoring and strengthening confidence in the NPT regime**

## **-Takeaways from the Student Session-**

**Haruki Tsukada**

**Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University**

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# Overview of the Student Session

- Held on 8 December 2023
- Topic: “Towards restoring and strengthening confidence in the NPT regime: the status quo and the ways forward”

## Panelists



**Ryosuke Narita**  
PhD student in  
medical physics



**Yuki Hashimoto**  
Master's student in  
radioactive waste  
management



**Haruki Tsukada**  
Undergraduate in  
international law



**Ayako Takao**  
Undergraduate in  
environmental  
policy



**Yasutomo Nagai**  
Undergraduate in  
social studies

## The Foundation: Existing Norms and Rules

- Confirmed the "Three Pillars" of NPT
- Pinpointed:
  - Russia's CTBT withdrawal and its relation to VCLT §18
  - Importance of scrutinizing the relationship between the NPT and TPNW
- Discussed on IAEA's role in providing safeguards for NWS and NNWS
  - Safeguards at civilian nuclear facilities in the NWS
  - Treatment of surplus nuclear material

**→How to assure the effectiveness of these rules?**

**How can a rule be “effective”?**

## Key Discussion Point 1: How to Ensure the “Effectiveness”?

- Elements of effectiveness
  - Awareness of norms
  - Presence of mechanisms (e.g. sanction/persuasion), aiding convergence toward compliance
- Having frameworks (willingness) in place alone is significant, however, **maintaining capability to implement the rules is even more crucial**
- Highlighting the role of technical support in determining the effectiveness of NPT/SG frameworks

## Pathways to a Nuclear Weapons-Free World

- Discussed on the possibility of rendering nuclear weapons valueless and purposeless
- Recognized that **military and scientific measures alone may not lead to a fundamental resolution**
- Finally agreed that **political and diplomatic means are essential** to reach a resolution and facilitate the dismantling of nuclear weapons

**→Demand for a forum for deliberation on the nuclear agenda?**

## Key Discussion Points 2: Fostering Societal Discussions

- Discussed on strategies to evoke societal discourse, recognizing the necessity for a more accessible forum closer to the people
- Convincing argument for the nuclear industry to **strengthen outreach efforts beyond conventional risk communication**
- Called for **evidence-based discussions** and the **enhancement of individuals** capable of grounded arguments when addressing nuclear issues in current (Japanese) society

## **ISCN's Contribution: A Platform for Informed Discussions**

- Emphasis on the crucial role played by ISCN and similar institutions in providing a solid foundation for informed discussions on contemporary nuclear issues
- Encouraged them to persist in and develop their activities, continuously fostering an environment for learning and discussion

## **Conclusion: For a Better Future**

- Students agreed upon the need to prioritize existing rules to promote the world without nuclear weapons
- It is essential for disarmament and the promotion of peaceful nuclear use to further deepen societal discussions
- Expectations were placed on organizations like JAEA and ISCN to lead these discussions
- Students acknowledge their responsibility to understand and contribute to the current and future states of nuclear affairs