

Informational Bulletin



# PIRogue





Meeting of the PIR Center Alumni Community within the framework of XXIII International School on Global Security in format of III *Maslin-Fest*

**On the cover:**

Top left. The first global presentation of the *Security Index* Yearbook in Zvenigorod within the framework of XXIII International School on Global Security, June 27, 2024.

Top right. Presentation of the *Security Index* Yearbook in Geneva, November 20, 2024.

Left center. PIR Center Executive Board meeting, November 15, 2024.

Right center. Meeting of participants of the XXIII International School on Global Security with H.E. **Sergey Ryabkov**, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Russia, June 26, 2024.

Bottom left. Participants of the XXIII International School on Global Security in Zvenigorod, June 30, 2024.

Bottom right. Participants of the First Russian-African Forum of Young International Relations Professionals on Security and Development, October 6, 2024.





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International School on Global Security,  
Zvenigorod, June 22-30, 2024



Dear readers,

**One year ago PIR Center celebrated its 30th anniversary since it was founded in 1994.**

This is a huge and significant event for us! For three decades, we have been consistently improving our expertise in foreign policy and international security, preparing new generations of international relations professionals, developing the PIR Center Alumni Community in Russia and worldwide, being a reliable platform for international dialogue. However, this year will go down in history not only due to the anniversary date, but also due to the many significant projects implemented by PIR Center independently and with the support of partners.

**The Security Index Yearbook** was published for the first time – a large-scale project that has no analogs. The yearbook is a voluminous (575 pp.) work published in English and aimed at a foreign audience of expert community and decision-makers for a better understanding of Russian foreign policy course.

Another important debut of the PIR Center was the holding of the **1st Russian–African Forum of Young International Relations Professionals on Security and Development**. About twenty participants from different African countries took part in this event, where everyone had the opportunity not only to hear Russian views on African problems and ways to solve them but also to share own opinions on how Russia and Africa can interact for the benefit of each other and the whole world.

In 2024, which marks the 30th anniversary of PIR Center and the anniversary of our journal **“Yaderny Kontrol”**, PIR Center resumed publication of the edition in the format of a digital bulletin. The updated format is focused on the modern needs of the audience and combines analytical articles, interviews, reviews and various educational and information materials covering both the journalistic and research activities of PIR Center. For the first time, the publication is presented in English!

And this is just the beginning... We released **the PIR Center Anthology**, including archival materials of the PIR Center for 30 years of its activity; **memoirs of Ambassador Yuri Nazarkin**, dedicated to the 30th anniversary of the entry into force of START I; launched **the first online course** on nuclear non-proliferation and arms control. We have prepared **a digital textbook for the course Nuclear Nonproliferation and Arms Control. Digital Papers**. We actively developed **the PIR Center virtual museum** and organized a huge number of significant events!

It is not even possible to share you everything briefly. Then, we invite you to read the 11th volume of the PIR Center Informational Bulletin **“PIRogue”**!

**Maksim Sorokin,**  
**PIR Center**  
**“Information & Digital**  
**Communications” Unit**  
**Coordinator**





On behalf of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and on my own behalf, I cordially congratulate you and your team on the 30th anniversary of the founding of the Center for Political Studies of Russia. PIR Center has earned a reputation as the leading domestic non-governmental organization in the field of international security. Your materials on strategic stability, arms control, and non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction are distinguished by a high level of analysis. The key to success is many years of fruitful scientific work of a highly professional team, – H.E. Sergey **Lavrov**, Russian Foreign Minister



I heartily congratulate you on the 30th anniversary of PIR Center! It is a great honor for me to have worked together with the PIR Center practically since its foundation in 1994 and all this time to support the tireless activities of your team for the benefit of the interests of the homeland. For three decades, the PIR Center has been an example of deep expertise and dedication to international security. You have made a significant contribution to the study of topical issues of nonproliferation, arms control, and global stability, becoming one of the leading analytical platforms not only in Russia but also abroad, – H.E. Anatoly **Antonov**, Ambassador of Russia to the United States (2017-2024)

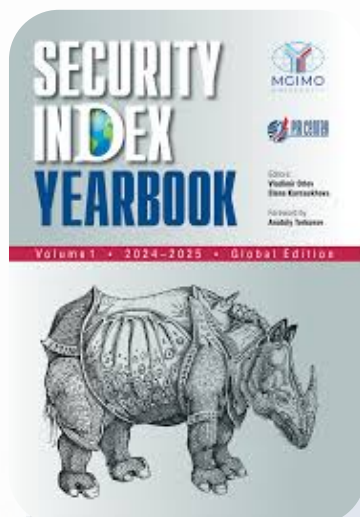


I sincerely congratulate PIR Center, its leaders, employees, and experts on the 30th anniversary of this most authoritative intellectual platform in Russia! Over three decades, you have become one of the leading Russian non-governmental organizations in the field of nuclear non-proliferation, global and regional security, countering new challenges and threats, an authoritative partner for many government organizations, including, of course, the Federation Council. The projects, developed by PIR Center, are always of an applied and substantive nature, which makes them the most important help for all international relations professionals, – H.E. Konstantin **Kosachev**, Deputy Chair of the Federation Council



On behalf of the team of the Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation to international organizations in Vienna and on my own behalf, let me congratulate PIR Center on its 30th anniversary. For many years, PIR Center has remained one of the leading Russian research organizations in the field of international security, nuclear non-proliferation, and arms control. PIR Center is, first of all, a close community, one big expert family. I wish you to continue to work for the benefit of strengthening the expert potential of our Motherland, – H.E. Mikhail **Ulyanov**, Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to international organizations in Vienna

# SECURITY INDEX YEARBOOK: NEW LEVEL OF ANALYSIS



**The Yearbook**, prepared by PIR Center and MGIMO University, is published in English and is dedicated to the 30th Anniversary of PIR Center. The Yearbook is divided into 8 parts, dedicated to the following international issues:

International terrorism, arms control, new types of arms, cyberdiplomacy, space security, as well as Russian cooperation with the “world majority” states.

Academician Anatoly **Torkunov**, Rector of MGIMO University, Chairman of the Yearbook Editorial Board, in his [foreword](#) for the *Security Index Yearbook*, held that the Yearbook contributes to a better understanding of the positions of Russian experts worldwide. Subsequently, this understanding is directly or indirectly translated into those circles where the official position is formed.

The *Security Index Yearbook* brings together 31 authors under its cover: authoritative Russian experts – leading theorists and practitioners in the field of international relations, global and regional security: **Dr. Irina Abramova**, member of Presidium of the Russian Academy of Science (RAS), Director of Institute of Africa of the RAS; **Dr. Andrey Baykov**, MGIMO Vice-Rector for Science and Research, the PIR Center Advisory Board Member; **H.E. Kirill Barsky**, the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary,

Head of Department of Diplomacy of MGIMO University; **Dr. Vyacheslav Belokrenetsky**, Professor of Department of Oriental Studies at MGIMO University; **Dr. Dmitry Evstafiev**, Professor of the Department of Theory of Law and State at Peoples' Friendship University of Russia; **Dr. Vasily Kashin**, Director of Faculty of World Economy and World Politics at the High School of Economics; **Dr. Andrey Kortunov**, Scientific Advisor of the Russian International Affairs Council, the PIR Center Advisory Board Member; **H.E. Vladimir Ladanov**, Head of the South Pacific States Section at the Third Asia Department of the Russian Foreign Ministry; **Dr. Mikhail Lyenko**, Deputy Head of Department of International Law at MGIMO University, the PIR Center Advisory Board Member; **Mr. Andrey Malov**, the PIR Center Advisory Board Member; **Dr. Ruslan Mamedov**, Scientific Advisor of the Primakov Foreign Policy Cooperation Center, Senior Research Fellow of the Center for Arabic and Islamic Studies of the Institute of the Oriental Studies of the RAS; **Dr. Adlan Margoev**, Research Fellow of Center for the Middle East and African Studies at MGIMO Institute for International Studies; **Dr. Boris Martynov**, Professor of Department of International Relations and Foreign Policy of Russia at MGIMO University; **Dr. Nikita Neklyudov**, Deputy Dean of the MGIMO Faculty of International Relations for the Master's Programs; **Dr. Vladimir Orlov**, Founding Director of PIR Center, Professor of Department of Applied Analysis of International Issues at MGIMO University; **H.E. Dmitry Polikanov**, Deputy Head of



# SECURITY INDEX YEARBOOK: NEW LEVEL OF ANALYSIS

the Federal Agency for the Commonwealth of Independent States, Compatriots Living Abroad and International Humanitarian Cooperation (Rossotrudnichestvo); **H.E. Sergey Ryabkov**, the Russian Deputy Foreign Minister; **Dr. Dmitry Stefanovich**, Research Fellow of Sector of Military Economy and Innovations of the Center of International Security at IMEMO of the RAS, the PIR Center Advisory Board Member; **Dr. Maksim Suchkov**, Director of Institute of International Studies at MGIMO University; **Dr. Dmitry Trenin**, Professor at Higher School of Economics, the PIR Center Executive Board Member; **Mr. Alexey Ubeev**, Senior Nuclear Security Officer of Prevention Section of the Office of Nuclear Security Department of Nuclear Safety and Security of the International Atomic Energy Agency (2011-2015), the PIR Center Advisory Board Member; **Dr. Elena Chernenko**, Special Correspondent at *Kommersant Daily*, Member of PIR Center Executive Board and others.

**On June 27, 2025**, the first global launch of the *Security Index Yearbook 2024–2025*, coeditors of which were PIR Center and MGIMO University, proceeded in Zvenigorod.

During the event, the views exchange was held between the participants. Guests and listeners could have questioned authors of the *Security Index Yearbook*, as well as shared their thoughts and ideas.

This paper is devoted to the contemporary orders of international security, strategic stability, and its analysis. Among the authors of the Yearbook – are the leading Russian specialists, PhD with tremendous experience. Representatives of the Diplomatic Corps participated in the presentation, as well as young specialists in international relations from the following states: Brazil, Qatar, Mexico, Australia, Belarus, Hungary, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, New Zealand, Germany, France, Switzerland, Finland, Sweden and etc. The event was covered by the leading Russian media.

