

UNIDIR Lunchtime Panel Event

“Understanding Nuclear Weapon Risks”

Wednesday, 25 January 2017

13h00 – 14h50

Room XVI, Palais des Nations, United Nations Office at Geneva

Organized by the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research
with support from the Governments of Norway, Sweden, and Switzerland

Policy attention to date has predominantly focused on understanding the consequences of nuclear weapon detonation events. Yet there remains a need for further research on the causes and level of risk surrounding those armaments. This would contribute to broader understanding among policy makers, and help to inform public debate on nuclear weapons.

To this end, UNIDIR has launched a project aimed to extend policy understanding of nuclear risk through focused research and engagement, both to detail the risk ‘picture’ and to communicate these findings to the disarmament community. A risk focus might be developed as one in which a wide range of actors – including both nuclear-armed states and non-nuclear-armed states – find common ground on nuclear weapons-related issues.

This event will introduce the project, which will include a **Nuclear Weapon Risks Symposium** to be held April 2017 at the Palais des Nations and a UNIDIR publication.

AGENDA

WELCOMING REMARKS

PANEL I. KNOWLEDGE GAPS

To what degree do we – and can we – understand the overall picture of risk in relation to nuclear weapons? What are the human versus the technical dimensions of risk?

PANEL II. CURRENT CHALLENGES

Is nuclear weapons use and/or possession being normalized? Are we operating with inaccurate risk perceptions of a state-authorized detonation event?

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Sandwiches will be available before the event

For those without a UNOG badge, registration is obligatory. Interested participants are invited to register with their names and affiliations with wwan@unog.ch by 18 January 2017.