

Pavel Podvig

Russian Nuclear Forces Project
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Professional experience

Russian Nuclear Forces Project

Director and Principal Investigator Since 1995

The project maintains a web site, RussianForces.org, devoted to analysis of technical and political aspects of Russian nuclear policy and composition of Russia's nuclear forces.

United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research

Senior Researcher, WMD Programme Since January 2012

Development and coordination of projects on nonproliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

Consultant January-December 2011

Nuclear Security project to evaluate the status of international nuclear security programs.

Program on Science and Global Security, Princeton University

Editor, *Science and Global Security* journal Since February 2011

With Zia Mian and Alexander Glaser

Associate Professional Specialist Since September 2010

Research project "International Panel on Fissile Materials"

Research Fellow January 2002–September 2003

Research project "Missile Defense in Soviet and Russian Policymaking"

Visiting Researcher September 2000–January 2002, January 2004–July 2004

Research projects: Russian early-warning system, U.S.-Russian arms control dialog, missile defense and the ABM Treaty

Center for International Security and Cooperation, Stanford University

Affiliate since July 2010

Research Associate 2004-2010

Research projects: Russian nuclear complex, Russian strategic forces, danger of accidental missile launch, military uses of space, nuclear non-proliferation

Acting Associate Director for Research 2008-2009

Security Studies Program, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Research Fellow

1992, 1994, 1997

Research projects: Russian space-based early-warning system, missile defense and the ABM Treaty, status of the Russian strategic forces

Center for Arms Control Studies, Moscow Institute of Physics and Technology

Researcher

August 1991–August 2004

Main research projects: political and technical aspects of missile defenses, history and status of the Russian strategic forces, capabilities of the Russian early-warning system, U.S.-Russian relations

Teaching

Stanford University

Lecturer, Seminar “Nuclear Weapons and Nuclear Proliferation”

Spring 2007

Princeton University

Preceptor, “Science, Technology, and Public Policy” (Professor Frank von Hippel) 2003, 2004

Center for Arms Control Studies, Moscow Institute of Physics and Technology

Lecturer, “Technical Aspects of Disarmament and Nonproliferation”

2002, 2003

General Physics Department, Moscow Institute of Physics and Technology

Lecturer, general physics

1990–2001

Education

Institute of World Economics and International Relations (IMEMO), Moscow

PhD, Political Science

2004

Moscow Institute of Physics and Technology

Post-graduate program, Physics

1992

Moscow Institute of Physics and Technology

Department of General and Applied Physics (with honors)

1988

Membership

EXPAND (Expert network on nuclear disarmament verification)

since 2025

International Panel on Fissile Materials

since 2009

Program on New Approaches to Russian Security (PONARS)

since 1999

Boards and Committees

NPT Monitor and Nuclear Transparency Inventory (NUTRI)

Member, Advisory Board

since 2025

VeSPoTec Consortium

Member, Advisory Board since 2023

Missile Dialogue Initiative

Member, Advisory Board 2019-2021

Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists

Member, Science and Security Board 2008-2010

Vice Chair, Board of Directors November 2005-March 2008

Member, Board of Directors June 2001-March 2008

Committee on International Freedom of Scientists, American Physical Society

Chair 2008

Member 2006-2009

Burton/Szilard Awards Committee, Forum on Physics & Society, American Physical Society

Chair 2009

Member 2008-2009

Program on New Approaches to Russian Security

Member, Executive Committee October 2002–January 2006

Awards

2008 Leo Szilard Lectureship Award, American Physical Society 2008
(with Anatoli Diakov)

"For establishing a center for scientific study of arms control, for landmark analyses, and for courage in supporting open discussion of international security in Russia."

Personal Information

Languages: Russian: native, English: fluent, French: B1 (Swiss fide test)

Publications and presentations

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The full list of publications and presentations is at <https://russianforces.org/podvig/>

Books

1. *Russian Strategic Nuclear Forces* / edited by Pavel Podvig. Cambridge, Mass.: MIT Press, 2001 (paperback edition, 2004)
2. *Стратегическое ядерное вооружение России* / под редакцией П. Л. Подвига. М: ИздАТ, 1998. 478 p.: ill.; 25 cm (in Russian)

Selected research papers and articles

1. Tamara Patton and Pavel Podvig, "Verification Without a Treaty. Demonstrative Verification in Arms Control, Disarmament, and Space Security" (UNIDIR, 2025) <https://doi.org/10.37559/WMD/25/NDV/01>.
2. Friederike Frieß, Moritz Kütt, Zia Mian, and Pavel Podvig, "Global Stocks and Production of Fissile Materials, 2024," in *SIPRI Yearbook 2025: Armaments, Disarmament and International Security* (SIPRI, 2025), 262-271.
3. Pavel Podvig, "A Simple Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty. A Discussion Paper" (UNIDIR, November 12, 2024).
4. Pavel Podvig, "Taking Stock of the Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty Process" (UNIDIR, June 7, 2024), <https://doi.org/10.37559/WMD/24/FMCT/1>.
5. Pavel Podvig, "Preserving the Nuclear Test Ban after Russia Revoked Its CTBT Ratification," *Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists* 80, no. 2 (March 3, 2024): 75–80, <https://doi.org/10.1080/00963402.2024.2314431>
6. Friederike Frieß, Moritz Kütt, Zia Mian, and Pavel Podvig, "Global Stocks and Production of Fissile Materials, 2023," in *SIPRI Yearbook 2024: Armaments, Disarmament and International Security* (Stockholm: SIPRI, 2024), 359–67.
7. Pavel Podvig, ed., *Menzingen Verification Experiment: Verifying the Absence of Nuclear Weapons in the Field* (UNIDIR, 2023), <https://doi.org/10.37559/WMD/23/MVE>.
 - a. Pavel Podvig, "Non-Deployment of Nuclear Weapons," in *Menzingen Verification Experiment: Verifying the Absence of Nuclear Weapons in the Field*, ed. Pavel Podvig (UNIDIR, 2023), <https://doi.org/10.37559/WMD/23/MVE>.
 - b. Pavel Podvig and Eleanor Krabill, "Organization of the Experiment," in *Menzingen Verification Experiment: Verifying the Absence of Nuclear*

Weapons in the Field, ed. Pavel Podvig (UNIDIR, 2023),
<https://doi.org/10.37559/WMD/23/MVE>.

8. Jaewoo Shin, Veronika Bedenko, and Pavel Podvig, "Use of Satellite Imagery in Support of On-Site Inspections: Lessons from a Field Exercise," *Proceedings of the INMM & ESARDA Joint Annual Meeting*, May 24, 2023.
9. Pavel Podvig, "Verifying the Absence of Nuclear Weapons – Results of a Field Exercise," *Proceedings of the INMM & ESARDA Joint Annual Meeting*, May 24, 2023.
10. Moritz Kütt, Zia Mian, and Pavel Podvig, "Global Stocks and Production of Fissile Materials, 2022," in *SIPRI Yearbook 2023: Armaments, Disarmament and International Security* (Stockholm: SIPRI, 2023), 328-36.
11. *Verifying Disarmament in the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons*, ed. Pavel Podvig (UNIDIR, 2022), <https://doi.org/10.37559/WMD/22/TPNW/01>.
12. Pavel Podvig and Decker Eveleth, "The role of open-source data in verification," in Pavel Podvig, ed., *Exploring Options for Missile Verification*, UNIDIR, March 2022, <https://doi.org/10.37559/WMD/22/Misver/01>.
13. Pavel Podvig, "Practical Implementation of the Join-and-Disarm Option in the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons," *Journal for Peace and Nuclear Disarmament* 4, no. 1 (June 3, 2021): 34-49,
<https://doi.org/10.1080/25751654.2021.1936993>.
14. Pavel Podvig, "Freeze and Verify: Ending Fissile Material Production on the Korean Peninsula" (The United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research, September 2020), <https://doi.org/10.37559/WMD/20/TV/01>
15. Pavel Podvig and Javier Serrat, "Lock them Up: Zero-deployed Non-strategic Nuclear Weapons in Europe," UNIDIR, 2017,
<http://unidir.org/files/publications/pdfs/lock-them-up-zero-deployed-non-strategic-nuclear-weapons-in-europe-en-675.pdf>
16. "The Use of Highly-Enriched Uranium as Fuel in Russia," Pavel Podvig, editor, with contributions by Nikolay Arkhangelskiy, Anatoli Diakov, Anton Khlopkov, Dmitry Konukhov, Dmitry Kovchegin, Eugene Miasnikov, Report of the International Panel on Fissile Materials, September 2017,
<http://fissilematerials.org/library/rr16.pdf>
17. Pavel Podvig, "Did Star Wars Help End the Cold War? Soviet Response to the SDI Program," *Science & Global Security* 25, no. 1 (2017): 3-27,
https://scienceandglobalsecurity.org/archive/2017/01/did_star_wars_help_end_the_col.html
18. Pavel Podvig, "History of Highly Enriched Uranium Production in Russia," *Science & Global Security* 19, no. 1 (2011): 46-67,
https://scienceandglobalsecurity.org/archive/2011/04/history_of_highly_enriched_ura.html
19. Pavel Podvig, "The Window of Vulnerability That Wasn't: Soviet Military Buildup in the 1970s--A Research Note", *International Security*, Summer 2008, Vol. 33, No. 1: 118-138,
<http://www.mitpressjournals.org/doi/abs/10.1162/isec.2008.33.1.118>

20. Pavel Podvig, "History and the Current Status of the Russian Early-Warning System", *Science and Global Security*, Vol. 10 (2002), pp. 21-60, https://scienceandglobalsecurity.org/archive/2002/01/history_and_the_current_status.html

Selected op-eds and columns

1. Pavel Podvig, "[Restoring Russian-U.S. Arms Control](#)," *Arms Control Today*, May 2024.
2. Pavel Podvig, "[Quieting the Nuclear Rattle: Responding to Russia's Tactical Nuclear Weapons Exercises](#)," *European Leadership Network*, May 29, 2024.
3. Pavel Podvig, "[Why a Russian Nuclear Expert Thinks the Doomsday Clock Should Move Away from Midnight](#)," *Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists*, November 8, 2023.
4. Pavel Podvig, "A Russian Nuclear Strike on Ukraine Is Not a Threat – At Least Not Yet," *The Moscow Times*, October 18, 2022
5. Pavel Podvig, "Who lost the INF Treaty?", *Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists*, 26 October 2018
6. Pavel Podvig, "Can the US-Russia plutonium disposition agreement be saved?", *Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists*, 28 April 2016.

