



**Embassy of Kazakhstan  
in the United Kingdom**

**Dr Dan Plesch,**  
Director, Centre for International Studies and Diplomacy, SOAS University of London

&

**His Excellency Erlan Idrissov,**  
Ambassador of the Republic of Kazakhstan to the United Kingdom

invite you to a virtual event on:

## **“Post-COVID Multilateral Cooperation – A Chance To Achieve A Nuclear-Weapons-Free World?”**

### **Speakers:**

**Yerzhan Ashikbayev**

Deputy Minister, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan

**Lassina Zerbo**

Executive Secretary, Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization

**Lord Hannay of Chiswick**

Co-Chair, All-Party Parliamentary Group on Global Security and Non-Proliferation

**Kate Hudson**

General Secretary, Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament

**Vladimir Shkolnik**

Chairman, Pugwash Committee of Kazakhstan

**Peter Jenkins**

Chairman, British Pugwash Group

**Cardinal Peter Turkson**

Prefect of the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development

**Aidan Liddle**

Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom to the  
Conference on Disarmament in Geneva

### **Moderators:**

**Dr Dan Plesch, His Excellency Erlan Idrissov**

**Date:** Tuesday 8 September 2020

**Time:** 14:00 BST / 19:00 Nur-Sultan Time

**[Register](#)**



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## Event Overview

The Covid-19 pandemic is testing not only political systems in various countries, but the multilateral system as a whole. Global issues such as “non-proliferation and disarmament” continue to be on the international agenda. The Russell-Einstein Manifesto, highlighting the dangers posed by nuclear weapons, was issued in 1955 and the United Nations marks its 75th anniversary, however world leaders are still called for to seek peace.

The problem is exacerbated by the rise in geopolitical rivalry and a crisis of trust. While some believe that after COVID-19, the world will become even more fragmented, conflict and dangerous, others hope that collective action at the international level will make possible a faster and more peaceful way out of the crisis. The speakers will discuss the role of multilateral cooperation in the context of COVID-19 and beyond.

Can humanity afford itself to wait indefinitely for the “right moment” to end nuclear weapons? Countries need to think about how to promote international cooperation to combat global threats. Like-minded states, organisations and people need to step up their activities. In this context, the importance of effective multilateralism [multilateral cooperation] becomes even more acute, which will strengthen their voice and position in world issues.

This session is an opportunity to hear from experts on non-proliferation, disarmament and international cooperation and to join Q&A discussions on perspectives of a nuclear-weapon-free world.

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Kazakhstan, as a country affected by the consequences of nuclear tests, has gone from the owner of the world's fourth largest nuclear arsenal of more than 1000 deadly ICBMs to a leading country in the field of nuclear disarmament and nonproliferation. Kazakhstan, contributing to global non-proliferation process and promoting regional and international security, has taken part in the creation of the Nuclear Weapon Free Zone in Central Asia.



The Centre for International Studies and Diplomacy, SOAS University of London promotes the SCRAP project – Strategic Concept for Removal of Arms and Proliferation. SCRAP is a holistic approach to global disarmament that proposes adopting an international legally binding agreement for general and complete disarmament. It draws on best practices of past agreements to expand the idea of what is possible in disarmament. SCRAP comes from the initiative of students, alumni and staff at the Centre for International Studies and Diplomacy (CISD) at SOAS, University of London, and is actively supported by a committee of academics and NGO officials with governmental experience.

This event, dedicated to the International Day against Nuclear Tests and the 75th anniversary of the United Nations, is hosted by the Centre for International Studies and Diplomacy, SOAS University of London in partnership with the Embassy of Kazakhstan in the United Kingdom.

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