

Information Bulletin



PIRogue





Expert seminar on the topic “Outcomes of the Preparatory Committee meeting for the NPT-2026 Review Conference and the 30th Anniversary of the Indefinite Extension of the NPT”, May 15, 2025

On the cover:

Top left. **Dr. Vladimir Orlov**, Founding Director of PIR Center, with a commemorative award following the ceremony of the first national prize for community leaders and public associations “Everything for Russia”, November 7, 2025.

To right. Meeting at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation with Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs **H.E. Sergey Ryabkov**, October 24, 2025.

Center left. The 9th Timerbaev Debates on the topic “Is the Threat of Nuclear Weapons Use in the Next Decade Real?”, September 24, 2025.

Center right. **Dr. Vladimir Orlov**, Founding Director of PIR Center, and **Dr. Anatoly Antonov**, MGIMO University Professor, Russian Ambassador to the United States (2017-2024), at the Open Day of MA Program *International Security*, April 8, 2025.

Bottom left. **Mr. Vladimir Verkhovtsev**, Colonel General (retired), Director General of Rosatom Nedra, with 1st year students of the International Security Master’s Program at an expert seminar on the role of nuclear weapons in the security of the Russian Federation, March 20, 2025.

Bottom right. Annual PIR Center Executive Board meeting, October 13, 2025.



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Expert Seminar on the topic “Russia and Mongolia: Eternal Neighbors and New Partners”, October 2, 2025



31 Years at the Forefront: PIR Center Among Russia's Top 20 Communities

Dear Readers!

As we were preparing this issue, PIR Center was recognized as the best Russian non-profit organization for its contribution to international relations, following the first national prize "All for Russia".

Our great emphasis on fostering PIR Alumni Community has been recognized: PIR is now ranked among Russia's top 20 communities.

This stands as a high appraisal of our efforts not only in preparing new generations of specialists in the field of nonproliferation and arms control, but also in strengthening professional dialogue among global security experts worldwide.

Looking back at 2025, it was a year filled with notable events: both for PIR Center and PIR Alumni Community.

We released the second volume (2026-2027) of the now-iconic *Security Index Yearbook Global Edition* – you can find more about it on the first pages of this issue.

In Volume II of *Security Index Yearbook* both Russian and foreign authors examine the most pressing international security issues, that extend beyond the topics of arms control and nuclear nonproliferation.

It also includes such topics as: international information security, competition over uranium in the Sahel, BRICS' evolving role in global security, Africa's digital transformation and the prospects for Russian-African cooperation in the field of nuclear energy.

For the first time, our traditional PIR Center Expert Seminars became an integral part of the curriculum of MGIMO University Master's Program *International Security*. This development represents a new approach to combining traditions and innovations in expert analysis and educational practice.

To commemorate the 30th anniversary of the NPT's indefinite extension, we released a vintage edition of *Yaderny Kontrol* E-Bulletin. It takes our readers back to the historic discussions and experts outlooks of that time.

What does the vintage edition *imply*? It means that the cover, structure and style of this issue mirror the 1995 *Yaderny Kontrol* paper-back edition.

As for the content, this issue features our key articles on the NPT extension, including a report from New York by **Dr. Vladimir Orlov**, Founding Director of PIR Center and permanent Editor-in Chief of *Yaderny Kontrol* who took part in the NPT extension conference and witnesses the very moment the chairman's gavel came down, sealing the decision: "Extended indefinitely".

But we wouldn't be PIR Center if we simply rested upon history. Behind the vintage cover lie many relevant materials, that will serve the Russian delegation and experts as they prepare for the 2026 NPT Review Conference.

This issue of *PIRogue* brings together key PIR Center events from 2025, along with exclusive interviews, analytical reports and scientific papers.

Dear Readers, your active engagement matters to us! PIR Center maintains an active dialogue with its alumni-members of PIR Alumni Community.

We invite members of our Community to share their news and achievements! For details, please turn to **page 26** of this issue – you will find information on how to send us a postcard about your achievements. We always enjoy hearing from our alumni!

We are always open to dialogue!

Artem Astvatsaturov,
Editor of PIR Center Information Bulletin *PIRogue*,
PIR Alumni Community Coordinator



ALL FOR RUSSIA: COMMUNITIES

In November 2025, People's Front brought together community representatives from all regions of Russia to launch a joint initiative under the motto [“All for Russia”](#).

Community leaders from across the country – representing a wide range of spheres, including volunteer battalions, leading volunteer organizations, alumni associations and other communities that unite thousands of people in Russia and around the world – gathered together to develop new approaches to achieving Russia's national goals in the context of civic unity.

Dr. Vladimir Orlov, Founding Director of PIR Center, received a commemorative award at the ceremony of the first national prize for community leaders and public associations “All for Russia”. As a result of the selection process, PIR Center was recognized as the best non-profit organization for its contribution to international relations. Apart from this, PIR Alumni Community was ranked among Russia's top 20 communities.

Dr. Vladimir Orlov took part in a discussion with Russian community leaders on the sidelines of this major event and shared PIR Center's experience in fostering professional communities, highlighting the example of PIR Alumni Community.

During the discussion, the Founding Director of PIR Center also explored the question of how to assess the impact and contribution of communities.



