



CHRONOLOGY OF ARMAMENTS, DISARMAMENT AND INTERNATIONAL SECURITY 2010

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This chronology lists the significant events in 2010 related to armaments, disarmament and international security. In addition to the headline-grabbing events, it also records the less publicized, but no less important, advances and setbacks in arms controls and international security.

Dates are according to local time. Keywords are given in the margins. Abbreviations are explained below.

2 January

The UK and the USA agree to fund a counterterrorism police unit in Yemen as part of the increased efforts to fight militant Islamist groups, such as al-Qaeda in Yemen and al-Shabab in Somalia. The measures follow the attempted attack on a US passenger aircraft on 25 December 2009.

11 January

China conducts a test of its missile interception technology that it claims is of a 'defensive nature' and not targeted at any country.

12 January

A devastating earthquake strikes Port-au-Prince, Haiti, resulting in a humanitarian disaster, killing up to 200 000 people and destroying most official buildings, including the UN headquarters, in the capital. The damage to the harbour, roads and other critical infrastructure obstruct the delivery of humanitarian aid. Violence and looting spread as people grow desperate for food and water, and on 19 January authorities proclaim a state of emergency.

18 January

Coordinated suicide attacks are carried out in Kabul, Afghanistan, when Taliban militants attack several government buildings and a hotel. After hours of fighting, the Afghan security forces declare that the situation is again under control.

KEYWORDS

Somalia; Yemen; Terrorism;
UK; USA

China; Missiles

Haiti

Afghanistan; Terrorism

**25 January**

Iraq Ali Hassan al-Majid (Chemical Ali) is executed by hanging in Iraq. Majid had been sentenced to death four times since 2007: for his involvement in the 1986–89 Anfal campaign that killed possibly up to 180 000 civilian Kurds; for his role in crushing a Shia revolt after the 1991 Gulf War; for the killings in 1999 of Shia Muslims in Sadr City, Baghdad; and for ordering the 1988 gas attack in Halabja that killed 5000 civilian Kurds.

27–29 January

North Korea; South Korea North and South Korean warships exchange fire near the disputed inter-Korean maritime border on 27 January. On 28 and 29 January North Korea fires artillery in the same area. The incidents follow North Korea's declaration on 26 January of a 'no-sail zone' off parts of its west coast.

28 January

EU; China; USA China intensifies its cooperation with the EU- and US-led Combined Maritime Forces (CMF) in the fighting against pirates off the coast of Somalia. China agrees to co-chair the Shared Awareness and Deconfliction (SHADE) mechanism, which protects a shipping corridor from pirates in the western Indian Ocean.

29 January

USA; Taiwan; Arms trade The Obama Administration notifies the US Congress of its intention to sell arms worth \$6.4 billion to Taiwan. On 30 January China announces a suspension of China–US military and security exchanges and declares that it will sanction US companies selling weapons to Taiwan.

1 February

Iraq; Terrorism At least 41 people are killed and over 100 are injured in a suicide bomb attack on Shia pilgrims on their way to Karbala, Iraq.

5 February

Russia; Military doctrines Russia announces its new military doctrine for the period to 2020. It identifies NATO as the 'main military danger' to Russia, together with the deployment of foreign forces on territories adjacent to Russia and its allies. The development of the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) is seen as a fundamental task in deterring and preventing armed conflicts. The criterion for first use of nuclear weapons is changed to 'when the very existence of the state is under threat'

8 February

USA; Pakistan; Taliban US and Pakistani agents seize Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar, one of the Afghani Taliban's top leaders, in Karachi, Pakistan. Pakistani officials confirm his capture on 17 February.



13 February

NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) forces, together with Afghan forces, launch Operation Moshtarak against Taliban militants in Helmand province, the largest offensive in Afghanistan since the overthrow of the Taliban in 2001. The operation involves more than 15 000 troops.

NATO; Afghanistan

23 February

In Doha, Qatar, representatives of the Government of Sudan and the Darfur rebel group the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) sign a framework agreement, which includes a ceasefire agreement and outline of a deal on power sharing. Under the agreement, a final peace deal should be reached by 15 March, although the JEM has claimed that this is unlikely. The other large rebel group in Darfur, the Sudan Liberation Movement/Army (SLM/A), has refused to participate in the negotiations under the auspices of the Government of Chad.

