

A light blue world map is centered in the background of the slide. The map shows the continents in a darker shade of blue against a lighter blue background. The map is slightly faded and serves as a backdrop for the text.

Fissile Material Cut-Off Treaty

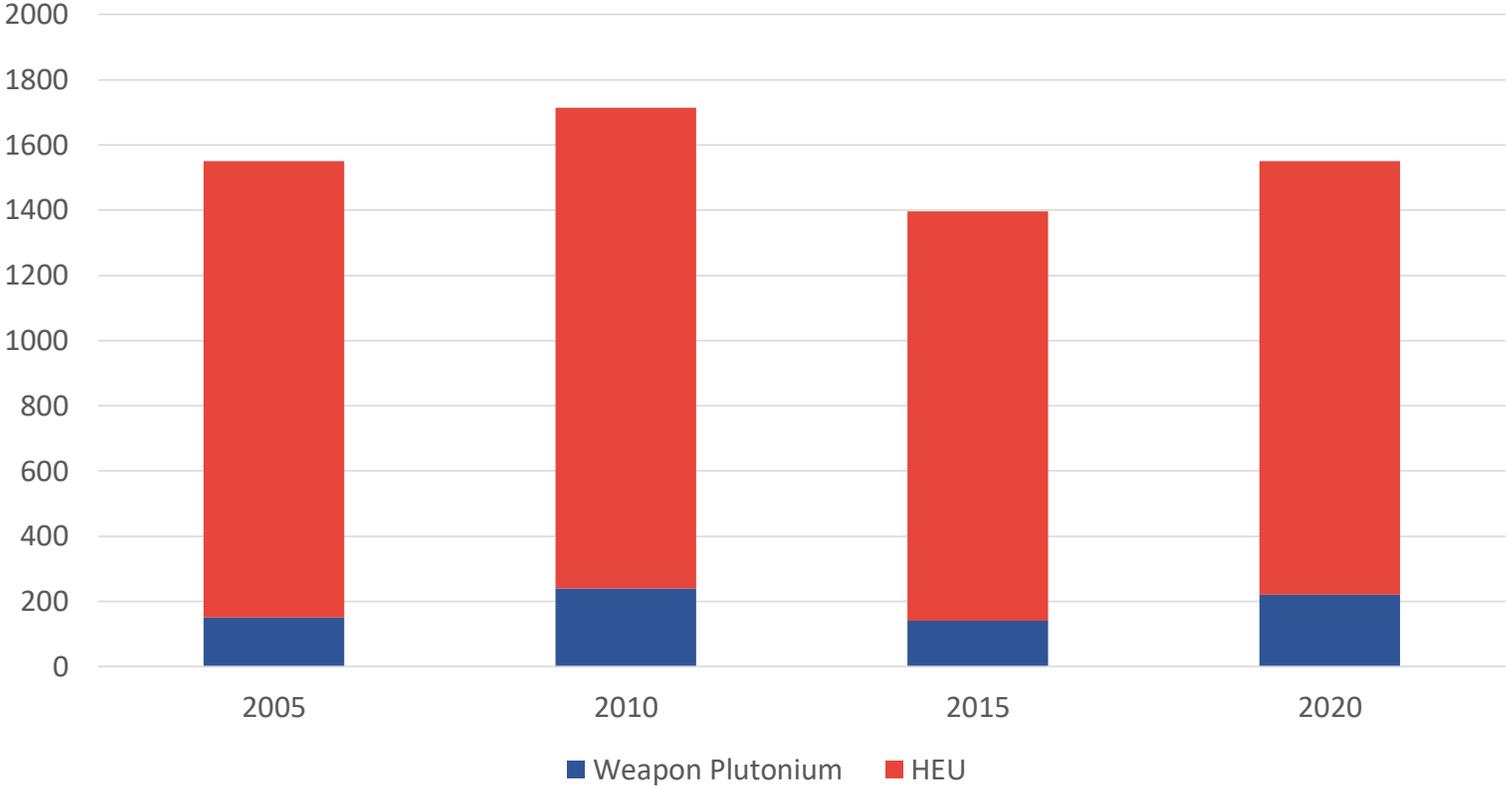
Conference on Disarmament

20 May 2021

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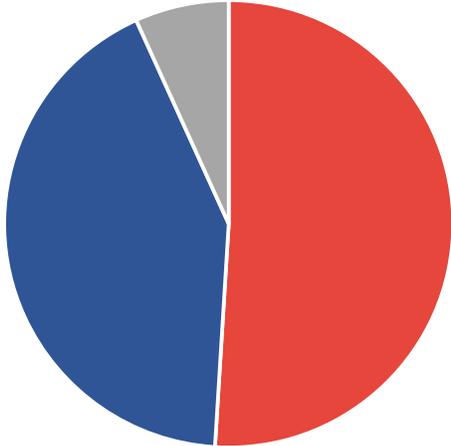
The production of fissile material: the state of play

Evolution of fissile material, IPFM



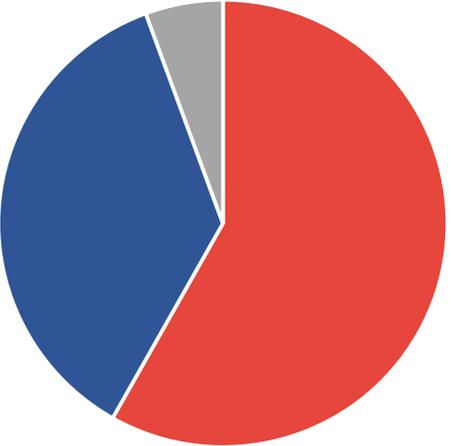
The production of fissile material: the state of play

HEU



■ Russia ■ United States ■ Others

Military Plutonium



■ Russia ■ United States ■ Others

The production of fissile material: the state of play

Countries	Moratorium?	Facilities?
France	✓	Dismantled
Russia	✓	Converted
United Kingdom	✓	Decommissioned
United States	✓	Converted
China	?	Converted?
DPRK	✗	Operational
India	✗	Operational
Israel	?	Operational
Pakistan	✗	Operational

A cut-off Treaty? History of the concept and recent developments

- **UN resolution 78/57 L** (1993): *“non-discriminatory, multilateral and internationally and effectively verifiable treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices”*
- **Shannon Mandate** (1995) : *ad hoc* committee to negotiate an FMCT by the end of the 1995 session.

A cut-off Treaty? History of the concept and recent developments

- **1998**: Ad Hoc Committee established to negotiate a treaty in accordance with the Shannon Mandate
- **1999**: Ad Hoc Committee did not reconvene
- **2009**: adoption of programme of work, creation of a working group to *“negotiate a treaty banning the production of fissile material ... on the basis of [the Shannon Mandate]”*

A cut-off Treaty? History of the concept and recent developments

- **2010**: Reference to FMCT by the action plan adopted by the 2010 NPT Review Conference: *"All States agree that the Conference on Disarmament should, within the context of an agreed, comprehensive and balanced programme of work, immediately begin negotiation of a treaty banning the production of fissile material for use in nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices in accordance with the report of the Special Coordinator of 1995 (CD/1299) and the mandate contained therein."*

A cut-off Treaty? History of the concept and recent developments

- 2014 / 2015: Group of Governmental Experts (GGE) discusses recommendations for advancing FMCT negotiations. Production of a report:
 - Legally binding, non-discriminatory, multilateral and internationally and effectively verifiable
 - Core interdiction : prohibit the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive device
 - Work on definition of key terms, such as fissile material

A cut-off Treaty? History of the concept and recent developments

- **2017/2018**: High-level FMCT Expert Preparatory Group
 - Recommendations of the High-level FMCT Expert Preparatory Group advocates that negotiations for the FMCT should continue, despite the lack of significant improvements in negotiations.

Roadblocks and enduring challenges

- **Procedure**: adoption of a programme of work, disagreement on the general issue of nuclear disarmament, the prevention of an arms race in outer space (PAROS) and negative security assurances (NSAs).
- **Venue**: frustration led some countries to call for negotiations outside of the CD
- **Participation**: all NWS and possessors, otherwise, little value?
- **Verification**: Shannon mandate in favour of verifiable Treaty.
- **Stocks**: Shannon Mandate has been generally interpreted as leaving the possibility to define the scope of the Treaty to the negotiation phase
- **Scope**: “for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices”

Renewed support and way forward

- **EU support on the ground: Council Decision 2017/2284:**

- Facilitation of dialogue at the regional level among States in the African, the Asia-Pacific and the Latin America and Caribbean regions;
- Development of a sense of ownership of the issue among States in these regions;
- Involvement of relevant regional organisations in the discussions on a treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices to be negotiated in the framework of the Conference on Disarmament;
- Facilitation of the transmission of knowledge between academia, civil society organisations and Member States relating to fissile materials.

Renewed support and way forward

- **Think tank work for 20 years to propose solutions, alternatives and scenarios :**
 - International Panel on fissile material, UNIDIR, Belfer Center, SIPRI, VERTIC, PRIF, Oxford Research Group
- IAEA propositions
- Draft produced by states

Renewed support and way forward

- **Working Paper, Stepping stones for advancing nuclear disarmament, March 2020:**
 - Calls Nuclear-Weapon States and Nuclear Possessor States to show leadership to unblock negotiations on a treaty prohibiting fissile material production
- **Joint working paper from NPDI – Recommendation for 10th RevCon (October 2020):**
 - The early commencement of FMCT negotiations is a shared priority for all State Parties to the NPT, and more generally, for the international community »
- **P5 process**

Conclusion

- A FMCT will aid the cause of nuclear disarmament by making the general trend of reduction of nuclear arsenals irreversible
- It would formalize the moratorium of some countries on fissile material production and limit the pool of materials available for manufacturing nuclear weapons
- Quantitative vs qualitative restrictions