Dr. Vladimir Orlov at the awarding ceremony of the 1st national prize “All for Russia”, November 7, 2025



Dr. Vladimir Orlov, PIR Center Founding Director, at the discussion of community leaders, November 6, 2025

“One must know how to separate the grain from the husk. Communities engaged in international affairs and Russia's foreign policy cannot be judged by their “mass”. They are not just “crowds”, no matter how benevolent their members are. Every community is unique and meticulous. It is the result of trials and errors, arduous researches and numerous changes,” Dr. Vladimir Orlov, Founding Director of PIR Center.



No one is calling to become Luddites and reject modern technologies. It is ridiculous because these technologies make our lives easier. However, it is important to see the real person behind the avatar. That is why human interaction is irreplaceable and priceless. However, this communication should not be hierarchical, which is typical for traditional work environments. It should be exclusively horizontal - where a sergeant and a general, a graduate student and an academician, a third secretary and an ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary are engaged in brainstorming and discussion as equals. This is one of the key virtues of communities. This is precisely how we have built our PIR Alumni Community, **Dr. Vladimir Orlov**, PIR Center Founding Director

Dr. Vladimir Orlov emphasized two main challenges that prevent communities from reaching the level of systemic partnership with state institutions and the corporate sector. "First of all, it is the *overcaution syndrome*, which is common for both government and business structures. They often ask themselves: why should we take any action our back any person or organization? Isn't it too risky?"

Secondly, it deals with the *freeloader syndrome* which is even more contagious. Why should we support the non-profit sector? Why should we help horizontal communities when they will get the job done anyway and serve everything on a silver plate?"



Discussion of the community leaders on the sidelines of the 1st national award "All for Russia", November 6, 2025

Awards were also received by the MIPT Alumni Association "Phystech-Union", the All-Russian Public Organization "Streets of Russia", the Youth Council of the Federal Tax Service of Russia, the "Soyuzniki" Business Club, the Interregional Union "Club of Young Industrialists", the "Cyberdom" Community and others.

[Read more in the section "Our awards" on the website of PIR Center \(In Russian\)](#)

SECURITY INDEX YEARBOOK: FOCUSING ON DYNAMICS & CHANGE



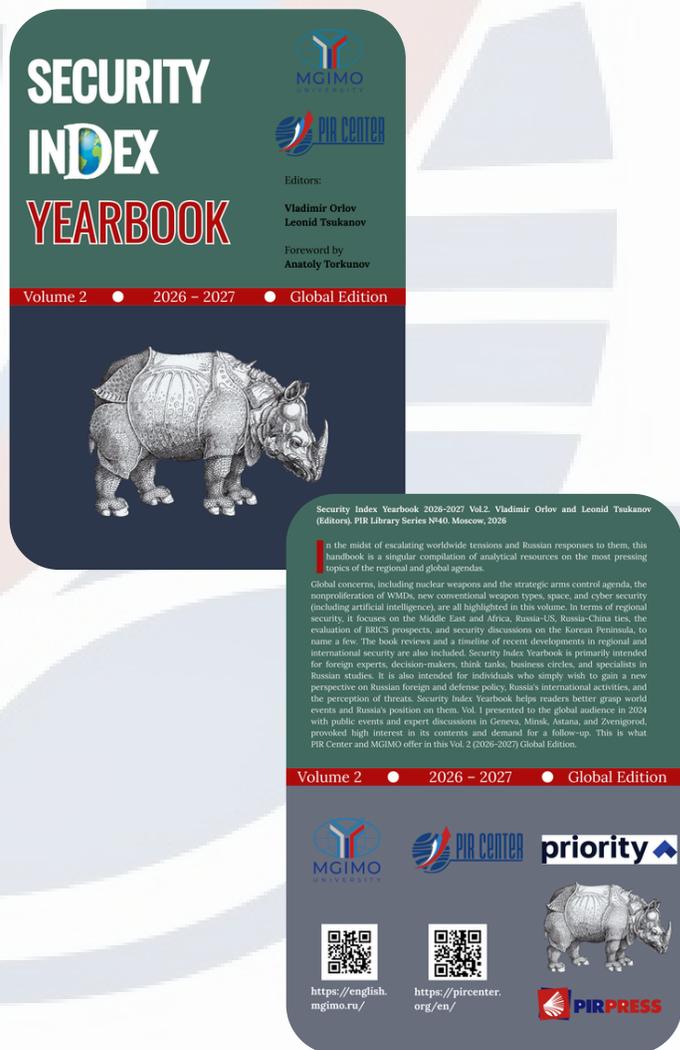
On December 29, 2025, PIR Center announced the digital release of *Security Index Yearbook 2026-2027* by PIR&MGIMO Vol. 2 Global Edition – a landmark analytical work that builds on the international debut and strong reader reception of Volume 1 (2024-2025).

Security Index Yearbook, issued jointly by PIR Center and the MGIMO University, is a unique collection of analytical materials on the most pressing issues on the global and regional agenda amid growing international tensions, as well as on Russian approaches to addressing them.

Security Index Yearbook is designed for foreign expert community, decision makers, young international relations professionals, as well as students around the globe who are engaged with or interested in Russia and the broader landscape of international security.