Sudan; Darfur

1 March

UN sources in Darfur, Sudan, report that hundreds of civilians have been killed in fighting between Sudanese armed forces and rebel forces of the Sudan Liberation Movement/Army (SLM/A) in the Jebel Marra region since 22 February. The Sudanese Government denies that any fighting has taken place.

Sudan; Darfur

18 March

Representatives of the Government of Sudan and the Liberation and Justice Movement (LJM), an umbrella group of 10 different Darfur rebel groups formed in February, sign a framework agreement, including a three-month ceasefire. This leaves the Sudan Liberation Movement/Army (SLM/A) as the only rebel group in open conflict with the government.

Sudan; Darfur

26 March

Russia and the USA reach an agreement on nuclear arms reductions. The Treaty on Measures for the Further Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms (New START Treaty) specifies limits of 1550 warheads, 800 deployed and non-deployed launchers and heavy bombers equipped for nuclear weapons, and 700 deployed intercontinental and submarine-launched ballistic missiles (ICBMs and SLBMs). The treaty will replace the 1991 START I Treaty, which expired on 5 December 2009, and the 2002 SORT Treaty. (See also **8 April**.)

Russia; USA; Nuclear arms control

The South Korean warship *Cheonan* sinks near the disputed inter-Korean maritime border. South Korea claims that a North Korean torpedo sank the ship, but North Korea denies responsibility. (See also **20 May**.)

South Korea; North Korea

**28 March**

DRC; War crimes

Human Rights Watch, a non-governmental organization, publishes a report disclosing evidence of a massacre of at least 321 people and the abduction of approximately 250 people by the Ugandan rebel group the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) in north-eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) in December 2009.

29 March

Russia; Terrorism

Two coordinated suicide bomb attacks in the metro system in Moscow kill at least 40 people and injure over 100. Islamist Chechen separatists claim responsibility.

31 March

WEU; Alliances

Following the entry into force of the 2007 Lisbon Treaty on 1 December 2009, the Western European Union (WEU) is dissolved and will be phased out by the end of June 2011. Article 42.7 of the Lisbon Treaty replaces Article V of the 1954 Modified Brussels Treaty, which stipulates the principle of mutual defence.

6 April

India

Naxalite rebels of the Communist Party of India–Maoist, who have fought the Indian Government since the 1960s, kill 70–80 national and local police personnel in Chhattisgarh state, in the largest attack in the movement's history. They are also blamed for a 28 May train collision in West Bengal that kills almost 150 people.

USA; Nuclear weapons

The 2010 Nuclear Posture Review is presented by the US Department of Defense. The new defence policy document significantly narrows the circumstances under which the USA would use nuclear weapons; emphasizes the importance of the 1968 Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT); and commits the USA not to conduct nuclear weapon tests, to seek ratification of the 1996 Comprehensive Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT), and not to develop new nuclear warheads or pursue new military missions or new capabilities for nuclear weapons.

7 April

EU; Somalia

Following a decision of the Council of the European Union on 31 March, the EU Training Mission Somalia (EUTM Somalia) is officially launched. EUTM Somalia will train 2000 Somali soldiers in Uganda in cooperation with the UN and the African Union (AU).

China; India; CBMs

China and India agree to set up a hotline between the offices of their prime ministers in order to improve relations between the countries and prevent flare-ups in their long-standing border dispute.



8 April

The Treaty on Measures for the Further Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms (New START Treaty) is signed by US President Barack Obama and Russian President Dmitry Medvedev in Prague, Czech Republic. The treaty, its protocol and the Technical Annexes to the Protocol must be ratified by both the US Senate and the Russian Duma before becoming legally binding. (See also **22 December**.)

Russia; USA; Nuclear arms control

10 April

Polish President Lech Kaczyński and many senior officials of the Polish Government and military are killed in an aircraft crash in Smolensk, Russia.

Poland

12 April

Ukraine announces that it will get rid of its complete stock of highly enriched uranium (HEU) before the next Nuclear Security Summit in 2012, with technical and financial assistance from the USA. Ukraine will also convert its civil nuclear research facilities to operate with low-enriched uranium fuel, which cannot be used for nuclear weapons.

