

Program

“The Nuclear Ban Treaty between Aspiration and Reality”

Tuesday, April 30, 2019, 1-3pm

UN Delegates Dining Room 1-3

Welcome: Volker Lehmann, Senior Policy Analyst, Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung New York Office

Speakers: Angela Kane, Senior Fellow, Vienna Centre for Non-Proliferation and Disarmament;
former UN High Representative for Disarmament Affairs

Ambassador Alexander Kmentt, Former Director for Disarmament, Non-Proliferation
and Arms Control, MFA Austria

Jon Wolfsthal, Director of the Nuclear Crisis Group, Global Zero; former Senior Director
for Arms Control and Nonproliferation at the U.S. National Security Council

Moderator: **Ambassador María del Socorro Flores Liera**, Permanent Representative of Mexico to
the International Organizations in Geneva

While many advocates for the abolition of nuclear weapons have welcomed the adoption of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) in July 2017 as a historic achievement, skeptics question its utility for taking concrete steps towards nuclear disarmament. And as the global geopolitical landscape has shifted considerably – demonstrated for instance by the imminent collapse of the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty – polarization between states with and without nuclear weapons has increased. Atmospheric tensions are also looming over another cornerstone of the existing multilateral nuclear order, the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT).

It is therefore high time to agree on a modicum of measures that will satisfy both sides, and show that sufficient compromise can be achieved to continue the NPT into its sixth decade. Towards this end, **the former UN High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, Angela Kane**, authored a FES New York policy brief that contains a number of innovative ideas and concrete steps for bridge building. Her paper “**Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons: Between Aspiration and Reality**” that is being published in April 2019 encourages states to shift their attention to cooperation and positive steps to address long-standing questions of disagreement.

Based on the presentation of Angela Kane’s publication, the discussion event is planned as an exchange of ideas among those who embrace the TPNW and others who retain reservations and see such talks as a detraction from the NPT. As it will take place during the third Preparatory Committee for the 2020 Review conference, it should be useful to the disarmament diplomats of UN Member States, UN Secretariat officials, and the wider UN environment in their preparations for the NPT Review Conference in 2020.

RSVP by April 25 with Laura Angresius (fes.associate@fesny.org). For further information please contact Volker Lehmann, Senior Policy Analyst, FES New York (vlehmann@fesny.org).