

NON-TREATY OPTIONS TO ADDRESS THE U.S.-RUSSIAN IMPASSE OVER STRATEGIC BALLISTIC MISSILE DEFENSE

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ABSTRACT:

The Federation of American Scientists (FAS) proposes to conduct a research study exploring non-treaty options to address the current impasse between the United States and Russia (and to some extent China) over their anxieties about U.S. strategic ballistic missile defense (BMD) requirements, while ensuring that the United States retains a full set of capabilities to meet its strategic BMD needs. This issue has been a major obstacle in U.S.-Russia relations for years. While Russia's official position is that Moscow seeks a legally binding limitation on BMD, there may be some non-treaty avenues for progress in this area. FAS wishes to explore these avenues and will undertake a multi-pronged approach to this issue that involves; reviewing and assessing steps the United States took to resolve this issue in the past, meeting with experts to identify new approaches to tackling this problem, soliciting papers from some of these experts to further develop proposals for new approaches to the problem, convening two small workshops of specialists to consider these papers (as well as the larger strategic issues), and offering additional proposals to address the problem. FAS will prepare an options list dynamically as the study progresses, the public purpose of which is to enhance strategic stability.

Research in Progress describes ongoing PASCC research. For more information please contact INSS@usafa.edu.