Ukraine; Uranium; Nuclear disarmament

12–13 April

The Nuclear Security Summit, with 48 states participating, is held in Washington, DC. Neither Iran nor North Korea is invited to the summit. The communiqué of the summit commits the participating states to strengthen nuclear security and to reduce the threat of nuclear terrorism. The communiqué is supported by the work plan of the summit.

Nuclear Security Summit

13 April

Russia and the USA sign the Plutonium Disposition Protocol, an update of the 2000 Plutonium Management and Disposition Agreement, under which both countries pledge to irreversibly and transparently dispose of no less than 34 tonnes of weapon-grade plutonium. This represents material for approximately 17 000 nuclear weapons.

Russia; USA; Plutonium

30 April

Meeting in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), 11 countries—Angola, Burundi, Cameroon, the Central African Republic, Chad, the Republic of the Congo, the DRC, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Rwanda, and Sao Tome and Principe—adopt the Central African Convention for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons, Their Ammunition, and All Parts and Components That Can Be Used for Their Manufacture, Repair and Assembly (the Kinshasa Convention). The convention is opened for signature on 19 November at Brazzaville, Republic of the Congo, where it is signed by all but Burundi, Equatorial Guinea and Rwanda.

Central Africa; SALW; Arms control

**3–28 May**

NPT The Eighth Review Conference of the States Parties to the 1968 Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) is held in New York. The conference ends on 28 May and unanimously adopts an outcome document containing steps to expedite ‘concrete progress’ on nuclear disarmament, to advance non-proliferation and to work towards a nuclear weapon-free zone in the Middle East.

17 May

Brazil; Iran; Turkey; Nuclear fuels Meeting in Tehran, Iran, the foreign ministers of Brazil, Iran and Turkey sign an agreement under which Iran agrees to deposit 1200 kilograms of low-enriched uranium in Turkey and to notify the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) ‘within a week’. In return, Iran would receive 120 kg of more highly enriched uranium (HEU) for its Tehran Research Reactor.

20 May

South Korea; North Korea An international investigation report on the sinking of the South Korean warship *Cheonan* on 26 March concludes that a North Korean torpedo sank the ship. North Korea continues to deny responsibility for the incident, and its National Defence Commission issues a warning that North Korea will respond with measures as strong as an ‘all-out-war’ if sanctions are imposed.

27 May

USA; National security US President Barack Obama releases the 2010 National Security Strategy, which aims to enhance the USA’s ability to improve security and to defeat terrorism worldwide with US partners through the Shared Security Partnership; to strengthen US biological and nuclear security; and to improve intelligence capacity and information sharing.

28 May

Pakistan; Terrorism Militants affiliated with the Pakistani Taliban carry out coordinated attacks in Lahore on two mosques belonging to Ahmadis, a minority Muslim sect. Over 80 people are killed and more than 100 are injured.

UN; DRC; Peacekeeping operations The UN Security Council unanimously adopts Resolution 1925, which extends the mandate of the UN Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC) until 30 June and, as of 1 July, renames the mission the UN Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO). The resolution also authorizes the withdrawal of up to 2000 UN military personnel by 30 June. MONUSCO’s mandate runs until 30 June 2011.



30 May

Israeli warships intercept in international waters an aid convoy of six cargo and passenger boats, led by the pro-Palestinian Free Gaza Movement and a Turkish organization, İnsani Yardım Vakfı. The convoy was destined for the Gaza Strip in an attempt to break the three-year-long Israeli blockade. Nine people are killed in the raid; several are injured; and all civilians on board the ships are taken to Israeli prisons. The UN Security Council demands an impartial investigation of the incident and the release of the civilians held by Israel.

Israel; Military operations

2 June

Taliban suicide bombers attack the Peace Jirga of tribal leaders and elders held in Kabul, where Afghan President Hamid Karzai is presenting his peace plan for Afghanistan. Karzai's proposal includes talks with moderate Taliban insurgents and the removal of Taliban names from the UN 'blacklist'. The attackers are killed or imprisoned.