[Read more](#)



*Security Index Yearbook Presentation due to Summer Session of the Trialogue Club International, June 27, 2024*

# SECURITY INDEX YEARBOOK: NEW LEVEL OF ANALYSIS

Dr. Vladimir **Orlov**, Founding Director of PIR Center, visited Kazakhstan from **September 30 to October 2, 2024**, attending the Conference on Sustainable Development and Security in Eurasia, commemorating the 80th Anniversary of MGIMO University.

The event was honored by the presence of H.E. Kassym-Jomart **Tokayev**, President of the Republic of Kazakhstan, and Academician Anatoly **Torkunov**, Rector of MGIMO University. President Tokayev, opening the conference in Astana on Sustainable Development and Security in Eurasia, noted the “unprecedented” decline in international security, which he compared unfavorably to the Cold War period. He called for restoring strategic stability and emphasized the urgent need for a new “détente”.

At the same event, MGIMO Rector Anatoly Torkunov, in President Tokayev’s presence, underscored the PIR Center’s significant contributions in collaborating with MGIMO on key reports, including those focused on Africa and the Persian Gulf. He also highlighted the newly released *Security Index Yearbook* displayed during his presentation. The book exhibition, hosted at the Palace of Independence in Astana, prominently featured the latest joint publication by PIR Center and MGIMO, the *Security Index Yearbook Global Edition*. We present this vital work to Kazakhstan’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs representatives, the Kazakhstan Institute for Strategic Studies (KISI), academic leaders, and MGIMO’s partners within Kazakhstan’s University and research communities.

[Read more](#)



On **October 31, 2024**, presentation of *Security Index Yearbook* was proceeded within the framework of II Minsk International Conference on Eurasian Security.

Dr. Vladimir **Orlov**, the Founding Director of PIR Center, presented the *Security Index Yearbook* and distributed printed editions to government officials, diplomats, military representatives, and experts from 16 countries, including Belarus, India, Azerbaijan, the United Kingdom, Switzerland, Vietnam, China, Cuba, the United States, and more. [Read more](#)



# SECURITY INDEX YEARBOOK: NEW LEVEL OF ANALYSIS

On November 20, 2024, PIR Center held a seminar titled “Security Index in a New World: What Future for Arms Control?” at the UN Palais des Nations in Geneva. Organized in collaboration with the Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation to the UN Office and other international organizations in Geneva.

During the seminar, the **Security Index Yearbook 2024-2025** was officially unveiled. The [opening address](#) was delivered by Amb. Gennady M. Gatilov, Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the UN Office and other international organizations in Geneva.



“In such circumstances, we believe that the first step in reducing the conflict potential is to search for and eliminate the root causes of fundamental contradictions. In this regard, specialized research and political science entities from various countries, such as PIR Center, can and must play an important role. Such think-tanks have the necessary potential to study the historical causes of modern conflict, they are able to provide an independent assessment of the current geopolitical realities. And by this, they can help to find compromise solutions”, – Amb. Gennady Gatilov



*Security Index Yearbook Presentation in Geneva,  
November 20, 2024*



“The Editorial Board of the Yearbook unites leading Russian and international experts from South Asia, the Middle East, Eurasia, and North America. We have already conducted three successful presentations for a specialized international audience in Zvenigorod (Russia), Astana (Kazakhstan), and Minsk (Belarus). Today, we are in Geneva at the UN”, – Dr. Vladimir Orlov, Founding Director of PIR Center



“This publication has become essential for us in practical matters, including the enhancement of the qualifications of young MFA specialists working in the field of arms control and nonproliferation”,  
–  
H.E. Sergey **Ryabkov**, Russian Deputy Foreign Minister

The seminar featured a panel discussion that delved into the perspectives of the Yearbook’s contributors and analyzed contemporary challenges in international security.

Speakers included:

- UNIDIR expert and member of the PIR Center Advisory Board Andrey **Baklitskiy**;
- PIR Center Consultant and Yearbook’s contributor Alexandra **Zubenko**;
- Col. (Retd.) Bruno **Russi**, former Swiss military attaché in Moscow, member of the PIR Center Advisory Board.

[Read more about Security Index Yearbook Presentation in Geneva here](#)

Additionally, PIR Center representatives met with Direction of the TRENDS Research & Advisory in Moscow. The parties discussed bilateral academic & scientific exchange and project management cooperation during the meeting.

Dr. Vladimir **Orlov** presented the printed copies of Security Index Yearbook to the representatives of the TRENDS Research & Advisory.

[Read more](#)



*PIR Center Meeting with TRENDS Research & Advisory in Moscow, September, 2024*

The digital version of the Security Index Yearbook is available via the [link](#)



# THE PIR CENTER SUMMER SCHOOL: CONQUERING NEW HEIGHTS



**International School on Global Security** — key educational project of PIR Center, the main peculiarity of which is practice-oriented character. Young specialists in international relations from Russia and foreign countries actualize own knowledge of contemporary orders and threats of global and regional security, build skills of the situational analyze and joint project activity, and build a direct dialogue with potential colleagues and partners within the School.

**XXIII International School on Global Security took part in Zvenigorod (Russia, Moscow region) on June 22–30, 2024.**

This event was organized with the use of the Russian Presidential Grant on the civil society

development, provided by the grant support from the Gorchakov Public Diplomacy Fund, as well as with the support of the MGIMO University due to implementation of the joint project Global Security, Strategic Stability and Arms Control (implemented by PIR Center and the MGIMO University under the auspices of the *Priority-2030 Strategic Academic Leadership Program*).

20 young specialists in international relations: diplomats, military officers, scholars, students, and journalists from Belorussia, Hungary, Kirgizia, Mexico, Russia, Tajikistan, France, and Sweden took part in the event.

Within the framework of School, listeners studied

# THE PIR CENTER SUMMER SCHOOL: CONQUERING NEW HEIGHTS

key issues of both global and regional security: functioning nuclear non-proliferation regime, arms control development, international cooperation in the field of peaceful use of atomic energy and situation in the uranium market, problematics of the cybersecurity in the world politics, new technologies influence on regional and global security, tendencies of the contemporary arms conflicts, hybrid wars and transnational threats of security, the new European security agenda, etc.

The lecture “Is everything horrible? The military-political situation in the world and the factors of its aggravation” by Dr. Igor **Istomin**, Head of the Department of Applied Analysis of International Problems, MGIMO University, Member of PIR Center Advisory Board, has proceeded to pinpoint key aspects of development the current global security landscape. In his speech, Dr. Igor **Istomin** focused on the specifics of the changing world order in the past and the particulars of current transformational processes on the global stage, as well as explanations of the causes of the outbreak of military conflicts.

Subsequently, the two traditional classes by Dr. Ekaterina **Stepanova**, Head of the Group on Peace and Conflict Studies of IMEMO RAS, PIR Center Executive Board member, took place: The lecture on “Armed conflicts today and the dynamics of violence: the critical trends” and the seminar on “Peace processes.”



*The lecture “Armed conflicts today and the dynamics of violence: the critical trends” by Dr. Ekaterina Stepanova*

Accordingly, two general classes were taught by Lieutenant-General (retired) Evgeny **Buzhinskiy**, Co-Chair of the *Dialogue Club International*, Chairman of PIR Center Executive Board: a lecture on “The disintegration of arms control and the transformation of strategic stability: who is to blame and what's next?” and seminar on “The contemporary arms race: participants, types of weapons, spatial dimension”.

The participants discussed issues related to the causes of the collapse of the modern arms control regime and the specifics of a potentially “new” arms race.



*The lecture “Is everything horrible? The military-political situation in the world and the factors of its aggravation” by Dr. Igor Istomin*



# THE PIR CENTER SUMMER SCHOOL: CONQUERING NEW HEIGHTS



*Lecture "The disintegration of arms control and the transformation of strategic stability: who is to blame and what's next?" by Evgeny Buzhinsky*

Then, Dr. Dmitry **Polikanov**, Deputy Head of Rossotrudnichestvo, held a training on "Theatre as a means of communication. Artistry in international relations."

For two hours, the students immersed themselves in an interactive atmosphere, performing various tasks aimed at developing communication skills and openness with colleagues.



*Training "Theatre as a means of communication. Artistry in international relations" by Dr. Dmitry Polikanov*

During the School, meeting with H.E. Sergey **Ryabkov**, Deputy Foreign Minister of the Russian Federation, was proceeded on the "Contemporary Russian foreign policy." In his speech, H.E. Sergey **Ryabkov** discussed the changing world order and multipolarity, the geopolitical confrontation between Russia and the West, Russia's position on the world stage, and Russia's interests.

H.E. Sergey **Ryabkov** noted: "For many years, fruitful cooperation has been carried out within BRICS between countries representing various civilizations, religions, and macroregions in politics and security, economics and finance, culture, and humanitarian contacts based on equality, mutual respect, and a balance of interests. We consider BRICS an essential mechanism for coordinating interests and an indispensable pillar of a multipolar world."

[Read more about PIR Center XXIII International School on Global Security here](#)

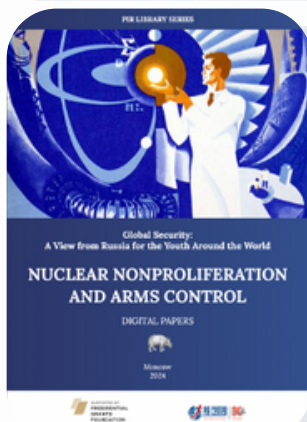


*Meeting of H.E. Sergey Ryabkov with participants of XXIII International School on Global Security*

# SECURITY WITHOUT BORDERS: EDUCATION AND TRAINING PROGRAM OF PIR CENTER

On March 5, 2024, PIR Center announced the English-language online course on nuclear nonproliferation and arms control, which took place in the period from **November to December 2023** on the PIR Center's research and education platform NONPROLIFERATION.WORLD in e-learning mode. The online course is a set of 19 studio video lectures with a total duration of 16 hours. Each lecture is divided into mini-videos dedicated to certain aspects of the topic under consideration (71 mini-videos in total).

Materials for this online course are available at the [link](#)



On April 25, in honor of the **30th Anniversary of PIR Center**, we published our new paper "Nuclear Nonproliferation and Arms Control. Digital Papers." The textbook "Nuclear Nonproliferation and Arms Control. Digital Papers"

was designed as a preparation to, and a continuation of the first PIR Center Online Course on Nuclear Nonproliferation and Arms Control.

[Read a digital version of textbook](#)

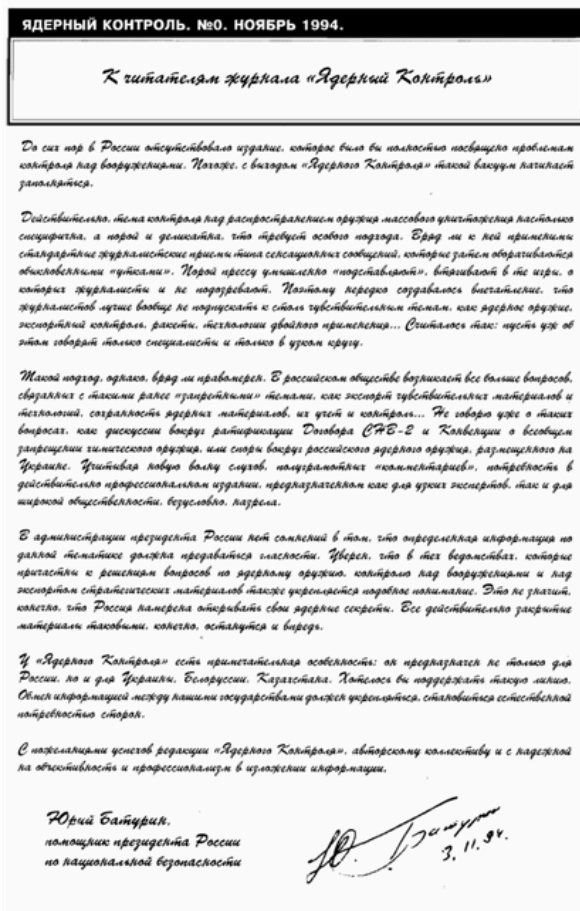


Your recommendations are in demand in our daily practical work. Research and educational activities of the PIR Center contribute to the formation and professional growth of the young generation of specialists. We will continue to support your initiatives and endeavors. We at Smolenskaya Square appreciate constructive cooperation with PIR Center, – H.E. Sergey **Lavrov**, Russian Foreign Minister

Read more about Education & Training Program of PIR Center [here](#)

# LEGACY MEETING CHALLENGES OF THE TIMES: 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF YADERNY KONTROL

On November 15, 2024, PIR Center celebrated Rhino Day – the 30th anniversary of the **Yaderny Kontrol** journal. Exactly 30 years ago, zero issue of the **Yaderny Kontrol** journal, which is the predecessor of the **Security Index** series, was published. During its existence, the **Yaderny Kontrol** has received recognition from the Russian and international establishment and expert community as a source of exclusive analytical information on international security issues.



On the birthday of **Yaderny Kontrol** – the Rhino Day – PIR Center announced a release of the Anthology “PIR Center. Selected Works. 1994-2024”! The book has been published in partnership with the Ves’ Mir publishing

*Address by Yuri Baturin, National Security Aide to the Russian President Boris Yeltsin, to the readers of **Yaderny Kontrol** journal, November 1994.*

Read zero issue of **Yaderny Kontrol** journal via the [link](#) (in Russian)

house and with the support of the Presidential Grants Foundation. The digital version of the book is available [here](#) (in Russian).



# COMMEMORATING GENERAL MASLIN'S ROLE IN PEACE AND NUCLEAR SECURITY

*Maslin-Fest* is a format of meetings of members of the PIR Center Alumni Community, which allows us to remember Colonel-General Evgeny **Maslin** not only as a talented statesman, a patriot of his country, a reliable colleague and comrade, but also as a lover of poetry, song and warm friendly meetings.

On **June 29, 2024**, as a culminating part of the PIR Center Day, held on the sidelines of the XXIII International School on Global Security, a gala dinner took place commemorating the 30th anniversary of PIR Center, followed by the annual meeting of the PIR Alumni Community members. Traditionally, the meeting was held in the format of the *III Maslin-Fest*.



*Members of the PIR Center Alumni Community on the PIR Center Day due to the XXIII International School on Global Security*

The *III Maslin-Fest* was attended by students and lecturers of the XXIII International School on Global Security, members of PIR Center Advisory Board and PIR Center Executive Board, and the alumni of the PIR Center educational projects.



Today I looked at all your young faces, at the work that the PIR Center is doing to educate young people, disseminate knowledge and the right attitude. I congratulate the PIR Center and look forward to continued cooperation with our organization, the National Committee on BRICS, – Georgy **Toloraya**, Head of Asian Strategy Center at the Institute of Economics RAS, Member of PIR Center Advisory Board

[Read more](#)

# MGIMO UNIVERSITY AND PIR CENTER MASTER'S PROGRAM INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

**International Security Master's Program** – Russian-language educational program of the MGIMO University and PIR Center, aimed at the preparation of profile specialists for the purpose of the personnel maintenance of the foreign policy organizations. Key academic discipline due to this Master's Program is the Russian Federation policy in the field of international security. **On April 4, 2024**, Dr. Vladimir **Orlov**, Founding Director of PIR Center, presented the International Security Master's Program during the open doors day at MGIMO University.

[Read more about International Security Master's Program](#)



*Dr. Vladimir Orlov in the open door day at MGIMO University*

**On September 4, 2024**, an organizational meeting for the students of the Master's program in *International Security*, a new educational initiative by MGIMO University and PIR Center, was held. The program aims to educate specialists to staff foreign policy-oriented organizations.

Dr. Andrey **Baykov**, MGIMO Vice-Rector for Science and Research; Dr. Vladimir **Orlov**, Director and Founder of PIR Center and Academic Director of the program; Dr. Dmitry **Evstafiev**, Professor of the Department of Theory of Law and State at the Peoples' Friendship University of Russia (RUDN); Dr. Elena **Chernenko**, Member of PIR Center Executive Board and Special Correspondent of the Kommersant Daily; and Dr. Mikhail **Lysenko**, Deputy Director of the International Law Department at MGIMO University and Member of PIR Center Advisory Board, took part in the organizational meeting.

Dr. Orlov also informed the audience about the PIR Center's recent research accomplishments. In particular, he highlighted the recent presentation of the [Security Index Yearbook](#) and the PIR Center's Report [“Assessing Nuclear Proliferation Threats in the World: A New Nuclear Nine?”](#)

[Read more](#)



*Organizational Meeting of the Students of the International Security Master's Program, September 4, 2024*

# MGIMO UNIVERSITY AND PIR CENTER MASTER'S PROGRAM “INTERNATIONAL SECURITY”

On May 30, 2024, the PIR Center with the MGIMO University [established a grant named after General Vyacheslav Trubnikov as part of the implementation of the International Security Master's Program.](#)

On February 20, 2025, MGIMO University hosted the solemn ceremony announcing the winner of the Vyacheslav I. Trubnikov Grant Competition. The nominees were first-year students of the *International Security* Master's Program, implemented by MGIMO University in partnership with PIR Center.

In 2025, the winner is Kirill **Prokhorov**, who received the majority of votes from the members of the Grant Commission, which includes: Dr. Andrey **Baykov**, Chairman of the Commission, Vice-Rector for Science and Research at MGIMO University, PIR Center Advisory Board Member; Ms. Anastasia **Voytsitskaya**, Deputy Chair of the Commission, Deputy Director of the Department of Work with Students and Alumni at MGIMO University; Mr. Aleksey **Dundich**, Director of the Department of Expertise of Master's Programs at MGIMO University; Dr. Igor **Istomin**, Acting Chair at the Department of Applied International Political Analysis at MGIMO University, PIR Center Advisory Board Member; Dr. Mikhail **Lysenko**, Associate Professor at the International Law Department at MGIMO University, PIR Center Advisory Board Member; Dr. Vladimir **Orlov**, Founding Director of PIR Center, Professor at the

Department of Applied International Political Analysis at MGIMO University, and Academic Director of the *International Security* Master's Program; Dr. Alexander **Fedorov**, Associate Professor at the Department of Information Security at the Bauman Moscow State Technical University, PIR Center Executive Board Member.



The Vyacheslav I. Trubnikov Grant is not just financial support but an advance of trust and high expectations. The winner must embody the principles of a person whose professionalism, honesty, and dedication have become a benchmark for all of us. It is especially valuable that the competition has become annual and is open to students from all over the world; it strengthens the connection between generations and cultures that Vyacheslav Trubnikov so greatly envisioned, – Dr. Andrey **Baykov**, Chairman of the Vyacheslav I. Trubnikov Grant Competition Commission and Vice-Rector for Science and Research at MGIMO University

Read more about Vyacheslav I. Trubnikov Grant Competition on the [website of PIR Center](#)



# NON MULTA, SED MULTUM: VIRTUAL MUSEUM OF PIR CENTER

Virtual museum of PIR Center is a space, which contains unique artifacts – symbols of the PIR Center history. Virtual museum of PIR Center has started its work in honor of PIR Center's anniversary.

In PIR Center virtual museum it is possible to find those artifacts that will allow understanding better how PIR Center was born, how it matured, and how it evolved.

Our museum is divided into five rooms, each of which represents a certain era associated with the period of establishment and development of PIR Center.

The Virtual museum is divided into five rooms: [in the first room](#), you can find those artifacts linked with the PIR Center's path of development as the leading non-governmental organization in the field of international security studies.

[The second room](#) contains editions of PIR Center: materials of the *Dialogue Club International*, photos of the "evolution" of the PIR Center's logotypes (1994 - present time), history of brand calendars of PIR Center, as well as materials of PIR Center for the period of 2004–2024.

[In the third room](#), you can find unique items and gifts, presented to PIR Center by our colleagues, friends and partners. People were, are, and remain the main feature of the PIR Center.

[The fourth room](#) contains unique artefacts, presented by our friends: from ukulele from Hawaii to model of famous "African rhino".

[In the fifth room](#), you can see a guestbook of PIR Center, which contains notes and congratulations of our colleagues, friends, and partners.



"I am not an archaeologist. I deal with burning international security issues. But today, on the 30th anniversary of the PIR Center, I feel like a bit of an archaeologist... and I would like to invite you to take part in the excavations," – Dr. Vladimir Orlov, Founding Director of PIR Center

[Read more about PIR Center Virtual Museum](#)

# NON MULTA, SED MULTUM: VIRTUAL MUSEUM OF PIR CENTER





PIR Center history starts in 1994 when the organization moved to the *Moscow News Office*, placed on the crossroads of Tverskaya str. and Pushkin Square in Moscow.



*Moscow News Building*

In a document of the PIR Center establishment these four names were proudly mentioned: Egor **Yakovlev**, Anatoly **Torkunov**, Egor **Gaidar**, and Vladimir **Orlov**.

It is highly important to mention the PIR abbreviation history. “I exceptionally like lines in poem **Cicero** by Fyodor Tyutchev”, – Dr. Vladimir **Orlov**, Founding Director of PIR Center, postponed.

**Blessed are they who sojourned here  
In this world's fateful hours–  
For they were summoned by the angels  
As guests to a great feast**

*(Editor's note – In Russian – PIR is a translation of an English word “feast”)*



“What did PIR do in its early years, when there were no Outlooks, Sharepoints, PIR–Presses, a website, etc.? We published a journal! After all, it was born in the bosom of journalism. And everyone who knew PIR at that time, remembers, first of all, **Yaderny Kontrol**. Still, as a journalist, it was clearer for me to start with a publishing project. The first such project was the **Yaderny Kontrol** journal, a trial, zero volume, which was published in the fall of 1994. PIR Center began as a scientific and practical circle on nuclear non–proliferation issues, formed around the journal and, in essence, to serve the journal,” – Dr. Vladimir **Orlov**

From the office on Strastnoy PIR Center then moved to MGIMO University. “Moscow News then began to experience hard times, connected with the decline of the newspaper and the desire of its sponsors to get their hands on the lucrative building on Strastnoy Boulevard, without caring about the development of the publication,” – Dr. Vladimir **Orlov** reported with regret.





“Office No. 3039. Department of World Political Processes (*Editor’s note* – MGIMO University). Unfortunately, now there is nothing here that reminds us of PIR Center. But exactly here we moved to set up a new petit editorial office of *Yadeny Kontrol* in 1996, and it was here that the creative publishing process was in full swing day and night. It was some kind of gray office, where there was not even a secluded place to discuss salaries with people who came to us to get a job”, – Dr. Vladimir **Orlov**.



*MGIMO University, 2018. MGIMO Official Website*

Times changed and PIR Center changed with them. Alexey **Zakharov** not only created PIR Center’s first website, but also found the next office.

A typical residential area: concrete, courtyards, ponds, and hypermarkets. Along Miklukho-Maklaya str., the buildings of Moscow universities also stretch gray. Nearby is Troparevsky Park, where a swarm of cars from all over Moscow rushes on weekends. At the intersection with Academician Volgin Street in Moscow is the Mikhail M. Shemyakin and Yuri A. Ovchinnikov Institute of Bioorganic Chemistry of the RAS.

The building, on the one hand, fits organically into the pale mass of the urban landscape, on the other hand, it immediately catches the eye with its unusual layout: it faces Miklouho-Maclay str. at an angle, standing out from the usual chain of facades. And it is not easy for an ordinary passerby to solve the architectural riddle of the structure at first glance.



*Institute of Bioorganic Chemistry. Archi.ru*



I don’t really remember if there was anything remarkable in the office, but in PIR Center people were always remarkable, – Lyudmila **Balandina** pinpointed



“This office was as modern as could be”, – Vadim Kozyulin comments. – It seemed to us then that it was of European level: there was a lot of glass, metal, a greenhouse. Informal meetings, team building in style of PIR Center, also began to be held in a modern way

PIR Center is proud to have been educating a new generation of international security professionals for several years. And, indeed, many famous names have passed through PIR Center. Here, the famous military observer Dmitry **Litovkin** (1972-2022) took his first interviews, which were then translated by Dmitry **Polikanov**: “I took several texts and translated them for my first 300 dollars. I submitted the materials, signed the acts, and went on vacation. I thought that I would take the money upon my return. And that was August 1998. So when I returned at the end of the month, my 300 dollars had fallen in value significantly. When the dollar was already 20 rubles and higher everywhere, I received payment for eight rubles, I reckon. It was my first life lesson – don’t relax.”



*Dmitry **Polikanov** (in the middle), Roland **Timerbaev**, Vladimir **Orlov** in the PIR Center Expert Seminar, 2000. PIR Center Photo Archive*

Then, PIR–Center changed 4 more offices during the whole time:

- [Levenson House on Trekhprudny;](#)
- [PIR Center office on Trekhprudny;](#)
- [PIR Center office on Dobryninsky Lane;](#)
- [PIR Center office in the Diplomatic Academy](#)

“**Collecting history**” according to Mayakovsky's testament can go on for a long time: the *PIR Center Alumni Community* is made up of more than a thousand people in more than thirty countries worldwide! After all, the history of the PIR walls is, first of all, the history of bright and caring people united by love for Russia, Russian diplomacy, creativity, and science.

[Read history of PIR Center here](#)



# PIR ALUMNI COMMUNITY: INSPIRED BY HISTORY, SHAPING THE FUTURE

**PIR Center is about people in the first place – those who have been breathing life into the unique body of an independent non-profit organization specializing in nonproliferation, disarmament and global security for 30 years.**

Over the years of its active research and educational activities in the fields of nonproliferation, disarmament and global security, the PIR Center has formed a whole community of PIR members – *PIR Alumni Community*.

Nowadays, PIR Alumni Community includes more than **1000 PIR Center alumni**, PIR Center current employees, interns and consultants, members of the Executive Board of PIR Center, as well as the Advisory Board of PIR Center.

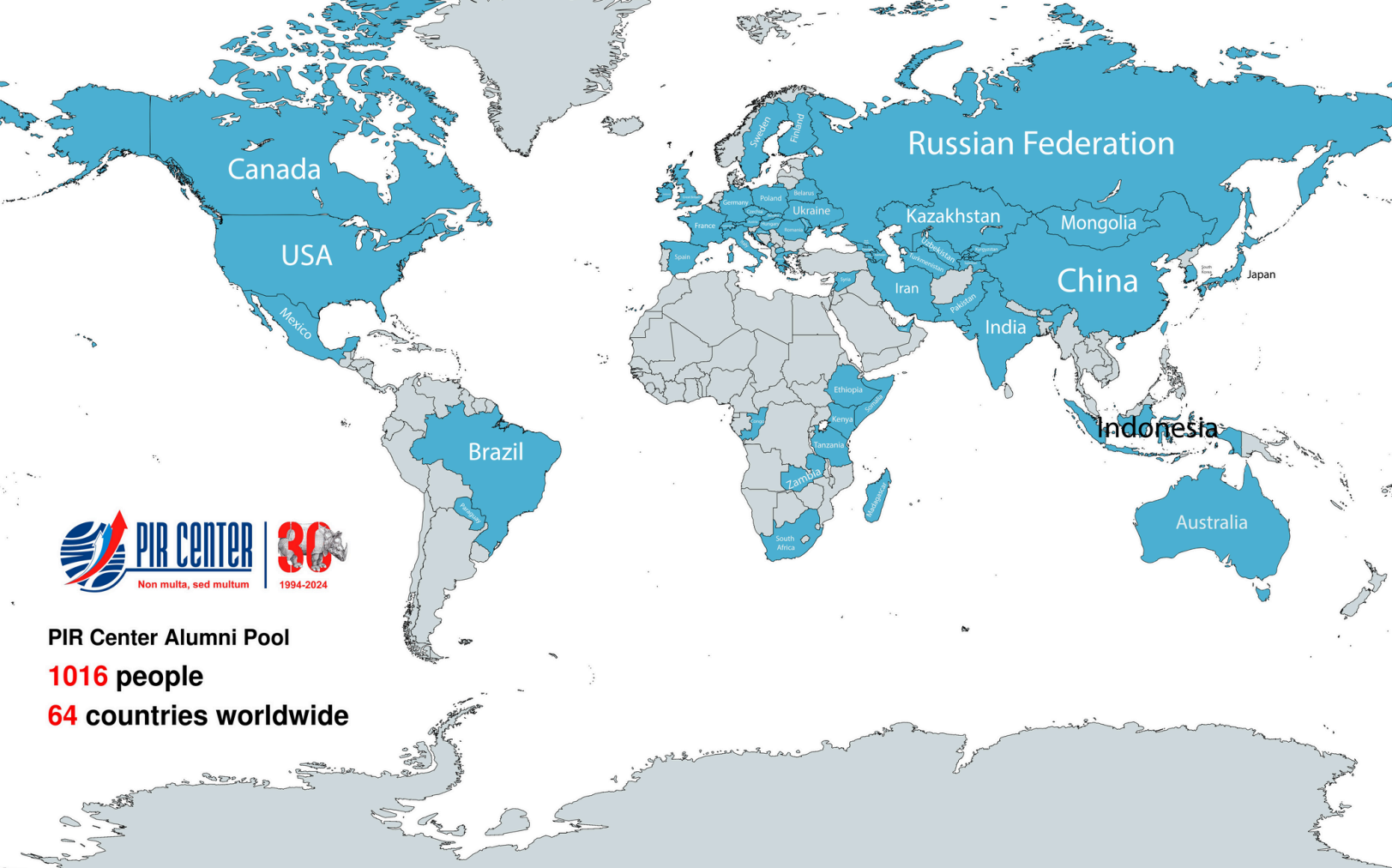


“We rejoice in the bright, unique mix of the PIR Community. We are proud of those who stood at the origins of the PIR Center, and we thank all those who contribute to its development even now.” – Dr. Vladimir Orlov, Founding Director of PIR Center

The PIR Center alumni pool includes more than **1 000 people**, which are graduates of the projects of the PIR Center Educational Program (International School on Global Security, double-degree master’s program “Global Security, Nuclear Policy and WMD Nonproliferation”, internship program, training courses), while the status of a PIR Center alumni is assigned to participants of the PIR Center research projects, former employees and consultants of the PIR Center, former members of the Executive Board of PIR Center and former members of the editorial board of the Security Index.

PIR Center alumni are scattered all around the world. There are specialists from Abkhazia, Azerbaijan, Armenia, Belarus, Brazil, Germany, Greece, Georgia, Iran, Ireland, Spain, Italy, Kazakhstan, Canada, Kyrgyzstan, China, Mexico, Moldova, Mongolia, Republic of Korea, Russia, Romania, Syria, Slovakia, USA, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Ukraine, Finland, France, Montenegro, Czech Republic, South Ossetia, etc.

PIR Center alumni, while interacting with the organization and afterwards, work in international governmental (OSCE, IAEA, CTBTO) and non-governmental organizations, national government bodies (Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Ministries of Defense, etc.), political parties, commercial structures, state corporations, research centers, “think-tanks”, universities and the media.



*Meeting of the PIR Alumni Community members  
in Geneva, 2022*

# PIR ALUMNI COMMUNITY: INSPIRED BY HISTORY, SHAPING THE FUTURE

The highest governing body of PIR Center is its Executive Board, which brings together renowned Russian political scientists, scholars, international affairs experts, journalists, and public figures.

The expertise and recommendations of the Board members regarding global trends in the development of the non-governmental sector in Russia and abroad play a critical role in the organization's strategic development. They also help define promising areas of PIR Center's research activities.

**On November 15, 2024**, Proposals for reforming PIR Center were adopted, and a director was elected at the annual meeting of PIR Center Executive Board.

During the official part of the meeting, Dr. Vladimir **Orlov** presented the main results of PIR Center's activities in 2023-2024 and introduced the organization's development program for 2025-2026. The main outcome of the meeting was the unanimous election of Dr. Vladimir **Orlov** as Director of PIR Center for another five-year term, on the initiative of Lieutenant-General (retired) Evgeny **Buzhinskiy**, Chairman of the PIR Center Executive Board. Dr. Vladimir **Orlov's** proposals for reforming the organization, which he founded in 1994, were adopted unanimously by the Board.

[Read more](#)



*Executive Board of PIR Center, December, 2022*



*PIR Center Executive Board Members, November 15, 2024*





PIR Center is a leading think-tank, which, I am sure, will eventually become Russia's in the global think tank ranking. I hope that now, as a member of the Board, I will take a more active part in the life of PIR Center and will be able to strengthen its contribution to maintaining international security, — Mr. Sergey **Demin**, Regional Director of Rosatom International Network in East Asia

Mr. Sergey **Demin**, Regional Director of Rosatom International Network in East Asia, joined **PIR Center's Executive Board**.

"I am glad to welcome Mr. Sergey **Demin** to PIR Center's Executive Board and congratulate him on joining our well-coordinated team. I have no doubt that his contribution to the common cause will be valuable and constructive", — Dr. Vladimir **Orlov**, PIR Center Founding Director, Member of PIR Center's Executive Board, notes.

We are pleased to note that nowadays PIR Center's Executive Board includes Lieutenant-General (ret.) Evgeny **Buzhinskiy**, Chairman of PIR Center's Executive Board; Dr. Elena **Chernenko**, Special Correspondent of the *Kommersant Daily*; Mr. Sergey **Demin**, Regional Director of Rosatom International Network in East Asia; Dr. Alexander **Fedorov**, Associate Professor at the Department of Information Security of the Faculty of Computer Science, Artificial Intelligence and Control Systems of the Bauman Moscow State Technical University; Dr. Vadim **Kozyulin**, Head of the Center for Global Studies & International Organizations of the Institute for Contemporary International Studies of the Diplomatic Academy of the Russian Foreign Ministry,

PIR Center Consultant; Lieutenant-General (ret.) Vasily **Lata**, Chief Research Fellow at the Military Academy of the Strategic Missile Forces; Dr. Vladimir **Orlov**, PIR Center Founding Director; Ms. Lubov **Soldatkina**, Head of the Department for Patriotic Work and Interaction with Public Organizations of the State Foundation Defenders of the Fatherland, Head of the ANO Art-Formula, Member of the Committee of the Russian State Council on Culture; Dr. Ekaterina **Stepanova**, Head of the Group on Peace and Conflict Studies at the Primakov National Research Institute of World Economy and International Relations of the Russian Academy of Sciences (IMEMO RAS); Dr. Dmitry **Trenin**, Research Professor at the Faculty of World Economy and International Affairs at the National Research University – Higher School of Economics (HSE University), Director of Science at the Institute of Military Economics and Strategy at HSE University, Leading Researcher at the Center for International Security at IMEMO RAS.

The Advisory Board of PIR Center, established in 1995, today plays a crucial role in the organization's project activities. It brings together 80 individual experts, including representatives of think-tanks and research centers, government departments and business structures, as well as public figures and journalists from Russia and foreign countries. As a collective member, the Advisory Board made up of 10 research institutes working in the field of global security. The geographical composition of the Advisory Board of PIR Center currently covers such countries as Argentina, Brazil, Germany, Egypt, India, Iran, Kazakhstan, China, Kyrgyzstan, Libya, Norway, Russia, the USA, Turkey, Switzerland, Sri Lanka, and South Africa.

Members of the PIR Center Advisory Board participate in informal expert seminars of PIR Center – as speakers, invited experts and commentators, conduct classes within the framework of the International School of the PIR Center on Global Security, provide advisory services support in the preparation of research occasional papers under the auspices of PIR Center, act as their reviewers. They have excellent expertise on a variety of issues of international relations and global security. They are bright personalities with fascinating personal and professional life experiences.

In 2024, the PIR Center Advisory Board was expanded. Among the new members are leading Russian practitioners working in diplomacy, business, academia, research, and analytics, who have been collaborating with PIR Center on a wide range of issues for several years.

Some of them once even held full-time positions in PIR Center. In particular, Mr. Andrey Baklitskiy, a Senior Researcher in the WMD Program at UNIDIR, joined the PIR Center Advisory Board in 2024. Previously, he held various positions in PIR Center, such as a Program Director. Similarly, among the PIR Community members, Ms. Yulia Tseshkovskaya, previously an Assistant to the PIR Center Founding Director, Project Coordinator, and PIR Center Consultant (2017-2020), joined the organization's Advisory Board this summer.

Renewed PIR Center Advisory Board also traditionally includes representatives of the Russian diplomatic corps: Mr. Andrey Belousov, Deputy Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the UN and other international organizations in Geneva; Mr. Igor Vishnevetskiy, Second Class Envoy Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary (retired), an independent expert; Mr. Vladimir Ladanov, Head of the South Pacific States Section at the Third Asia Department of the Russian Foreign Ministry; Dr. Elena Suponina, PhD in Philosophy and Religion and a political analyst, is a well-known expert on the Middle East and Asia and a wide range of international relations and global security issues. For 15 years, she was a member of the Kremlin's analytic media group. Now, she provides analytics for various Russian and foreign outlets and media. Remarkably, all the participants highlighted her brilliant lectures at the Education & Training Program conducted by PIR Center in 2023.



Andrey **Baklitskiy**



Andrey **Belousov**



Vladimir **Ladanov**



Elena **Suponina**



Yulia **Tseshkovskaya**



Igor **Vishnevetskiy**



*(From left to right): Dmitry Polikanov, Elena Chernenko, Albert Zulkharneev, Evgheny Buzhinsky, Vladimir Orlov, Dmitry Evstafiev, Evgheny Maslin, Vasily Lata, Vladimir Dvorkin, Vyacheslav Zaitsev at a meeting of the PIR Center Expert Council, April 14, 2015. PIR Center Photo Archive*



*(From left to right) Sergei Semenov, Yulia Tseshkovskaya, Yulia Sych at the meeting of the Trialogue Club International, April 6, 2019. PIR Center Photo Archive*



## IN THE SPOTLIGHT: PIR PRESS REPORTS

On **February 1, 2024**, in Abu Dhabi, UAE, Dr. Vladimir **Orlov**, PIR Center Founding Director, professor at MGIMO University, and Ms. Elena **Karnaukhova**, PIR Center Deputy Director– Education & Training Program Director, met with members of **TRENDS Research & Advisory**, the research organization in the UAE.

[Read more](#)



*Dr. Vladimir Orlov, the PIR Center Founding Director, and Ms. Elena Karnaukhova PIR Center Deputy Director in Abu Dhabi, UAE, met with members of TRENDS Research & Advisory, February 1, 2024*



# IN THE SPOTLIGHT: PIR PRESS REPORTS

On February 2, 2024, the meeting between Dr. Vladimir Orlov, PIR Center Founding Director, Professor at MGIMO University, and H.E. Timur Zabiroy, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Russian Federation to the UAE, took place in Abu Dhabi.

During the meeting, Dr. Vladimir Orlov presented the PIR Center and MGIMO University report On Both Sides of the Persian Gulf: The Development of High-Tech Business in the Region and Russia's Interests, prepared within the framework of the joint project *Global Security, Strategic Stability, and Arms Control* under the auspices of the *Priority-2030 Strategic Academic Leadership Program*. The meeting also addressed issues related to information and analytical support of relations between Russia and the Gulf states, conducting educational and training events devoted to the Persian Gulf region and the UAE, in particular.



*Dr. Vladimir Orlov, the PIR Center Founding Director, and H.E. Timur Zabiroy, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Russia to the UAE. UAE, February 2, 2024*

On March 28, 2024, seminar, devoted to the theme “International Terrorism and the Nuclear Terrorism Threat”, was proceeded in the framework of the special course of Dr. Vladimir Orlov, the PIR Center Founding Director, “Relevant Issues of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation”. During the seminar participants, which were students of the 1st-year Master’s Program “Diplomatic service” at the MGIMO University, analyzed activity of the international terrorist groups, their purposes and opportunities, as well as paid an attention to the approaches of countering terrorist acts and actions in the case of its consequences.

On May 24, 2024, Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergey Ryabkov met with students and PIR Center’s staff. First-year students of the MGIMO Diplomatic Service Master’s program, which are taking a special course, titled *The Current Nuclear Nonproliferation Issues*, taught by Dr. Vladimir Orlov, Founding Director of PIR Center, became the meeting participants. The meeting was also attended by Dr. Igor Istomin, Head of the Department of Applied Analysis of International Problems, MGIMO University, Member of PIR Center Advisory Board; Konstantin Vorontsov, Deputy Director of the Department for Nonproliferation and Arms Control of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation; Elena Karnaukhova, PIR Center Deputy Director–Education & Training Program Director; and Sviatoslav Arov, PIR Center Junior Research Fellow.



*Students of the MGIMO Diplomatic Service Master's Program and PIR Center's Staff in the meeting with H.E. Sergey Ryabkov, Russian Deputy Foreign Minister, May 24, 2024*

On June 27, 2024, Zvenigorod hosted VIII International Timerbaev Debates on "Who does this world need – a statesman or an individualist? On the 225th anniversary of the birth of Alexander Pushkin".

[Read more](#)

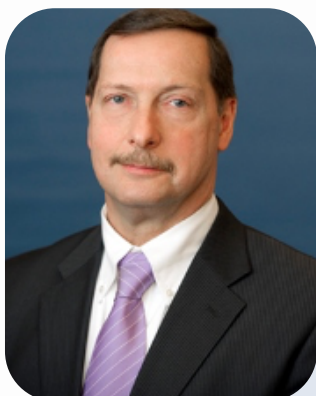
On November 15, 2024, [PIR Center and the Ural Federal University \(UrFU\) held a joint online-discussion "The Middle East and digital technologies: development vs threats"](#). Event was proceeded within the framework of the 2nd International Scientific Conference "Paths and countries: civilizations of the East in the historical dynamics".

PIR Center's staff, oriental studies at the UrFU and the leading Russian universities, and representatives of academic community, and corporative sector were present at the online meeting. Dr. Vadim **Kozyulin**, PhD in political science, consultant at PIR Center; and Dr. Leonid **Tsukanov**, PhD in Political Science, Consultant at PIR Center; and Mr. Oleg **Shakirov**, author of the telegram channel "Cyberwar", member of Alumni Community of PIR Center, took part in the online meeting as speakers.

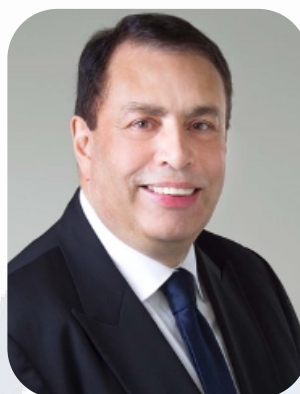
In the "blitz" mode, the participants exchanged opinions on the phenomena of cyberterrorism and hacktivism, and also assessed the prospects for wider use of ICT technologies for military purposes, especially in the context of defrosting a number of long-standing conflicts in the Middle East. The moderator of the discussion, Leonid **Tsukanov**, thanked the participants and emphasized the prospects for further interaction between the expert groups of the two organizations.

"The digital world development is continuing by a rapid pace – and the Middle East is not an exclusion there. Development of links in cyberspace not only opens opportunities in the region but poses threats. Our purpose – figure out what outweighs today", – Dr. Leonid **Tsukanov**, Consultant at PIR Center, stressed.





On May 7, 2024, we [conducted](#) an interview with Dr. Alexey **Arbatov**, Head of the Center for International Security at IMEMO RAS, member of PIR Center's Advisory Board. During the conversation, we discussed the concept and main principles of strategic stability; the difference between the launch under attack and the launch on warning concept; and the future of the Russian-American dialogue on arms control.



On August 2, 2024, the Second Session of the Preparatory Committee (PrepCom) for the Eleventh Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) Review Conference concluded in Geneva.

Accordingly, PIR Center [interviewed](#) Dr. Tariq **Rauf**, Director of SIPRI's Disarmament, Arms Control and Non-proliferation Program, Board Member of Atomic Reporters, and Member of the PIR Center Advisory Board. During the conversation, we discussed the workflow during the 2024 PrepCom; Russia-NATO debates over the New START agreement and the ongoing conflict in Ukraine, focusing on ZNPP.



On June 6, 2024, PIR Center [interviewed](#) Dr Kirill **Barsky**, Head of the Department of Diplomacy at MGIMO University, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary. During the conversation, we discussed the future

of the "Greater Eurasian Partnership," the ambivalence of the contemporary global security architecture, and the modern security threats and interstate political tensions hindering deeper cooperation.

In July, we [deliberated](#) with Dr. Dmitry **Polikanov**, Deputy Head of Rossotrudnichestvo. During the conversation, we discussed the concept of Russian soft power, whether it is an effective instrument in international relations and various aspects of the definition of soft power.



On October 14, 2024, Dr. Vladimir **Orlov**, Founding Director of PIR Center, [gave an interview](#) to *Lidovky* (Czechia) discussing the changes in Russia's nuclear doctrine, state's nuclear policy, and relations with the West amidst the current geopolitical crisis.



During the interview Dr. Vladimir **Orlov** discussed a few relevant issues of the strategic stability agenda: lowering the threshold for using nuclear weapons, representing factor of fear of nuclear war in position of Russian society.

[Read all PIR Center Exclusive Interviews](#)

# SECURITY INDEX: IN THE FOCUS



Shakhboz Juraev

THE POTENTIAL OF THE  
SEMICONDUCTOR INDUSTRY  
IN RUSSIA IN THE CONTEXT OF  
GREAT POWER COMPETITION



In December, 2023, the Security Index Occasional Paper Series **came out** with the new report “The Potential of the Semiconductor Industry in Russia in the Context of Great Power Competition” by Shakhboz **Juraev**.

This research analyses the potential of the Russian semiconductor industry to assess the technological and technical capacity of an actor in international relations. Methods of SWOT analysis and questionnaires among experts are used to get clearer estimations about the industrial environment of semiconductors in Russia.

On April 26, 2024, the Security Index Occasional Paper Series **came out** with the new report “Dealing with the Royal Australian Navy’s SSN Capability: Risk Reduction Options” by Mr. Vladimir **Ladanov**.

This research paper examines the implications of the emergence of the Royal Australian Navy’s (RAN’s) nuclear-powered submarine (SSN) capability for Russia’s security, namely the safety of its submarine-based strategic nuclear deterrent operated by the Pacific Fleet from its base in Vilyuchinsk on the Kamchatka Peninsula.



Vladimir Ladanov

DEALING WITH THE ROYAL  
AUSTRALIAN NAVY'S SSN CAPABILITY:  
RISK REDUCTION OPTIONS



Leonid Tsukanov

ON BOTH SIDES OF THE PERSIAN GULF:  
THE GROWTH OF THE REGION'S HIGH-TECH  
INDUSTRY AND RUSSIA'S INTERESTS



On December 4, 2024, we **published** the Security Index Occasional Paper Series with the new report “On Both Sides of the Persian Gulf: The Growth of the Region’s High-Tech Industry and Russia’s Interests” by Dr. Leonid **Tsukanov**,

PIR Center consultant. This occasional paper takes a look at the potential of the Persian Gulf states in the field of high technology and the prospects for promoting Russia’s interests in this area. The research focused on studying several categories within the high-tech group, to which Moscow pays increased attention (cybersecurity and emerging technologies, energy, space research, biotechnology).

On December 16, 2024, the Security Index Occasional Paper Series **came out** with the new report “Technological Renaissance in Sub-Saharan Africa: Challenges and Opportunities for Russia” by Dr. Leonid **Tsukanov**.

This occasional paper takes a look at the potential of Sub-Saharan African (SSA) states in the field of high technologies and the prospects for promoting Russia’s interests in this area.



Leonid Tsukanov

TECHNOLOGICAL RENAISSANCE IN  
SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA: CHALLENGES  
AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR RUSSIA

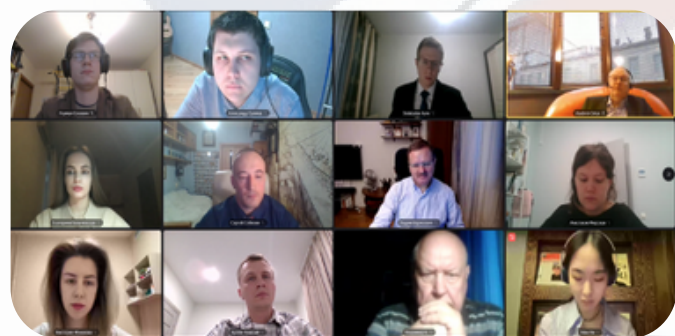




The **Midweek Brainstorming series** have a long history and have established itself as a platform for expert discussion of acute and fundamental issues of global security. 1-2 times a month, experts and analysts, government officials and businessmen, students and young scholars in international studies, as well as journalists “brainstorm” on various topics, engage in polemics and discussions, and present their vision of a particular issue from the global security agenda.

Thus, **on November 15, 2024, [an expert seminar of the PIR Center was held \(conducted in Russian\)](#)**, where the report “From the Gulf to Sub-Saharan Africa: Development of Digital Technologies and Russia’s Interests” was discussed. The event discussed the prospects for digitalization, challenges in the field of cybersecurity, and Russia’s role in the development of technologies in these regions.

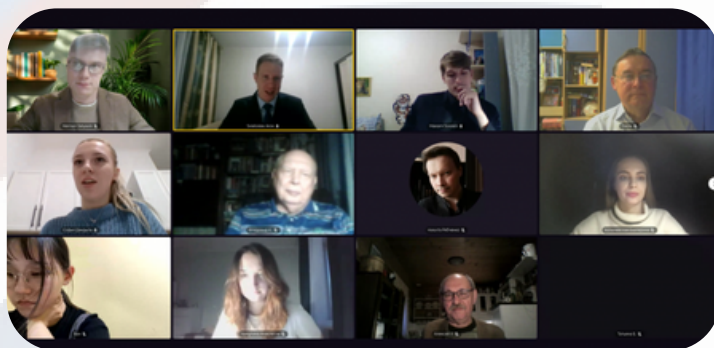
The opening report was given by PhD in Political Science Dr. Leonid **Tsukanov**, consultant at the PIR Center.



