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**James Martin Center for Nonproliferation Studies**  
Monterey Institute of International Studies  
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## MEDIA ADVISORY

April 29, 2010

### **CNS Director to Speak at the Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones Meeting**

Monterey, CA – A conference of states parties to nuclear-weapon-free zone (NWFZ) treaties will take place at the United Nations in New York on April 30, continuing the “nuclear spring” of 2010. CNS Director William Potter will address the conference, as one of two nongovernmental representatives to speak at the event.

Last year was an important one for nuclear-weapon-free zones, as two NWFZ treaties entered into force – in Africa and in Central Asia. Today, NWFZs cover the entire southern hemisphere, while the Central Asian zone represents the first one located wholly in the northern hemisphere. By joining NWFZ treaties, 90 countries have reaffirmed their commitment to nuclear disarmament and nonproliferation. Existing NWFZ treaties prohibit not only development and production, but also the stationing of nuclear weapons on the territories of member states. Some of the zones expressly prohibit nuclear testing on their territories, and the Central Asian treaty also requires its member states to adopt stricter safeguards and export control measures.

Nuclear-weapon states, for their part, are expected to commit not to use nuclear weapons against states parties to NWFZs. Every zonal agreement has a legally binding protocol on “negative security assurances,” but only the Latin American NWFZ protocol has been ratified by all nuclear-weapon states. Other unfinished business also includes the long-standing aspiration to create a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East. These and other issues will be addressed at the meeting in New York.

CNS has a special expertise on nuclear-weapon-free zones and maintains an online [NWFZ Clearinghouse](#) with a wealth of information on every existing NWFZ. CNS experts have been closely involved in an advisory capacity with the negotiation of the Central Asian NWFZ as well as the promotion of entry into force of the Pelindaba Treaty (African NWFZ). The Center is currently involved in work on advancing the implementation of the Pelindaba Treaty. Furthermore, CNS runs a project on exploring the prospects for a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East.

Two of the CNS experts on nuclear-weapon-free zones are available for comment:

**Dr. William Potter**, Director: [wpotter@miis.edu](mailto:wpotter@miis.edu), 831-647-4154 – for comment on the meeting

**Dr. Patricia Lewis**, Deputy Director: [patricia.lewis@miis.edu](mailto:patricia.lewis@miis.edu); 831-920-7727 (mobile) – for background information and analysis

**Ms. Gaukhar Mukhatzhanova**, Research Associate: [gaukhar@miis.edu](mailto:gaukhar@miis.edu); 614-371-9017 (mobile) – for background information and analysis

NWFZ Clearinghouse: [http://cns.miis.edu/nwfz\\_clearinghouse/index.htm](http://cns.miis.edu/nwfz_clearinghouse/index.htm)