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With the Non-Proliferation Treaty Extension Conference now at hand, competing international perspectives on proliferation and the best means to combat it will come face-to-face as never before. The challenge will be to reach some compromise that will allow the expression of various interests, while preserving the substantial progress made to date by the nonproliferation regime. The authors in this issue discuss some of the most important issues related to the conference negotiations, including: the role of the NPT in U.S. security policy (Anthony Lake, National Security Council), linkages between the NPT and the CTBT negotiations (Maurice Mallin, Science Applications International Corporation), and the North Korean precedent and the future role of IAEA special inspections (Matthias Dembinski, Research Institute for International Affairs, Ebenhausen). In addition, a CNS report reviews NPT issues from the perspective of the Soviet successor states. The challenges of the NPT extension, however, also remind us of the importance of addressing difficult regional problems among states outside of the NPT, especially the opaque proliferators. In this issue, Avner Cohen (MIT) examines chances for a nuclear settlement in the Middle East, while Abdul Sattar (Pakistani Foreign Ministry, retired) suggests a new international approach for moving beyond the nuclear stalemate in South Asia. Finally, Henry Sokolski (Nonproliferation Policy Education Center) critiques current gaps in national and international anti-proliferation efforts in the area of export controls. The diversity of perspectives expressed by our authors suggests no shortage of debating points for the meetings in New York and beyond. But, hopefully, these discussions will promote the greater mutual understanding necessary for the enactment of viable international nonproliferation agreements. Consistent with these goals, this issue of the journal also marks the inauguration of 11 new members of our international Editorial Board, whose advice and guidance will assist the journal in presenting informed debates on various issues of proliferation concern.

James Clay Moltz
Editor

The Center for Nonproliferation Studies (CNS) at the Monterey Institute of International Studies is a non-profit, academic organization that conducts research, provides systematic data collection and retrieval for scholars, and engages in graduate-level training of students in nonproliferation studies. It has a staff of 21 full-time and over three dozen part-time members. The activities of the Center are supported by grants from the Carnegie Corporation, the Ford Foundation, the Joyce Mertz-Gilmore Foundation, the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, the John Merck Fund, the NATO Science Committee, the Ploughshares Fund, the Prospect Hill Foundation, the Rockefeller Brothers Fund, the Rockefeller Family Associates, the Rockefeller Foundation, the U.S. Institute of Peace, the Volkswagen Foundation, the W. Alton Jones Foundation, and the Winston Foundation.