Afghanistan; Terrorism

9 June

The UN Security Council adopts, by a vote of 12–2, with Brazil and Turkey voting against and Lebanon abstaining, Resolution 1929, which builds on previous resolutions and imposes a fourth round of sanctions on Iran regarding its nuclear programme. Iran is forbidden to acquire an interest in any commercial activity in another state involving uranium mining, production or use of nuclear materials and technology. An embargo is also placed on arms deliveries to Iran. (See also **21 June** and **26 July**.)

UN; Iran; Sanctions

10 June

Two Bosnian Serb military officials, Vujadin Popovic and Ljubisa Beara, are convicted of genocide in the 1995 massacre at Srebrenica, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and sentenced to life in prison by the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY), The Hague, Netherlands.

Bosnia and Herzegovina;
ICTY

11 June

The Review Conference of the 1998 Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC) concludes in Kampala, Uganda. The conference has adopted an amendment including a definition of the crime of aggression that is based on the definition in UN General Assembly Resolution 3314 (XXIX) of 1974, and the conditions under which the ICC could exercise jurisdiction with respect to the crime. The amendment can enter into force after 1 January 2017.

ICC; War crimes

**11–13 June**

Kyrgyzstan Over 100 people are killed in violent ethnic riots between Kyrgyz and Uzbeks in Osh, Kyrgyzstan. Tens of thousands of Uzbeks flee over the border to Uzbekistan. The Kyrgyz interim government requests assistance from Russian peacekeeping forces.

14–18 June

UN; SALW The UN Fourth Biennial Meeting of States to Consider the Implementation of the 2001 Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, is held in New York.

21 June

UN; IAEA; Iran; Sanctions Following the adoption of the latest set of sanctions by the UN Security Council on 9 June, Iran bars two International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) inspectors from entering the country. Iran announces that there will be a series of responses to the sanctions.

3 July

USA; Poland; Missile defence The Polish Foreign Minister, Radosław Sikorski, and the US Secretary of State, Hillary Clinton, sign in Krakow, Poland, an amendment to the 2008 missile defence agreement which includes the deployment of US Standard Missile-3 (SM-3) interceptor missiles in Poland as a defence against potential threats from Iran and elsewhere. Clinton states that the new system is purely defensive and will pose no threat to Russia.

12–23 July

UN; Arms trade; Treaties The Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) holds its first meeting in New York. The next meeting will be held in February 2011.

15 July

Uganda; Somalia; Terrorism Following a terrorist attack by the Somali Islamist group al-Shabab, killing more than 70 people in Kampala, Uganda, on 11 July, the Ugandan Government announces that it plans to send an additional 2000 soldiers to reinforce the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM).

22 July

ICJ; Kosovo; Serbia In an advisory opinion on the legality of Kosovo's unilateral declaration of independence from Serbia in 2008, the International Court of Justice (ICJ), The Hague, Netherlands, states that the declaration does not violate international law.



25 July

The organization Wikileaks releases on the Internet over 90 000 classified US military field reports from the war in Afghanistan. The documents, which include records of more civilian deaths than previously reported, cover the period from 1 January 2004 to 31 December 2009.

Afghanistan

26 July

The Council of the European Union adopts sanctions against Iran in the areas of trade, financial services, energy and transport in accordance with UN Security Council Resolution 1929 (2010).

EU; Iran; Sanctions

The Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia (ECCC) in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, sentences the former Khmer Rouge leader Kaing Guek Eav (known as Duch) to 35 years in prison for crimes committed at Tuol Sleng (S-21) prison during the period of Democratic Kampuchea (1975–79). The ECCC was set up by the UN and the Government of Cambodia in 2003; this is the tribunal's first verdict.

Cambodia

1 August

The 2008 Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM) enters into force following the 30th ratification of the convention on 16 February.

Arms control; Cluster munitions

14 August

Cambodia asks the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) for help in mediating the border conflict with Thailand, ongoing since 2008, over the Preah Vihear temple. Several people have been killed since 2008 and on several occasions during 2010 the two countries' troops have exchanged fire.

Cambodia; Thailand

19 August

The last US combat brigade withdraws from Iraq, seven years after the 2003 US-led invasion. Approximately 50 000 US troops are to remain in Iraq until the end of 2011 to provide support and training to the Iraqi armed forces and to protect US interests. On 31 August US President Barack Obama declares the US military operations in Iraq officially ended. Operation Iraqi Freedom was started in March 2003 by President George W. Bush.