New Volume of *Security Index Yearbook* was developed under the consortium of PIR Center and the MGIMO University as part of the joint project *Global Security and the Potential for High-Tech Breakthroughs for Russia at New Frontiers* under the auspices of the Priority-2030 Program.

Security Index Yearbook Vol. II digital edition consists of 10 parts and 29 chapters, prepared by 27 experts from Russia and other countries. Among the authors – prominent Russian experts in international security, ministers (including **H.E. Maxim Ryzhenkov**, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Belarus), deputy ministers (**H.E. Sergey Ryabkov**, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation), ambassadors and former presidents (such as Teburoro Tito, former President of Kiribati).



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Global Edition**



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[More on the Authors of Volume II](#)

SECURITY INDEX YEARBOOK: FOCUSING ON DYNAMICS & CHANGE



In place of a single 'center' and a hierarchy of 'peripheries', a world of multiple civilizational actors is taking shape. Crucially, these civilizations differ not merely at the level of culture, symbols, or values, but at a more fundamental level: in their social ontologies and epistemologies – how political communities are imagined, how authority is constituted, how order is justified, and how knowledge about international reality is produced and validated. This raises a consequential question for international scholarship and practice alike: what kind of global order can emerge among civilizational states, and which principles and institutions can sustain it under conditions of increasing plurality?, **Acad. Anatoly Torkunov**, Rector of MGIMO University, Chair of the International Editorial Board



We do not choose our times. Great dynamism is the parent of turbulence and unpredictability. We do engage in forecasting global trends, and we do find it necessary. At the same time, we do not practice pseudo-scientific charlatany through prophecies and divination; such an approach is banned in our Yearbook. We have therefore chosen the contrary one – it is aligned with the principle articulated by Alexander Pushkin via the character of the chronicler Pimen: to write down unpretentiously all that you'll witness in your life – war, peace, the rule of sovereigns. It is precisely the principle of unpretentious direct analysis – without much ado! – that has guided our review of the latest global and regional security developments covered in this Yearbook, **Dr. Vladimir Orlov**, Founding Director of PIR Center, Editor-in-Chief of *Security Index Yearbook*

Volume II illustrates our deliberate shift away from a Eurocentric security paradigm. Russia is a Eurasian power. From the standpoint of Russia's current interests and future developments, I contend that European security should be viewed in concert with that of Central, South, East and Southeast Asia. Great dynamism is the parent of turbulence and unpredictability. We do engage in forecasting global trends and we do find it necessary. This is precisely the lens through which we have approached the review and analysis of the latest global and regional security developments covered in this yearbook.

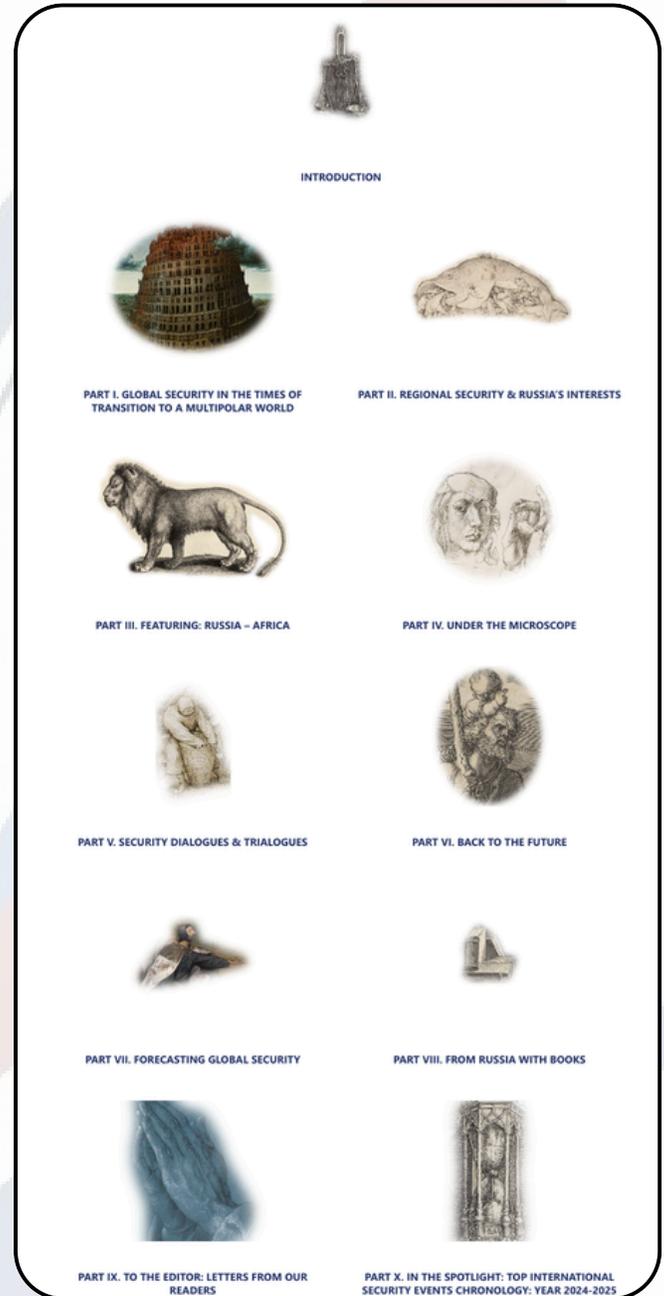
SECURITY INDEX YEARBOOK: FOCUSING ON DYNAMICS & CHANGE

Security Index Yearbook Vol. II encompasses a wide range of global security and arms control issues (including international information security and military application of AI technologies), as well as the evolving dynamics of Russia's relations with major global players (China, the US, key Middle Eastern states and others)

Special attention in Volume II is also devoted to Africa, with the continent's relations examined through the lens of high technology and resource war. Some of these issues are explored in the interviews which offer the perspectives of both Russian and international experts, diplomats and politicians. This offers a comprehensive perspective on the topics addressed – capturing both internal and external viewpoints.

