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University of Ottawa leads discussions on India and Pakistan nuclear relations

OTTAWA, June 27, 2010 – An ongoing dialogue between a number of retired senior officials and military officers, as well as academics, from India and Pakistan, has adopted an agreed statement on actions their governments could take to help stabilise their nuclear relationship. Known as “The Ottawa Dialogue,” this Track Two process held its most recent round of discussions last week in Copenhagen.

The Ottawa Dialogue is led by University of Ottawa professor Peter Jones, from the Graduate School of Public and International Affairs. The statement adopted in Copenhagen is attached and contains the following five measures:

- the establishment of a jointly acceptable lexicon of “nuclear terms” applicable to India and Pakistan;
- on the basis of a common understanding of the respective alert statuses, all nuclear weapons should be kept on the lowest possible alert level during peacetime;
- the setting up of Nuclear Risk Reduction Centres to be used initially for providing notifications for agreements already in force and to provide for further discussion on nuclear issues;
- the initiation of an official discussion of the implications for strategic stability in South Asia of the introduction of new technologies; and
- the inclusion of cruise missiles in the existing pre-notification agreement on missiles established in the *Lahore Memorandum of Understanding*.

The members of the Ottawa Dialogue also expressed the view that the upcoming meetings of senior politicians and officials from India and Pakistan provide a timely opportunity to resume official discussions on practical measures to promote strategic stability between the two countries. They stressed the importance of insulating such a dialogue from political circumstances.

Further background information on the Ottawa Dialogue and on Track Two diplomacy may be found in the attached backgrounder.

INFORMATION:

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Nuclear Restraint and Stabilization between India and Pakistan

(Statement adopted by the members of the Ottawa Dialogue at their meeting in Copenhagen, Denmark, June 18-19, 2010)

“There is a necessity for talks between India and Pakistan, insulated from the political climate, to reduce the danger of growing nuclear arsenals and to introduce transparency to prevent an arms race.

Initial steps that the group recommends to enhance strategic stability between the two countries include:

1. Establish a jointly acceptable lexicon of “nuclear terms” applicable to India and Pakistan.
2. On the basis of a common understanding of the respective alert statuses, propose that all nuclear weapons be kept on the lowest possible alert level during peacetime.
3. Set up Nuclear Risk Reduction Centres to be used initially for providing notifications for agreements already in force and provide for further discussion on nuclear issues.
4. Initiate a discussion of the implications for strategic stability in South Asia of the introduction of new technologies.
5. Include cruise missiles in the existing pre-notification agreement on missiles established in the *Lahore Memorandum of Understanding*.”

Participants from South Asia at the Copenhagen meeting of the “Ottawa Dialogue:”

- **Shamshad Ahmad**, former Foreign Secretary of Pakistan;
- **Suba Chandran**, Deputy Director, Institute of Peace and Conflict Studies, Delhi;
- **Shahzad Chaudhry**, Air Vice Marshal, retired, Pakistan Air Force;
- **Mohan Guruswamy**, Chairman, Centre for Policy Alternatives, Delhi;
- **Rifaat Hussain**, Professor, Quaid-I-Azam University, Islamabad;
- **Happymon Jacob**, Assistant Professor, Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi;
- **Ahmad Aziz Khan**, Ambassador, retired, Foreign Service of Pakistan (former High Commissioner to India);
- **Lalit Mansingh**, former Foreign Secretary of India;
- **Amitabh Mattoo**, Professor, Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi;
- **Raja Menon**, Rear Admiral, retired, Indian Navy;
- **Shuja Nawaz**, Director of the South Asia Centre, Atlantic Council of the United States;
- **Abdul Hameed Nayyar**, Senior Research Fellow, Sustainable Development Policy Institute, Islamabad;
- **Arun Prakash**, Admiral, retired, Indian Navy (former Chair of the Chiefs of Staff Committee);
- **Ramamurti Rajaraman**, Emeritus Professor of Theoretical Physics, Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi;
- **Najjuddin Shaikh**, former Foreign Secretary of Pakistan; and

- **Vijay Shankar**, Vice Admiral, retired, Indian Navy (former Commander-in-Chief of the Indian Strategic Forces Command)

Member of the Ottawa Dialogue unable to be present in Copenhagen:

Talat Masood, Lieutenant General, retired, Pakistan Army;

Jamshed Hashmi, Chairman Emeritus, Pakistan Nuclear Regulatory Authority.

Background “The Ottawa Dialogue”

The Ottawa Dialogue is a “Track Two” process involving senior figures from India and Pakistan. The Dialogue is focused on the nuclear relationship between the two countries and seeks to explore ways in which restraint and stability measures can be developed. The Dialogue has held three main meetings – Ottawa, April 2009; Bangkok, December, 2009; and Copenhagen, June 2010. In addition to the main meetings, the Dialogue convenes smaller meetings of experts for in-depth exploration of issues.

The Dialogue is convened by Peter Jones, Associate Professor at the Graduate School of Public and International Affairs at the University of Ottawa. The Dialogue is sponsored by:

- The Near East and South Asia (NESA) Center for Strategic Studies at the National Defense University of Washington, DC
- The United States Institute of Peace of Washington, DC;
- The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation of Menlo Park California; and
- The Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Copenhagen, Denmark.

The first meeting of the Dialogue was sponsored by the Government of Canada and the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) of Ottawa.

Track II diplomacy is a means of engaging unofficial, but influential participants from adversarial countries or groups in dialogue on sensitive subjects. The objective is to identify possible ideas that the participants may carry into official circles as private recommendations for constructive action.

For further information on the Ottawa Dialogue, or Track Two diplomacy, please contact Professor Peter Jones at peter.jones@uottawa.ca