

Regional Network of Strategic Studies Centers  
Near East South Asia Division, National Defense University,  
Washington DC

&

Center for Strategic Research, Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
Ankara, Turkey

Working Group on WMD and Border Security  
Istanbul, Turkey

16-18 March 2009

*Abstract*

*India's Stakeholdership in Nuclear Nonproliferation:  
Issues and Perspective*

*W.Lawrence S.Prabhakar, Ph.D.,\**

---

\* Dr W.Lawrence S.Prabhakar is Associate Professor, Department of Political Science, Madras Christian College, Chennai, India; Founding Member, Centre for Security Analysis, Chennai < <http://www.csa-chennai.org/> > Adjunct Professor, Department of Geopolitics, Manipal University, India.  
E.Mail <lawrence.prabhakar@gmail.com>

India has emerged as an exemplary state with scrupulous credentials in nuclear nonproliferation. As a 'state with advanced nuclear technology' India has been consistent in voicing its dissent against the discriminatory slant of nuclear nonproliferation regime—yet has maintained in statutory and international obligations, a strict regimen in not abetting proliferation but has worked to reinforce the global concerns and efforts in securing nuclear technology and has always strived for global nuclear disarmament efforts. Global nuclear regimes in the new millennium have come under scrutiny in terms of its norms, process and relevance. In the age of asymmetric conflicts and global nuclear proliferation/ proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (Chemical, Biological, radiological and ballistic/ cruise missiles), the resilience of the cold war era regimes to contend and manage the evolving proliferation environment is increasingly challenged and corroded.

The efficacy of the global regimes and treaties have been corroded by several factors among them are: a) the irrelevance of global regimes and multilateralism in the absence of the global bipolar order viz; the post-Cold war order; b) the rigidity of global nuclear regimes particularly the Nonproliferation Treaty 1968 in its adaptability to new developments in international relations.

The phenomenon of rising powers in the global environment that had strong national agendas of acquiring weapons of mass destruction to address their security predicaments or to assert their status have been an important development; c) the half-hearted measures of the nuclear weapons states to promote nuclear disarmament as avowed in the NPT and the reluctance to address issues of civilian nuclear energy issues within the context and scope of the NPT of non-member states not party to the NPT; d) the emergence of asymmetric violent non-state actors / anti-state actors in the post-Cold war period that have been entrepreneurial and have been zestful in trying to acquire technologies of mass destruction; e) the increasing spiral of unconventional conflicts in the post-Cold war period that was catalyzed by violent non-state actors / anti-state actors vis-à-vis nation-states with the threshold of such conflicts having a dimension of weapons of mass destruction has increased in recent times; f) the high stakes and vulnerabilities in energy security and the vulnerability of states to limitations and disruptions of supplies of hydrocarbons has necessitated to resort to nuclear energy; however, existing global nuclear regimes with their accents on nonproliferation have not been appropriate to address the civilian nuclear energy dimension; g) the emergence of non-nuclear weapon states and non-party states with agendas to acquire nuclear technology with dual use connotations have increased the stakes of their entry into the international nuclear community. Global regimes have not effectively addressed their needs. The forceful entry of non-member states and even non-nuclear weapon state withdrawing from the treaty has dented the efficacy of the global nuclear regimes.

This presentation examines the issues and perspectives of the India's Stakeholdership in global nonproliferation efforts and the unique challenges it faces in the process: a) It assesses the Indian contexts of nuclear power and the discriminatory slants and praxis of the global nuclear regimes; b) It proposes the norms of what could be the Indian stakeholdership; of a *proliferation resistant policy, democratic credentials and legislative best practices; voluntary stewardship in the international nuclear community*; c) It examines the issues of nuclear energy and its linkages to India's drive for development, knowledge technology growth and assesses the consequences of India's emergent power in the Asia-Pacific theatre and the global arena.