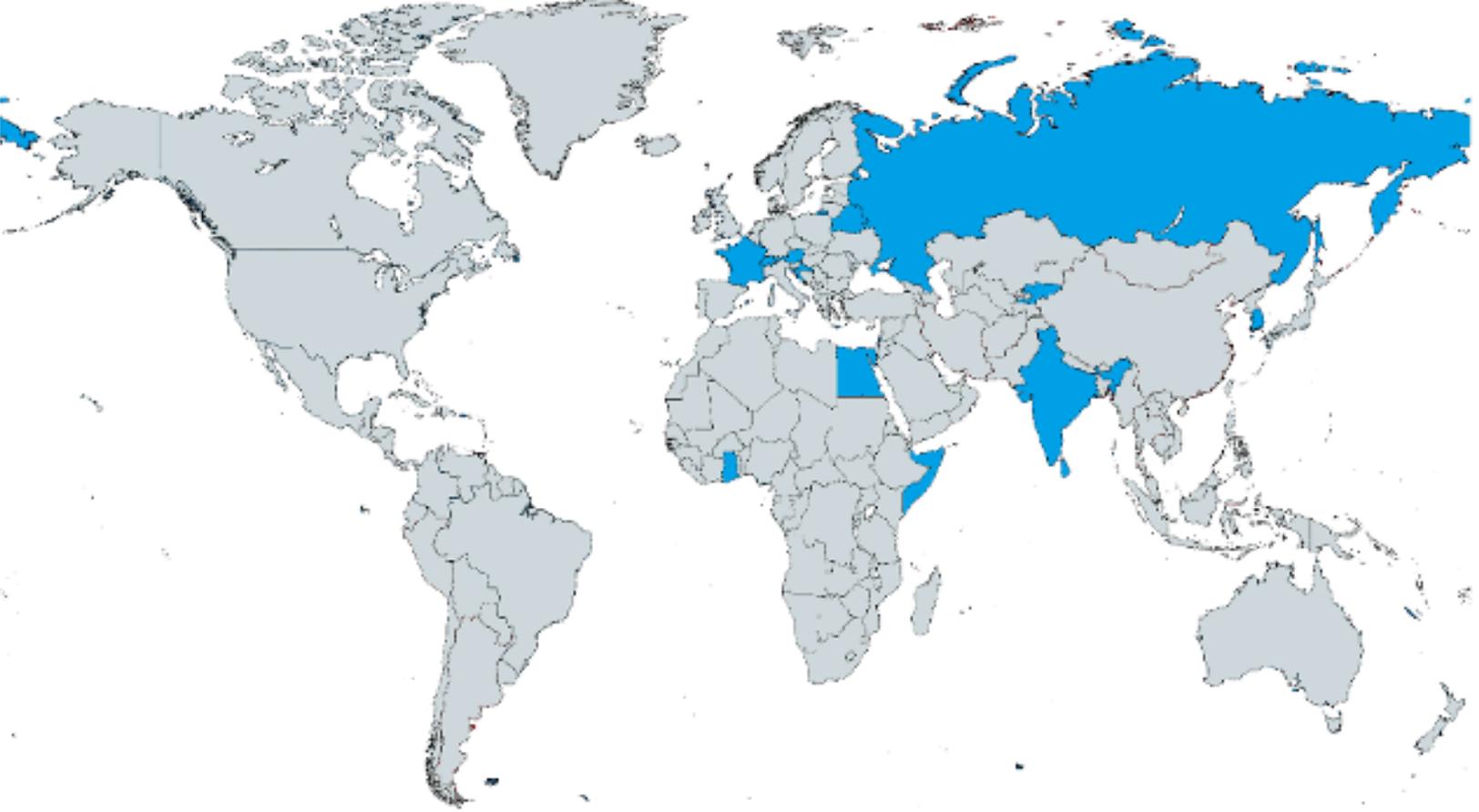
Emphasis was also placed on the growing interconnection between security and advanced technologies. Several chapters of the Yearbook put a premium on how advanced technologies are shaping the security agenda – notably the chapters on space security, international information security, and on the future of arms control.

Volume II replicates the thematic structure and essential features of the previous volume.



	
INTRODUCTION	
	
PART I. GLOBAL SECURITY IN THE TIMES OF TRANSITION TO A MULTIPOLAR WORLD	PART II. REGIONAL SECURITY & RUSSIA'S INTERESTS
	
PART III. FEATURING: RUSSIA – AFRICA	PART IV. UNDER THE MICROSCOPE
	
PART V. SECURITY DIALOGUES & TRIALOGUES	PART VI. BACK TO THE FUTURE
	
PART VII. FORECASTING GLOBAL SECURITY	PART VIII. FROM RUSSIA WITH BOOKS
	
PART IX. TO THE EDITOR: LETTERS FROM OUR READERS	PART X. IN THE SPOTLIGHT: TOP INTERNATIONAL SECURITY EVENTS CHRONOLOGY: YEAR 2024-2025

*Contents of the Security Index Yearbook Vol. II
(Digital Edition)*



An important distinguishing feature of Security Index Yearbook Vol. II deals with its broad geographical diversity of perspectives on Russia and critical global security challenges. Alongside Russian authors, perspectives are offered by scholars from Ghana, Belarus, Somalia, Kiribati, Sri Lanka and other nations of the Global Majority. It is also worth mentioning, that experts who live in countries considered unfriendly to Russia, but maintain an independent, non-aligned stance distinct from the official policies of their governments, also decided to share their perspectives. This group of experts includes those from France, Croatia, Switzerland, and Canada.

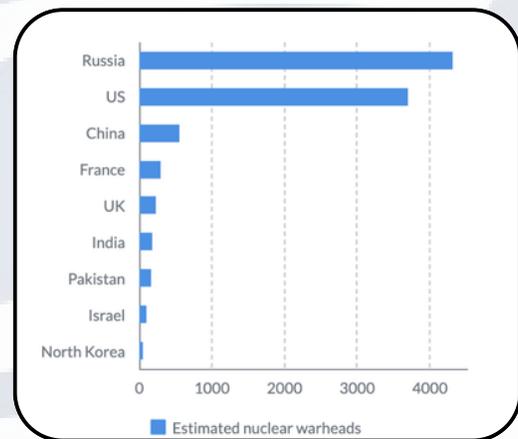
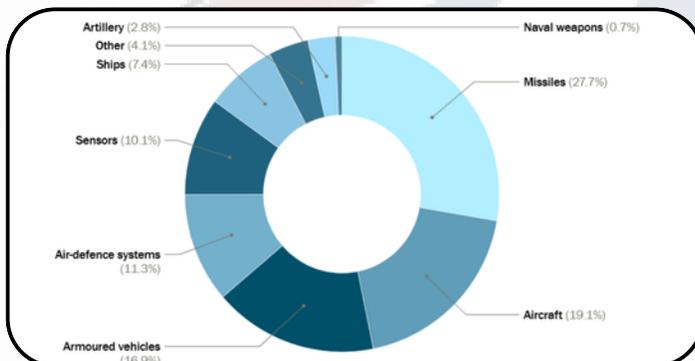
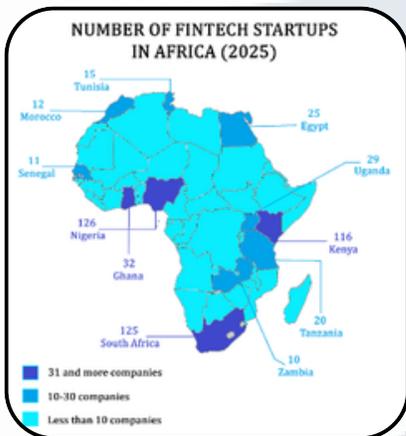
SECURITY INDEX YEARBOOK: FOCUSING ON DYNAMICS & CHANGE



Considerable attention throughout the Volume is devoted to thematic infographics. The yearbook includes 118 charts, 25 maps and 16 tables – some of which were created exclusively for the digital edition, **Dr. Leonid Tsukanov**, Executive editor of the Yearbook.



What posed the greatest challenge in preparing Volume Two? It is the extreme volatility and pace of change in contemporary international affairs. As the Russian poet Sergei Yesenin once noted “great things are seen only from afar”. Yet, our editorial team, bound by strict publication schedule, lacks the ability to step back and discern which of the current events will prove truly significant for history and for the future of our planet and which are transient, destined to fade from memory. We are truly aware that some narratives analyzed by our authors in October-November 2025 may be viewed from a different perspective in 2026, **Dr. Vladimir Orlov**, Founding Director of PIR Center, Editor-in-Chief of Security Index Yearbook



SECURITY INDEX YEARBOOK: FOCUSING ON DYNAMICS & CHANGE



Following the release of *Security Index* Yearbook Vol. I, the editorial team received numerous feedback from all around the world. Below are just some of them.



The *Security Index* Yearbook is an excellent source of information for French civil servants since it provides a different point of view from what is officially said in France, **Mr. Philippe Grinenberger** (France)

The *Security Index* Yearbook of PIR Center is an indispensable trove. It contains a rare and at the same time extensive selection of authoritative analyses from experts in political, military, government, academic, diplomatic, as well as journalistic fields. It is not only convincing in covering global issues from nuclear weapons, strategic nuclear arms control, cyber space, and international terrorism to lethal autonomous weapons-systems and new conventional weapons-systems, but also in presenting Russia's interests and positions concerning regional security, **Mr. Bruno Russi** (Switzerland), Colonel (ret.).



The *Security Index* Yearbook's relevance lies in its function as both scholarship and positioning. While the analyses are clearly shaped by Russia's strategic worldview, they provide valuable insight into how Russian experts interpret the shifting world order, the failures of Western-led institutions, and the opportunities presented by new partnerships, **Dr. Bruno Rukavina** (Croatia)



The *Security Index* Yearbook is a must-read for anyone seeking to understand the complex and evolving global security landscape, **Mr. Abdi Abubakar** (Somalia)

[Read the digital version of the Yearbook](#)

Learn more about *Security Index* Yearbook Volume II as well as feedback and reviews on Volume I on [our website](#)

INTERNATIONAL SECURITY MA PROGRAM & PIR CENTER EXPERT SEMINARS



On April 8, 2025, MGIMO University hosted an Open Day of MGIMO and PIR Center MA Program International Security.

The event brought together applicants interested in studying global security issues.

Participants received detailed information about the program structure, the educational process, and prospects for further employment.

[Read more](#)

On September 18 and September 25, 2025, a series of welcome meetings for the students of the MA Program *International Security*, educational initiative by MGIMO University and PIR Center, was held. The program aimed at educating professionals to staff foreign policy-oriented organizations, majoring in global security.

In 2025, 25 students from Russia, Kazakhstan, China, Slovakia, Tajikistan, Chad, and Japan were enrolled in the MA program "International Security". Students of the educational program shared their impressions of applying to the program and their expectations of studying at MGIMO University.

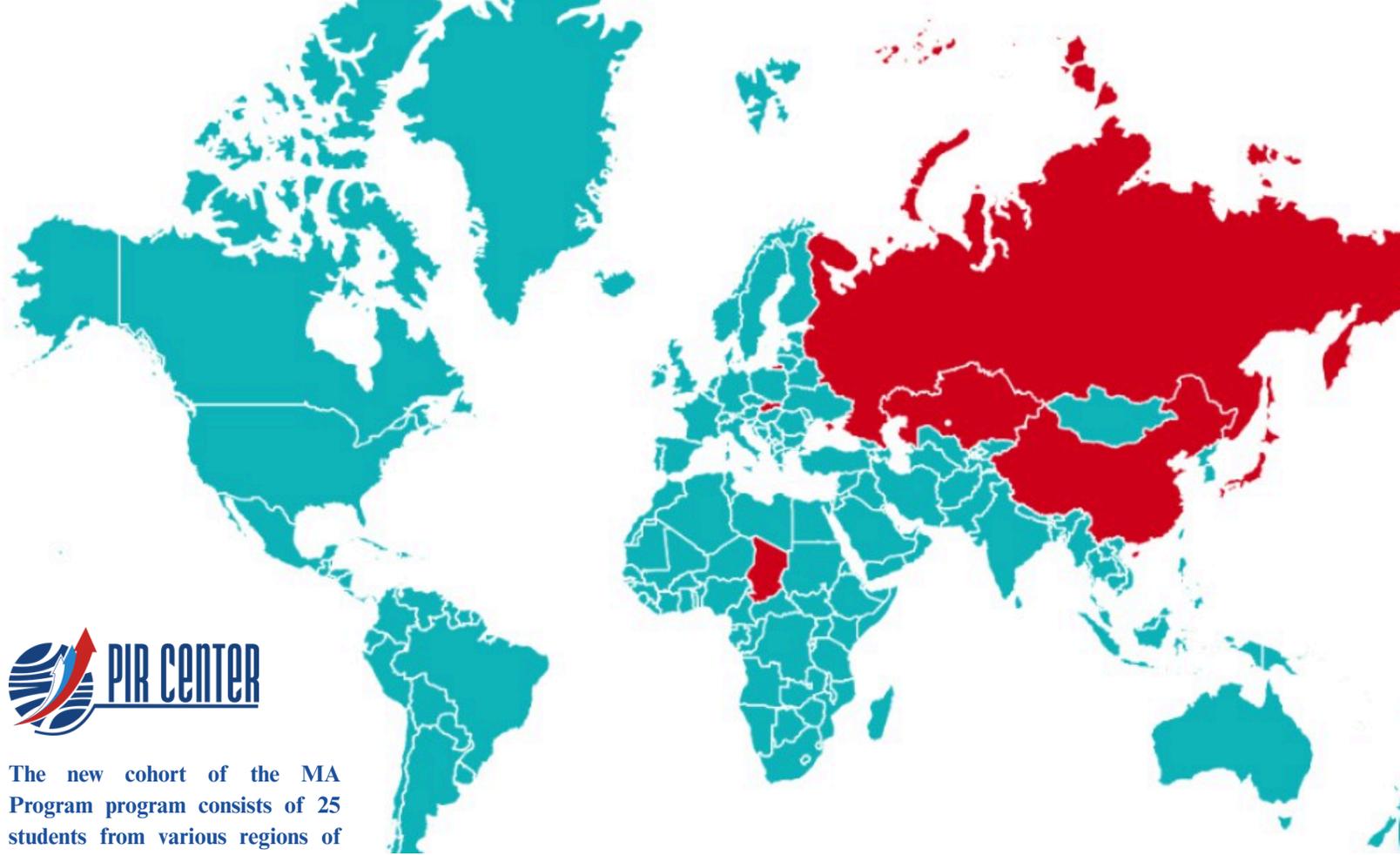
[Read more](#)



Open Day of MA Program International Security at MGIMO University, April 8, 2025



A series of welcome meetings for the 2nd cohort of students of the MA program International Security at MGIMO University, September 18, 25, 2025.



The new cohort of the MA Program program consists of 25 students from various regions of Russia, as well as from Chad, China, Japan, Tajikistan, and Slovakia.



A series of welcome meetings for the 2nd cohort of students of the MA program International Security at MGIMO University. September 18, September 25, 2025

INTERNATIONAL SECURITY MA PROGRAM & PIR CENTER EXPERT SEMINARS



On September 24, 2025, PIR Center, jointly with MGIMO University, hosted the IX Timerbaev Debates on the topic “Is the Threat of Nuclear Weapons Use in the Next Decade Real?”

Participants were split into two teams – the Affirmative and the Negative. In preparation, each team developed arguments both supporting and opposing the proposition; however, the participants were informed about their position only a few hours before the debates started.

A key part of preparing the participants was played by the teams’ mentors – expert practitioners in the fields of international security and nonproliferation.

[Read more](#)



*The IX Timerbaev Debates on the topic “Is the Threat of Nuclear Weapons Use in the Next Decade Real?”,
September 24, 2025*

On October 24, 2025, a meeting between first- and second-year students of the MA Program *International Security* (implemented jointly by MGIMO University and PIR Center), graduates of the International Double Degree MA Program *Global Security, Nuclear Policy, and WMD Nonproliferation*, as well as employees and interns of PIR Center, with **H.E. Sergey Ryabkov**, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Russia, was held at the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The meeting was moderated by **Dr. Vladimir Orlov**, PIR Center Founding Director and Professor at MGIMO University.

The focus was on various issues of international security. Students also had the opportunity to ask the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs questions of their particular interest

At the end of the meeting, **Mr. Sergey Ryabkov** thanked the participants for the substantive dialogue and noted the audience’s keen interest in various aspects of both global and regional security.

[Read more](#)

[Read the opening remarks of H.E. Sergey Ryabkov](#)

[Read the transcript of the Q&A session during the meeting with the Russian Deputy Foreign Minister](#)

INTERNATIONAL SECURITY MA PROGRAM & PIR CENTER EXPERT SEMINARS



Nuclear nonproliferation is among our foreign policy priorities. On this matter, Russia consistently relies on the existing international legal framework, which, as I am sure everyone here understands, is centered around the Treaty on the Nonproliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT). The Treaty continues to play a crucial role in maintaining international peace and security. It's over fifty years of successful operation, clearly demonstrating the NPT's relevance for all States Parties and serving as evidence of its usefulness, **H.E. Sergey Ryabkov**, Russian Deputy Foreign Minister

A meeting with H.E. Sergey Ryabkov, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Russia, October 24, 2025

INTERNATIONAL SECURITY MA PROGRAM & PIR CENTER EXPERT SEMINARS



The meeting was also covered by a number of Russian media outlets. Below is just a portion of the media coverage that appeared after the meeting with Russia's Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs.



“Only after achieving both these objectives and at least a gradual normalization of the situation, some voices advocating for the restoration of the conventional arms control system will likely emerge,” said **H.E. Sergey Ryabkov** during the meeting with the students.

The Deputy Minister emphasized that Russia is advocating for the concept of Eurasian security. In his view, the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe, the Open Skies Treaty and the Vienna Document on Confidence- and Security-Building Measures are no longer effective.

[Read more \(in Russian\)](#)



The United States has not yet formulated its stance on Russia's proposals concerning the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (New START). This was reported on November 19 by Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergey Ryabkov.

“I believe, it is too early to comment on Washington's overall stance regarding this proposal, even despite the positive signals from President Trump”, stated **H.E. Sergey Ryabkov** in the interview, published on the PIR Center website.

[Read more \(in Russian\)](#)



Read more about the *International Security MA Program* on [the PIR Center website \(in Russian\)](#).

INTERNATIONAL SECURITY MA PROGRAM & PIR CENTER EXPERT SEMINARS



PIR Center Expert Seminars have a long history and have managed to establish themselves as a platform for expert discussion of acute and fundamental problems of global security. Once or twice a month, experts and analysts, civil servants and businessmen, students and young scientists, journalists brainstorm on various topics, engage in polemics and discussion, present their vision of a particular problem on the global security agenda. Since 2025, PIR Center Expert Seminars are also conducted as part of the *International Security MA Program*

On March 6, 2025, PIR Center held an [expert seminar, dedicated to the methodology and practice of Open-Source Intelligence \(OSINT\) in research on international security, arms control, and WMDs nonproliferation.](#) The event covered key methodologies for working with open data, their application in global security analysis, and the prospects for integrating OSINT into the practical activities of international security specialists. The keynote speech was delivered by **Mr. Sergey Semenov**, Research Fellow at PIR Center, who presented the report “Methodology and Practice of Open-Source Intelligence (OSINT) for International Security, Arms Control, and WMD Nonproliferation Studies”.



Expert seminar of PIR Center and MGIMO University, dedicated to the Methodology and Practice of OSINT. March 6, 2025

On March 20, 2025, an [expert seminar, dedicated to the role of nuclear weapons in ensuring Russia's security,](#) was held at the MGIMO University. The speaker was **Mr. Vladimir Verkhovtsev**, Colonel General (ret.), Director General of Rosatom Nedra.