Iraq; USA

2 September

The peace negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians formally reopen in Washington, DC. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas agree to hold a new meeting in mid-September in Sharm El-Sheik, Egypt.

Israel; Palestinian territories

**7 September**

China; Japan A Chinese fishing boat collides with a Japanese coastguard vessel in disputed waters of the East China Sea. Japan detains the Chinese captain, prompting a harsh Chinese response.

9 September

Kosovo; UN; ICJ The UN General Assembly unanimously adopts Resolution A/RES/64/298, which welcomes the EU's willingness to facilitate dialogue between Serbia and Kosovo over the latter's unilateral declaration of independence from the former in 2008. The resolution also acknowledges the 22 July advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) on the legality of the declaration.

19 September

Iraq; Terrorism In three separate suicide bomb attacks in Baghdad and Fallujah, at least 35 people are killed and more than 100 are injured. Iraq has experienced a series of attacks during the three weeks since the USA officially declared an end to its combat operations in the country.

20–22 September

UN The UN Summit on the Millennium Development Goals, held in New York, adopts a global action plan to achieve the eight anti-poverty goals of the 2000 Millennium Declaration by 2015 and announces major new commitments for women's and children's health.

23 September

Nuclear disarmament Ten countries—Australia, Canada, Chile, Germany, Japan, Mexico, the Netherlands, Poland, Turkey and the United Arab Emirates—form a new initiative for nuclear disarmament, the Cross-Regional Group on Non-Proliferation and Disarmament.

China; Japan Japan announces that Chinese rare earth exports to Japan have been halted. The move is viewed by Japan and Western states as retaliation for the detainment of the captain of the Chinese fishing boat on 7 September, and leads to a global debate on China's monopoly of rare earth production. Exports to Europe and the USA stop in mid-October.

24 September

CTBT The Fifth Ministerial Meeting to promote the entry into force of the 1996 Comprehensive Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) is convened by Australia, Canada, Finland, France, Japan, Morocco and the Netherlands in New York. The 72 attending states issue a statement demanding that the states 'that have not yet done so—sign and ratify the CTBT without further delay'. Nine more ratifications are required for the treaty to enter into force.



26 September

The 10-month Israeli moratorium on new building in settlements in the West Bank ends. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu urges Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas to continue the peace talks that started on 2 September and calls on the Jewish settlers to show restraint. The Palestinians have previously indicated that they will leave the talks if the building freeze is not extended.

Israel; Palestinian territories

27–30 September

The US Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) expanded its air campaign in the border regions between Pakistan and Afghanistan during September by launching 20 bomb attacks using unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) targeting Taliban strongholds. The violence in the region further escalates when helicopters from the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) launch air strikes into Pakistan killing more than 50 suspected members of the Haqqani network and 3 Pakistani soldiers. Pakistan condemns the attacks as a 'clear violation and breach of the UN mandate under which ISAF operates', closes the Torkham border with Afghanistan and lodges a formal protest with NATO on 1 October.

USA; Afghanistan; Pakistan; Terrorism

29 September

The UN Security Council unanimously adopts Resolution 1940, which lifts the arms embargo imposed by Resolution 1171 (1998) after being assured that 'the control of the Government of Sierra Leone has been fully re-established'.

UN; Sierra Leone; Arms embargoes

30 September

At Panmunjon in the demilitarized zone, North Korea and South Korea hold the first working-level military talks in two years. North Korea proposed the meeting mainly to discuss the countries' western maritime border.

North Korea; South Korea

1 October

The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) releases a report on 'indescribable' atrocities committed against civilians in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) by Congolese armed groups and foreign troops between 1993 and 2003. The report names Rwandan and Ugandan forces as involved in serious violations of human rights and international humanitarian law.

UN; DRC; Human rights

1–4 October

In border regions of Pakistan, suspected Islamist militants attack several convoys of supply trucks carrying fuel for the NATO troops in Afghanistan. Several people are killed and injured.

Afghanistan; Pakistan; NATO; Terrorism

**12 October**

ASEAN

The first ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting-Plus (ADMM-Plus) between the 10 members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and 8 partners—Australia, China, India, Japan, New Zealand, Russia, South Korea and the USA—is held in Hanoi, Viet Nam. ADMM-Plus was initiated by the ASEAN defence ministers on 10 May in a joint declaration calling it 'a key feature of regional security architecture'.

19 OctoberRussia; Chechnya;
Terrorism

Islamist militants storm the Chechen Parliament in Grozny, killing 3 people and injuring at least 17. The attack is seen as evidence of the Islamist rebels' capacity to strike against high-profile targets linked to President Ramzan Kadyrov and the pro-Moscow regime.

UK; Defence

The British Ministry of Defence presents the UK's new Strategic Defence and Security Review, the first since 1997.

23 October

Iraq; War crimes

The organization Wikileaks releases on the Internet nearly 400 000 classified US military field reports, the Iraq War Logs. The documents, which contain records of systematic killings, torture and abuse by coalition forces and Iraqi Government forces, cover the war from 1 January 2004 to 31 December 2009. The US Department of Defense claims that the publishing of the documents will risk the lives of US troops.

25 October

EU; Migration

The European Commission announces that the EU will deploy a Rapid Intervention Border Team on the border between Greece and Turkey to hinder the increasing illegal immigration into Europe. This will be the first time that the EU deploys a multinational armed force on its external land border.

29 October

Terrorism

Two shipments containing explosives, sent from Yemen and addressed to synagogues in Chicago, USA, are intercepted on cargo flights in the UK and Dubai, UAE. The discovery of the explosives is based on a tip from Saudi intelligence officials.

2 November

France; UK; Defence

British Prime Minister David Cameron and French President Nicholas Sarkozy sign, in London, bilateral treaties on extended defence cooperation between their countries. The treaties include an agreement to establish a combined joint expeditionary force and cooperation in nuclear research and development in Aldermaston, UK, and Valduc, France.



3 November

The Organization of American States (OAS) holds a hearing on the border dispute between Costa Rica and Nicaragua and sends its Secretary General to inspect the area. Costa Rica accuses Nicaragua of deploying armed forces along the San Juan River and on Calero Island, which is territory belonging to Costa Rica. Nicaragua initially claims that the deployment occurred after Google Maps had wrongly labelled the territory as Nicaraguan but also claims the right to dredge the San Juan River to return the river (and the border) to its 1858 course. On 12 November the OAS votes in favour of Costa Rica and calls on Nicaragua to withdraw its troops.

Costa Rica; Nicaragua; OAS

5 November

Two bomb attacks on mosques in north-west Pakistan kill more than 70 people and injure about 100. Islamist militants are blamed for the attacks.

Pakistan; Terrorism

9–12 November

The First Meeting of States Parties to the 2008 Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM), held in Vientiane, Laos, adopts the 2010 Vientiane Declaration 'No Cluster Munitions: from Vision to Action', the Vientiane Action Plan and a Programme of Work.

Arms control; Cluster munitions

14 November

The military government of Myanmar releases opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi after seven years of house arrest. In her first public speech after her release she proposes direct talks with the military leaders in the interests of 'national reconciliation'. Aung San Suu Kyi has spent 15 of the past 21 years in incarceration.

Myanmar

15 November

At least one protester is killed by UN peacekeepers in Cap-Haitien and Hinche, amid clashes resulting from protesters setting up barricades and roadblocks and attacking peacekeepers from the UN Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH). The protesters suspect that Nepalese soldiers brought the ongoing cholera epidemic to Haiti.

Haiti

16 November

Thailand extradites the alleged Russian arms dealer Viktor Bout to the USA to face terrorism charges. Bout was arrested in 2008, in Bangkok, and is accused of selling weapons used in civil wars in Africa, South America and the Middle East. Russia has tried to press Thailand to free Bout.

Arms trade

**17 November**

USA; Terrorism

Following a four-week trial, the first former Guantánamo detainee to be tried in a civilian court, Ahmed Khalfan Ghailani, is acquitted of all but 1 of 285 charges of conspiracy and murder in the 1998 terrorist bombing of the US embassies in Kenya and Tanzania. Ghailani was captured in Pakistan in 2004.

19–20 November

NATO

At its 2010 Summit, held in Lisbon, Portugal, NATO adopts the Strategic Concept for the Defence and Security of the Members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization; decides to develop a missile defence capability to protect the alliance's populations and territories in Europe against ballistic missile attacks; and agrees on a 'transition strategy' for Afghanistan, under which the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) will begin transferring security duties to Afghani forces during the next 18–24 months and the ISAF combat mission will end by 2014.

20 November

North Korea; Uranium enrichment

A US scientist, Siegfried S. Hecker, reveals that he witnessed a new, secretly built uranium enrichment facility when visiting Yongbyon, North Korea, on 12 November. North Korea claims that 2000 centrifuges are already installed and running.

NATO; Russia; NATO–Russia Council

The NATO–Russia Council meeting in Lisbon, Portugal, results in agreements to discuss missile defence and theatre missile defence cooperation; to expand the project on counter-narcotics training; and to strengthen cooperation on counterterrorism. This is the first meeting of the Council since the 2008 Georgia–Russia War.

23 November

North Korea; South Korea

During a South Korean military exercise in the waters close to the disputed maritime border, North Korea fires artillery on South Korean waters and the island of Yeonpyeong, killing four people, including two civilians, wounding several others and setting buildings on fire. South Korea returns fire.

28 November

USA; Foreign policy

The organization Wikileaks starts the release on the Internet of 250 000 confidential US diplomatic cables. The documents, some of which go back to 1966, reveal a secret chronicle of US international relations. The USA condemns 'the unauthorized disclosure of classified documents and sensitive national security information'.



1 December

Belarus and the USA reach an agreement under which Belarus will eliminate its complete stock of highly enriched uranium (HEU) before the next Nuclear Security Summit in 2012, and the USA will provide the necessary technical and financial assistance.

Belarus; Uranium; Nuclear disarmament

1–2 December

Meeting in Astana, Kazakhstan, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) holds its first summit since 1999. The Astana Commemorative Declaration 'Towards a Security Community' is adopted, reaffirming the continued will to pursue the work of the organization, including in the field of arms control.

OSCE

6–7 December

The UN Security Council permanent members (China, France, Russia, the UK and the USA), Germany and Iran meet in Geneva, Switzerland, for the first talks on the Iranian nuclear programme since October 2009. The meeting ends with no other result than an agreement on a new meeting in Istanbul, Turkey, in January 2011.

UN; Germany; Iran

10 December

Chinese human rights advocate Liu Xiaobo is awarded the Nobel Peace Prize over strong protests by the Chinese Government.

China

15 December

The UN Security Council unanimously adopts Resolution 1956, terminating the Development Fund for Iraq by 30 June 2011; Resolution 1957, terminating measures imposed under Resolutions 681 (1991) and 707 (1991) by which Iraq was requested to destroy all weapons of mass destruction and long-range ballistic missiles, and not to acquire any nuclear weapons; and Resolution 1958 ending the oil-for-food programme.

UN; Iraq

17 December

A young man sets himself on fire in a public suicide attempt in Sidi Bouzid, Tunisia. He later dies and the incident sparks violent demonstrations against the government throughout Tunisia. The political violence escalates and on 14 February 2011 President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali is forced to flee the country.

Tunisia

22 December

The US Senate ratifies the Treaty on Measures for the Further Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms (New START Treaty). The Treaty, its Protocol and Technical Annexes to the Protocol must also be ratified by the Russian Duma before they become legally binding.

Russia; USA; Nuclear arms control

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ABBREVIATIONS

ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
AU	African Union
CBM	Confidence-building measure
CTBT	Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty
DRC	Democratic Republic of the Congo
EU	European Union
IAEA	International Atomic Energy Agency
ICC	International Criminal Court
ICJ	International Court of Justice
NATO	North Atlantic Treaty Organization
NPT	Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons
OAS	Organization of American States
OSCE	Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
SALW	Small arms and light weapons
SORT	Strategic Offensive Reductions Treaty
START	Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty
UAE	United Arab Emirates
UN	United Nations
WEU	Western European Union

Other abbreviations are defined in the text.

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