

Hamburg, 23 February 2023

PRESS RELEASE

Russia puts last major arms control treaty on ice

For now, Russia plans to suspend its participation in the New START nuclear arms treaty. This was announced by the Russian president Wladimir Putin in his speech to the nation, in which he blamed the West for the war in Ukraine. The *New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty*, short New START Treaty, is the last remaining comprehensive arms control treaty between the two nuclear powers Russia and the U.S. The treaty was signed in 2010 and limits the numbers of strategic nuclear weapons of both countries as well as the delivery systems that are required for the use of these weapons. Dr Ulrich Kühn, Head of Arms Control and New Technologies at the IFSH, warns of the consequences this suspension could have:

“The Russian „suspension“ of the New Start Treaty is completely irresponsible and dangerous. It marks the end of the bilateral nuclear arms control era. Once again, Russia is showing that it will continue the war of aggression against Ukraine – no matter what – even at the cost of arms control. And so, the world is facing a new age of insecurity. Without this Treaty and its transparency, limitation, and communication measures, predictability and global stability will continue to decline. Even China, which is upgrading its nuclear weapons, cannot approve this development, as Beijing has always benefited from the limitations of the U.S. and Russia. However, the U.S. Secretary of State Blinken immediately announced that the U.S. would continue to abide by the treaty. This is at least an encouraging sign. The Russian Foreign Office made similar announcements. The future will show whether these last voluntary measures are sufficient to prevent a new arms race.”

For further questions, please contact Dr Ulrich Kühn by email (kuehn@ifsh.de) or by phone: +49 40 86 60 77 41.

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About the IFSH

What makes the world an unsafe place and how do we deal with this? What kind of international order and security policy do we need in an increasingly interconnected world? Such questions are at the heart of the work at the Institute for Peace Research and Security Policy (IFSH). The institute researches the condition of peace

and security in Germany, Europe and beyond. The IFSH combines basic scientific research and central issues of current peace and security policy from an interdisciplinary perspective.

The IFSH is one of the leading peace research institutes in Germany and is funded by the Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg. The IFSH researcher work closely with the University of Hamburg as well as with institutions in the Hamburg metropolitan area and academic institutions at home and abroad.

Gefördert von:

