OEWG Panel III: Lessons learned: Transparency, confidence building and verification

This morning’s panel, panel III, focused on transparency, confidence building and verification.

Anders Persbo of VERTIC focused his presentation on present verification arrangements, their applicability and relevance for getting to zero, as well as some thoughts on the future.

Pavel Podvig of UNIDR talked about the current status of transparency in nuclear disarmament with regard to New START, nuclear arsenals of other NWS, and stocks of fissile materials and outlined some practical steps that NWS as well as NNWS could take to increase transparency and use that process to advance nuclear disarmament.

Jean Pascal Zanders of the European Union Institute for Security Studies shared the lessons learned on verification from the Chemical Weapons Convention and came up with some suggestions where to start with transparency and verification on nuclear issues.

The discussion that followed was very engaged and many points were raised. Some points I would like to highlight in no particular order are:

- the belief that secrecy brings security is not the case.
- could and should nws do more on transparency themselves?
- Should the P5 set the example in transparency?
- We should not only focus on the P5 but all NWS, especially scholars and think tanks
- Discussion on what do we know? Fissile material outside IAEA safeguards?
- Chinese and transparency
- lessons learned CTBT, CWC and BWC
- NPT and transparency: what should be done by 2015?
- NAC, NAM, NPDF papers on these issues were mentioned
- Successes and gaps of existing verification regimes