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7 **On the future and the past** — *Olga Mostinskaya*

Editor-in-Chief of the *Security Index* reflects on the shifting paradigms.

**Key words:** *high technologies, international relations, international security, information society.*

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11 **PIR Center's Recommendations for strengthening the nuclear nonproliferation regime in 2016-2020**

**Key words:** *nuclear nonproliferation, nuclear disarmament, the NPT, the CTBT, strategic stability, the NWFZ in the Middle East.*

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19 **If countries carry out nuclear tests, we will lose a dream** — *Lassina Zerbo*

Executive Secretary of the CTBTO Lassina Zerbo shares his thoughts about the DPRK's nuclear program, the Organization's global test ban monitoring and verification system and reflects on the prospects for the CTBT ratification.

**Key words:** *nuclear testing, the CTBT, the nuclear program of the DPRK.*

26 **The main threat to non-proliferation is that all stakeholders are trying to hog the blanket** — *Vladimir Orlov*

Member of PIR Center's Executive Board Vladimir Orlov comments on the results of the 66<sup>th</sup> session of the UN Secretary-General's Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters.

**Key words:** *nuclear disarmament, WMD nonproliferation, the NPT, UN, IAEA.*



- 37 **Robo Bond: licence to kill** — *Vadim Kozyulin, Albert Efimov*  
 The development of autonomous weapons systems has been under way for many years. Today a number of countries possess weapons systems with different levels of human control. It is a proven fact that lethal autonomous weapons systems (LAWS) were used in recent conflicts. Senior researcher at PIR Center Vadim Kozyulin and Head of the Centre for Robotics Studies at Skolkovo Foundation Albert Efimov examined the main trends in LAWS development in Russia and the United States, looked at the applicable legal framework and made an overview of the R&D in the field.  
**Key words:** *Lethal Autonomous systems, artificial intelligence, robotics, UAV.*
- 61 **Civil liability for nuclear damage: regulatory issues** — *Konstantin Stalmakhov, Andrey Shkarbanov*  
 The Fukushima accident has shown that there are emergencies even the best of planning cannot account for. For the first time in decades compensation for nuclear damage has gained practical relevance. The correlation between the existing international and Russian legal frameworks in the field, gaps and shortcomings of the latter as well as attempts to create a modernized regime of civil liability for nuclear damage came under analysis in the article by Konstantin Stalmakhov and Andrey Shkarbanov, experts of the State Atomic Energy Corporation.  
**Keywords:** *nuclear security, nuclear energy, nuclear damage, reparations, operator's liability, international law, the IAEA, Russia, USA, India.*
- 77 **Another war: squabbles and conflicts within anti-Assad forces** — *Kamal Gasimov*  
 Despite a common enemy, the forces opposing Damascus are far from being homogeneous. Numerous groups that comprise the Syrian opposition fundamentally diverge on key issues. Those radical contradictions often lead to bloody clashes between the representatives of the so-called secular opposition and pro-Islamic groups. Then there is also the Islamic State, which is not a part of any coalition and is fighting both the Assad regime and most of its opponents. In his article Kamal Gasimov, expert of the Center for Strategic Studies under the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan explains how many sides there are to the Syrian conflict, what they are fighting for and against whom.  
**Key words:** *Syria, the secular opposition, the Islamic State, Al-Nusra Front, Al-Qaeda, Turkey.*
- 93 **Cyber threats and nuclear security** — *Olga Mikhailova*  
 The article continues a series of publications on cybersecurity of the critical infrastructure. The events of recent years have shown that cyberattacks are among the most dangerous threats to critical infrastructure. This means that information security should be part of the comprehensive approach to ensuring nuclear security and protection of nuclear materials. Is it possible to protect the nuclear power plants from cyberattacks and what could the implications of a successful attack be? You will answers to these and other questions in the article by the nuclear security consultant Olga Mikhailova.

**Key words:** nuclear security, nuclear energy, cyber security, process control systems, IAEA, international law, Russia.

107 **The Humanitarian Initiative: a critical mass of anti-nuclear activists** — Alyona Makhukova

The Humanitarian Initiative that stresses the catastrophic effects of the use of nuclear weapons and calls for complete nuclear disarmament has already received support of more than a hundred countries. Despite the opposition of the *nuclear club* nations, humanitarian aspects have become part of the rhetoric within the NPT review process. The article by Alyona Makhukova, a junior researcher at PIR Center provides insight on the multilateral negotiations on nuclear disarmament and on different coalitions operating inside the NPT review process.

**Key words:** nuclear disarmament, the NPT, the international humanitarian law.

R O U N D T A B L E

121 **High-tech crime: new challenges for society, government and business**

The exponential growth of and diffusion of Internet technologies has led to the emergence of a new phenomenon: the Internet has become a meeting point for both offences such as fraud, blackmail and theft and new types of crime that very often beyond the capacities of the law-enforcement agencies. What is the nature of high-tech crime how to counted it? These issues were discussed at a roundtable co-organized by the Committee of Civil Initiatives and PIR Center.

**Key words:** information technology, information security, cybercrime, forensics, surveillance of users, the Internet of things, parental control.

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Senior product marketing manager at the Department of critical infrastructure protection of the Kaspersky Lab Matvey Voytov explains what assets fall under the scope of critical infrastructure, talks about the threats they are facing and ways to protect them.

**Key words:** information security, industrial security, cybersecurity, critical infrastructure, process control systems.

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