Selected presentations, panels, and testimonies

1. "Russia's perspective on post-New START arms control," FPGS Security Series: Nuclear Weapons in Great Power Politics, American University, 22 January 2026.
2. "Are nuclear weapons obsolete? Nuclear policy lessons from the Russian war against Ukraine," Open World Conference 2025: An Open World? The Contemporary Relevance of Niels Bohr's Open Letter to the United Nations of 1950, Copenhagen, 19-21 November 2025.
3. "Russia and Global Nuclear Risks: Weapons, Civilian Facilities, and Proliferation," Seminar at the Norwegian Institute of International Affairs, 5 November 2025.
4. "Russian perspectives on the new START expiration," Arms Control Association side-event, First Committee UN General Assembly, 9 October 2025.
5. "A Simple Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty," Annual Meeting of the Institute of Nuclear Materials Management, Washington, DC, 27 August 2025.
6. "Implications of current geopolitical developments for nuclear policies, disarmament, and non-proliferation," Swiss Federal Office of Energy, Bern, 18 June 2025.
7. "Elements of a Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty," Subsidiary Body 2, Conference on Disarmament, Geneva, 20 March 2025.
8. "US-Russian arms control challenges," Panel discussion (with Jonathan Granoff, Christine Muttonen, and Thomas Countryman), The World Forum, Berlin, 18 March 2025.
9. "Prospects for US-Russian arms control," The 11th Beijing Xiangshan Forum, Beijing, 14 September 2024.

10. "Taking Stock of the FMCT," UNIDIR Event, Geneva, 26 March 2024.
11. "Nuclear disarmament verification," Conference on Disarmament, Geneva, 21 March 2024.
12. "Are nuclear weapons obsolete? Nuclear policy lessons from the Russian war against Ukraine," RECNA, Nagasaki University, 12 March 2024.
13. "Transparency in Armaments," Conference on Disarmament, Geneva, 6 June 2023.
14. "Nuclear disarmament verification in practice: A field exercise to verify the absence of weapons," NPT Preparatory Committee, Vienna, 31 July 2023.
15. "Verifying the Absence of Nuclear Weapons – Results of a Field Exercise," INMM & ESARDA Joint Annual Meeting, Vienna, May 24, 2023.
16. "Are nuclear weapons obsolete? Nuclear policy lessons from Russia's invasion of Ukraine," American Physical Society April 2023 Meeting, Minneapolis, Minnesota, 17 April 2023.
17. "Terms related to nuclear weapons and activities," Second Meeting of the Working Committee of the Conference on the Establishment of a Middle East Zone Free of Nuclear Weapons and Other Weapons of Mass Destruction, New York, 16 March 2023.
18. "Verifying Disarmament in the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons," TPNW Article IV Working Group, Geneva, 1 February 2023.
19. "Debating deterrence," Nuclear Ban Week, Vienna, 18 June 2022 (with Beatrice Fihn, Daryl Kimball, Gaukhar Mukhatzhanova)
20. "Elements of a Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty," Conference on Disarmament, Subsidiary Body 2, Geneva, 17 May 2022.
21. "Verification in Arms Control," Group of Governmental Experts on Nuclear Disarmament Verification, Geneva, 22 February 2022.
22. "Russia's efforts to develop advanced nuclear cycles," National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine's Committee on Merits and Viability of Different Nuclear Fuel Cycles and Technology Options and the Waste Aspects of Advanced Nuclear Reactors, 15 September 2021.
23. "Nuclear Weapons in Europe after the INF Treaty," Presentation at a seminar "After the demise of the INF Treaty: How to prevent a nuclear arms race in Europe," Deep Cuts Commission, 21 September 2020 (with Rüdiger Bohn, German Foreign Office, and Katja Keul, Green Party in the German Bundestag)
24. "Managing Risks of Fissile Materials," Presentation at a Global Enterprise to Strengthen Nonproliferation and Disarmament, NTI, Paris, 4 February 2019
25. "Elements of a Fissile Material Cutoff Treaty." Presentation at a session of the Subsidiary Body 2 of the Conference on Disarmament, Palais des Nations, Geneva, 15 May 2018
26. Pavel Podvig, "Elements of a Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty," Presentation at Informal Consultative Meeting pursuant to A/RES/71/259, UN Headquarters, New York, 15 February 2018

27. Pavel Podvig, "Russian HEU facilities", Presentation at a meeting of the NAS Committee on the Current Status of and Progress toward Eliminating Highly Enriched Uranium Use in Fuel for Civilian Research and Test Reactors, May 21, 2015, Washington, DC