*PIR Center Expert Seminar “From the Gulf to Sub-Saharan Africa: Development of Digital Technologies and Russia’s Interests”, November 15, 2024*

**On November 22, 2024, [PIR Center conducted an expert seminar to discuss the report titled “Prospects for Cooperation Between Russia and African and the Persian Gulf States in the Peaceful Use of Nuclear Energy”](#)**. Sviatoslav **Arov**, Research Fellow at PIR Center, presented the results of a comprehensive study, emphasizing the growing interest of African nations in developing nuclear energy due to population growth and the urgent need for electrification, particularly in regions with limited access to electricity. He highlighted financial and political barriers that hinder the implementation of large-scale projects. Special attention was given to the potential construction of small modular reactors and floating nuclear power plants in African countries. At the end of the seminar, the participants agreed that the success of nuclear projects in Africa.

**[Read more about PIR Center Midweek Brainstorming Series](#)**



*Expert Seminar of PIR Center “Prospects for Cooperation Between Russia and African and the Persian Gulf States in the Peaceful Use of Nuclear Energy”, November 22, 2024*

# STUDYING BRICS EXPANSION & OPPORTUNITIES

On May 22, 2024, PIR Center [published the interview](#) with H.E. **Sergey Ryabkov**, Deputy Foreign Minister of the Russian Federation. During the conversation, we discussed the increasing role of BRICS in the world, the reasons for that, the Russian chairship in BRICS in 2024, and Russian policy aims and priorities within the Association this year. This interview was prepared by PIR Center in partnership with MGIMO University of the Russian Foreign Ministry for the *Security Index Yearbook*

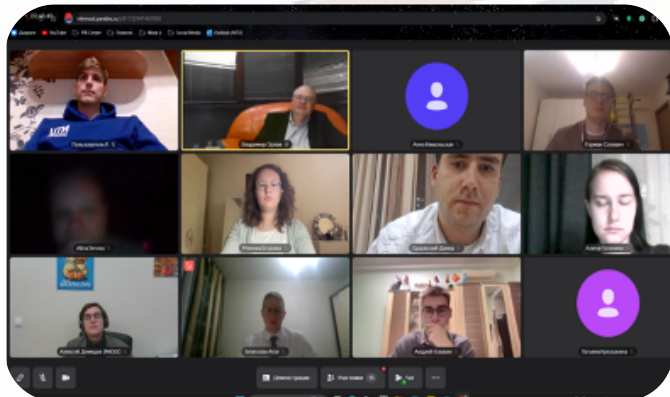


Sviatoslav Arov  
International Security Issues in  
BRICS Agenda  
Overview and Policy Recommendations

Report  
Second Edition

On July 22, 2024, PIR Center [published](#) a report “International Security Issues in BRICS Agenda. Overview and Policy Recommendations”. This research paper is devoted to international security issues in the BRICS agenda. During its preparation, the key documents adopted by BRICS were studied.

On October 23, 2024, on the eve of the BRICS summit in Kazan, [an informal expert seminar was held at PIR Center the discussion of the report \(in Russian\) “International security issues in BRICS activities. General overview and recommendations for the near future.”](#)



On October 25, 2024, PIR Center [interviewed](#) Dr. Dmitry **Evstafiev**, Professor of the Department of Theory of Law and State at Peoples' Friendship University of Russia, Member of the *Security Index Yearbook* Editor Board. During the discussion we deliberated the results of the BRICS Summit in Kazan, influence of BRICS expanding on forming the new world order, domestic dynamic of organization in the conditions of diversity of its states-members, the Middle East conflict and the BRICS role in its mediation.

In October, 2024, PIR Center [interviewed](#) Mr. Gleb **Efremov**, the Director General at the International Uranium Enrichment Center. During the discussion, were issued the following



topics: the initiative to create nuclear energy platforms of the BRICS countries and the role of BRICS in condemning terrorist attacks on energy infrastructure and the possibility of uniting to promote the renewal of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action on the Iranian Nuclear Deal. Also, during the interview, the issue of the prospects for cooperation between member-states of the association in the field of peaceful uses of nuclear energy was raised.



# BRIDGES OF COOPERATION: RUSSIAN-AFRICAN FORUM ON SECURITY AND DEVELOPMENT



**From October 1 to 6, 2024**, Moscow hosted the first Russian-African Forum of Young International Relations Professionals on Security and Development, organized by PIR Center in partnership with Rossotrudnichestvo and MGIMO University.

The event brought together diplomats, military personnel, politicians, and representatives from science, education, technology, and media from various African countries, including the Republic of Congo, Somalia, Tanzania, Ethiopia, South Africa, and others. Among the participants were also students of the International Security master's program, jointly implemented by PIR Center and MGIMO. The Forum provided a unique opportunity for attendees to attend lectures from leading Russian experts and engage in discussions.

"We established this Forum to address reality – to have solutions-oriented discussions, not just to list problems," – Dr. Vladimir **Orlov**, Founding Director of PIR Center, noted.

The Forum provided a unique opportunity for attendees to attend lectures from leading Russian experts and engage in discussions, sharing their diverse perspectives on critical security issues that impact Africa and the world.

The official opening ceremony occurred at MGIMO, where Dr. Andrey **Baykov**, MGIMO Vice-Rector for Science and Research, expressed hope that the Forum would become a platform for developing collaborative approaches to international security challenges.

# BRIDGES OF COOPERATION: RUSSIAN-AFRICAN FORUM ON SECURITY AND DEVELOPMENT

One of the key highlights of the Forum was the [seminar](#) led by Mikhail **Margelov**, Head of the UNESCO Department at the Institute of Asian and African Studies, Moscow State University, and PIR Center Advisory Board member. This session centered on conflict resolution, using the peace process and the end of the civil war in Sudan as a case study.

Mikhail **Margelov** mentioned that significant issues in Africa, such as resource shortages, terrorism, and radicalization, require comprehensive solutions. He pointed out successful examples of peaceful negotiations, such as those in South Sudan, where diplomacy proved more effective than military interventions.

He also discussed the prospects for expanding economic cooperation between Russia and Africa, particularly in resource-based projects, highlighting opportunities to strengthen bilateral ties.



*Mikhail Margelov in “Russian-African Forum of Young International Relations Professionals on Security and Development”*

At the Forum, participants also attended the [lecture](#) by Dmitry **Polikanov**, Deputy Head of the Federal Agency for CIS Affairs, Compatriots Living Abroad, and International Humanitarian Cooperation (Rossotrudnichestvo).

He highlighted the importance of strengthening partnerships between Russia and African nations, particularly regarding security issues. Additionally, Dmitry **Polikanov** noted the growing interest from African countries in Russian IT applications and healthcare technologies.



*Dmitry Polikanov in “Russian-African Forum of Young International Relations Professionals on Security and Development”*

One of the Forum’s pivotal sessions involved African participants sharing their views on key security threats. They analyzed the continent’s most pressing issues and proposed potential solutions, fostering deeper intercultural dialogue, and strengthening cooperation between Africa and Russia.



# BRIDGES OF COOPERATION: RUSSIAN-AFRICAN FORUM ON SECURITY AND DEVELOPMENT

Furthermore, Dr. Sergey **Kostelyanets**, Head of the Center for Sociological and Political Research at the Institute of Africa, Russian Academy of Sciences, addressed the significant topic of neocolonialism and its impact on Africa's political and economic development. He particularly underscored that the continent's dependence on external investments remains a major obstacle to sustainable growth, positioning Africa as a strategic source of raw materials for global economies.

One of the Forum's pivotal sessions involved African participants sharing their views on key security threats. They analyzed the continent's most pressing issues and proposed potential solutions, fostering deeper intercultural dialogue, and strengthening cooperation between Africa and Russia. The Forum culminated in a case management game titled "Operational State Administration: How to Get the Country Out of Crisis?" where participants developed strategies for stabilizing crisis situations while practicing negotiation skills and critical thinking. The most engaged participants received printed editions of the *Security Index* Yearbook and the newly released paperwork "PIR Center: Selected Works. 1994–2024 Anthology". All participants were awarded certificates recognizing their contributions to the Forum discussions.

Throughout all days of the Forum, PIR Center and colleagues from Rossotrudnichestvo actively interviewed participants who shared their impressions of the event and their professional views on the issues raised at the Forum.

[Read more](#)



"On behalf of the experts from Africa who participated in the Forum, I extend my heartfelt gratitude to PIR Center, MGIMO University, and Rossotrudnichestvo for executing the New Generation program and inviting us to this important convention. Your eagerness to contribute to Russia-Africa cooperation and understanding the importance of international ties is commendable, and we are grateful for the opportunity to engage in meaningful discussions. Thank you for your hospitality and dedication to promoting collaboration between Africa and Russia,"  
– Abdi **Abubakar**, Chairman, Kesnyi Youth Empowerment Initiative (KYEI) (Somalia)



"I want to thank PIR Center team for your generous hospitality and my colleagues from Africa for exceptional time and meaningful interaction in Moscow. I am confident that we learnt a lot from each other. Thank you once again for everything", – Alemseged **Teshome Eshetu**, System Software Developer, Information Network Security Administration (INSA) (Ethiopia)

# IV EVSTAFIEV AWARD COMPETITION FOR THE BEST RESEARCH PAPER

From **November 15, 2023** to **October 15, 2024**, applications were accepted for the IV Evstafiev Award Competition – an annual award for young Russian and foreign international relations professionals. The competition is held among young Russian and foreign researchers whose works were published in the PIR Center's *Security Index* and *Security Index Occasional Paper Series*, as well as in the Reports Series and Analyses (as part of the *Yaderny Kontrol* E-Bulletin).

This year, five research papers were shortlisted for participation in the competition (all – in Russian):

- **Sviatoslav A. Arov**,  
[Гражданские ядерные объекты во время вооруженных конфликтов: вопросы безопасности и предотвращения террористических актов;](#)
- **Sviatoslav A. Arov**,  
[Вопросы международной безопасности в деятельности БРИКС: Общий обзор и рекомендации на ближайшую перспективу;](#)
- **Roman R. Kalinin**,  
[Ключевые игроки на мировом рынке атомных подводных лодок;](#)
- **Roman R. Kalinin, Arslan R. Khatmulin**,  
[Монголия как новый центр борьбы за ресурсы: Перспективы российско-монгольского сотрудничества в области атомной энергетики, освоения и добычи полезных ископаемых;](#)

– **Svetlana G. Mishina**,  
[Ядерная стратегия Великобритании в эпоху перемен.](#)



*Sviatoslav A. Arov*



*Roman R. Kalinin*



*Arslan R. Khatmulin*



*Svetlana G. Mishina*

On **November 15, 2024**, **Sviatoslav Arov**, PIR Center Research Fellow – Executive Assistant to the Director, research paper “Гражданские ядерные объекты во время вооруженных конфликтов: вопросы безопасности и предотвращения террористических актов” (Eng.: Sviatoslav Arov. “Civilian Nuclear Facilities during Armed Conflicts: Security Issues and Prevention of Terrorist Acts”), and **Roman Kalinin**, PIR Center Research Fellow, research paper “Ключевые игроки на мировом рынке атомных подводных лодок” (Eng.: Roman Kalinin. “Key Players in the Global Nuclear Submarine Market”), became the winners of the IV Evstafiev Award (2024).



## IV EVSTAFIEV AWARD COMPETITION FOR THE BEST RESEARCH PAPER

It is highly important to highlight that this year's competition was exceptionally competitive, with Commission members unanimously highlighting the participants' thorough preparation, the depth of their research, and the high quality of their conclusions.

[Read more](#)



*Winners of the IV Evstafiev Award Competition  
Sviatoslav Arov and Roman Kalinin with the PIR Center  
Executive Board Members at the regular annual meeting,  
November 15, 2024*



"I was in a tough position to choose the best research paper from the submitted works because each one was unique. However, I believe we succeeded in selecting the best thanks to the joint efforts of the Commission on the Legacy of Lieutenant General Gennady M. Evstafiev," — Colonel-General (retired) Viktor **Esin**, Leading Researcher at the Institute for U.S. and Canadian Studies of the Russian Academy of Sciences and member of the PIR Center Advisory Board.



"It was a difficult task for the Evstafiev Award jury this year. We wanted to highlight all the submitted research papers. They addressed extremely relevant and important topics and stood out for the depth of their research and the breadth of their sources. Some read like mini-dissertations, while others have already served as the basis for media publications. I congratulate the winners and all participants — you all deserve recognition," — Dr. Elena **Chernenko**, member of PIR Center Executive Board and Special Correspondent of the *Kommersant Daily*

# OPEN COLLAR: ALWAYS OPEN FOR DISCUSSION

*Open Collar* project is designed to introduce readers to colleagues, friends and experts, who have made a significant contribution to the establishment and development of the PIR Center at its various stages. All of them represent a single community of interesting people, the uniqueness and scale of whose personalities often remain behind the scenes.

During the interview, our guests share stories about their hobbies and hobbies, their attitude to life, the principles and values they adhere to, and the interesting moments of their professional activities.



**On April 22, 2024**, PIR Center interviewed Ambassador Sergio **Duarte** (1934-2024), the President of the Pugwash Conferences on Science and World Affairs and a member of the PIR Center Advisory Board since 2022.

In this interview, Ambassador Duarte reflected on the past and present of Brazil, shared insights from his diplomatic career, and discussed his love for poetry, including details of his latest book.

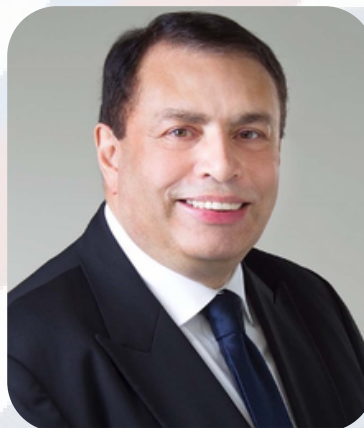
(**Amb. Duarte** passed away in July 2024)



**On June 4, 2024**, [we took an interview](#) with Ambassador Venkatesh **Varma**, distinguished fellow at the Vivekananda International Foundation, visiting faculty at the Kautilya School of Public Policy, Ambassador

Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of India to the Russian Federation (2018-2021), member of PIR Center's Advisory Board.

In this interview, Ambassador Varma told us about his dream to join the Indian Foreign Service and the stages of his professional life that he overcame to achieve it. We talked about the peculiarities of a diplomat's work, about building a balance between work and life, personal values and priorities.



**In October, 2024**, [we deliberated](#) with Dr. Tariq **Rauf**, Director of SIPRI's Disarmament, Arms Control and Non-proliferation Program, Board Member of Atomic Reporters, and Member of the PIR Center Advisory Board.

This interview offers a comprehensive look into Dr. Rauf's early life in Pakistan, his university years, and his professional journey. It begins by reflecting on his childhood in a liberal and prosperous Rawalpindi and continues with his move to the United Kingdom to pursue a master's degree.

[Read more about project](#)



# PIR LIBRARY SERIES: NEW BOOKS FOR NEW GENERATION

On the 30th anniversary of the entry into force of **START-I**, PIR Center published Yuri **Nazarkin's** memoirs, [“On the START. On Africa. On Life: Memoirs of a Diplomat” \(in Russian\).](#)

The book is published in collaboration with the “Ves Mir” publishing house and with the support of the Presidential Grant Foundation as part of the PIR Center project *“Global Security: A View from Russia for the Youth Around the World.”*



The publication of the new book within the “PIR Library” series is timed to coincide with the 30th anniversary of the entry into force of the Strategic Offensive Arms Reduction Treaty, or **START-I**, which was achieved with the participation of Ambassador Nazarkin as head of the Soviet delegation at the respective Soviet-American negotiations. It was signed on **July 31, 1991**, and entered into force on **December 5, 1994**, enduring such significant turmoil as the Soviet Union collapse and the resolution of the issue of the Soviet nuclear legacy.

Amb. Yuri **Nazarkin** is a former Russian diplomat and statesman: Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the USSR and the Russian Federation, representative of the USSR at the Conference on Disarmament (1987–1989), head of the Soviet delegation to negotiations with the United States on nuclear and space weapons (1989-1991), Deputy Secretary of the Security Council of the Russian Federation (1992–1995).

Experts often describe **START-I** as both “unique” and “revolutionary,” as it laid the foundation for strengthening mutual trust between Russia and the United States over the years.

Dr. Vladimir **Orlov**, Founding Director of PIR Center, has recently met with Ambassador Yuri **Nazarkin**, a member of the PIR Center Advisory Board, and received from him a signed copy of his memoirs.



*Alexandra Zubenko, Consultant at PIR Center, with Yuri Nazarkin in Geneva. August 13, 2024*

# TRIALOGUE CLUB GOES ON WITH DISCUSSIONS, DESPITE CHALLENGING TIME

Created in 1993, the *Triialogue* Club International is a meeting place for discussions and a source of up-to-date analytics on the key issues of the global agenda, international security and the Russian foreign policy for diplomats, experts, businessmen and journalists. The objective of the Club is to improve international mutual understanding through ensuring the participation of the Club members in the regular Club meetings and other events of the Club, and through providing them with exclusive information materials and consultations from the experts of the Club and its partner organizations.

On April 3, 2024, the 121st Session of the *Triialogue* Club International on the topic “Arctic – the Territory of Cooperation or Confrontation?” took place in Moscow. The session was attended by permanent members of the *Triialogue* Club International. Among them are representatives of the embassies of Finland, Germany, Japan, Mozambique, New Zealand, Singapore, Sweden, Switzerland, the USA to Russia, the International Committee of the Red Cross Delegation in Moscow, etc., as well as special guests from among specialized Russian specialists.

[Read more](#)



*121st Session of the Triialogue Club International,  
April 3, 2024*

On May 15, 2024, the 122nd Session of the *Triialogue* Club International on the topic “Assessing Strategic Stability and Arms Control in the New International Environment” took place in Moscow.

The Session was held in a panel discussion format. The keynote speakers were Gen. Evgeny **Buzhinskiy**, Co-Chair of the *Triialogue* Club International, Chairman of PIR Center’s Executive Board; Dr. Andrey **Malov**, Member of PIR Center’s Advisory Board; Dr. Vladimir Orlov, Founding President of the *Triialogue* Club International, Founding Director of PIR Center, Professor at MGIMO University; and H.E. Oleg **Stepanov**, Member of PIR Center’s Advisory Board, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Russian Federation to Canada, Director of Foreign Policy Planning Department in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation (2016-2021).

[Read more](#)



# TRIALOGUE CLUB GOES ON WITH DISCUSSIONS, DESPITE CHALLENGING TIME



*122nd Session of the Trialogue Club International,  
May 15, 2024*



*124th Session of the Trialogue Club International,  
December, 2024*

On June 27, 2024, the first global launch of *Security Index Yearbook* was held in Zvenigorod as part of the 123rd meeting of the *Trialogue Club International* (for more details, see “*Security Index Yearbook: New Level of Analysis*”).

In December, 2024, the 124th Session of the *Trialogue Club International* took place in Moscow.

The keynote speaker was Gen. Evgeny **Buzhinskiy**, Co-Chair of the *Trialogue Club International* and Chairman of PIR Center’s Executive Board. During his speech, he provided a summary of the findings and lessons learned from 2024 and addressed most recent developments in international security, including the Ukraine crisis.



“My strong belief is that dialogue is better than non-dialogue. I hope that after the end of the great crisis, something will improve our bilateral relations,” — Gen. Evgeny **Buzhinskiy**, Co-Chair of the *Trialogue Club International* and Chairman of PIR Center’s Executive Board, stressed

[Read more](#) about *Trialogue Club International*

*PIRogue*

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