In his speech, Mr. Vladimir Verkhovtsev gave a detailed account of the development of nuclear weapons – from the first tests to their current state. His speech covered his personal career, the historical stages of the development of the nuclear complex and Rosatom's current tasks in strengthening the country's strategic security.



Expert seminar of PIR Center and MGIMO University, dedicated to the role of nuclear weapons in the security of the Russian Federation, March 20, 2025

On May 15, 2025, PIR Center jointly with MGIMO University held an [expert seminar on the outcomes of Preparatory Committee Meeting for the NPT-2026 Review Conference and the 30th Anniversary of the Indefinite Extension of the NPT.](#) The speakers were Russian Foreign Ministry's officials, PIR Center's and UN representatives who participated in the third session of the PrepCom for the NPT-2026 Review Conference, which was held in New York, the USA, from April 28 to May 9, 2025.

INTERNATIONAL SECURITY MA PROGRAM & PIR CENTER EXPERT SEMINARS



The seminar was also attended by **Mr. Alexander Bulychev**, Head of the Nuclear Security and Non-Proliferation Office of the Nonproliferation and Arms Control Department of the Russian Foreign Ministry; **Mr. Artur Balaov**, First Secretary of the Nuclear Security and Nonproliferation Office of the Nonproliferation and Arms Control Department of the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and **Ms. Alexandra Zubenko**, PIR Center Research Fellow (as of May 2025 – Intern at the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs).



Expert seminar on the topic “Hawaii: Lessons of History: Russian Flag, and American Annexation”, April 24, 2025

On September 4, 2025, PIR Center jointly with MGIMO University hosted a [seminar “The Role and Place of Missile Defense in Arms Control Issues”](#).

The speaker was **Dr. Oleg Krivolapov**, PhD in Politics, Head of the Department of Military and Political Research at the Institute for the US and Canadian Studies, Member of *PIR Alumni* Community. He provided a detailed overview of how missile defense systems have evolved, highlighting key achievements and ongoing challenges.

The seminar ended with a Q&A session where participants shared their views.



Expert seminar on Outcomes of the Preparatory Committee Meeting for the NPT-2026 Review Conference, May 15, 2025

On April 24, 2025, PIR Center jointly with MGIMO University held a [seminar on the topic “Hawaii: Lessons of History: Russian Flag, and American Annexation”](#). The event brought together participants from Russia, the USA, Switzerland, Kazakhstan, Moldova, Uzbekistan, China and other states. The keynote speaker was **Prof. Niklaus R. Schweizer**, Historian who presented his book “His Hawaiian Excellency: The Overthrow of the Hawaiian Monarchy and the Annexation of Hawaii”.



Expert seminar, entitled “The Role and Place of Missile Defense in Arms Control Issues”, September 4, 2025

INTERNATIONAL SECURITY MA PROGRAM & PIR CENTER EXPERT SEMINARS



On September 18, 2025, PIR Center jointly with MGIMO University hosted a [seminar on the topic “Uranium Competition in the Sahel: Current State, Prospects, and Recommendations for Russia”](#). This major event was held as part of the cooperation between PIR Center and MGIMO under the “Priority-2030” Strategic Academic Leadership Program.

During the event, a research paper by **Ms. Alexandra Zubenko**, PIR Center Research Fellow, was presented. The primary focus of the report was on the countries of the “Sahel Five” (Niger, Mali, Burkina Faso, Mauritania, Chad), which are key players regarding the prospects for uranium exploration and extraction in the region.



Expert seminar on the topic “Uranium Competition in the Sahel: Current State, Prospects, and Recommendations for Russia”, September 18, 2025.

On October 2, 2025, PIR Center jointly with MGIMO University will hold an [expert seminar on the topic “Russia and Mongolia: Eternal Neighbors and New Partners”](#). The keynote speaker was **Mr. Sergey Demin**, Regional Director of the Rosatom International Network in East Asia and PIR Center Executive Board Member. He provided detailed coverage of the current state and prospects of Russian-Mongolian relations.

Mr. Roman Kalinin, PIR Center Research Fellow, also presented his report at the seminar which supplemented the keynote speaker’s presentation, focusing on the resource and economic components of Russian-Mongolian cooperation.



Expert seminar on the topic “Russia and Mongolia: Eternal Neighbors and New Partners”, October 2, 2025

On November 6, 2025, PIR Center jointly with the MGIMO University hosted a [seminar, entitled “Artificial Intelligence in the Context of International Security”](#).

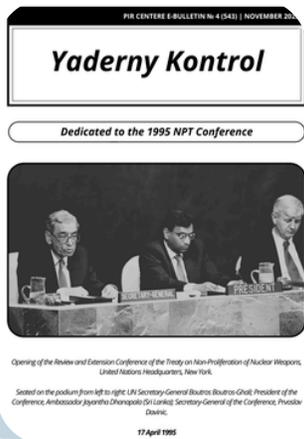
The keynote speaker was **Ms. Yulia Tseshkovskaya**, Head of Marketing at Evocargo, PIR Center Advisory Board Member. She provided a detailed overview of the stages of AI development, highlighting the associated risks and approaches to international and national AI regulation.



Expert seminar on the topic “Artificial Intelligence in the Context of International Security”, November 6, 2025

YADERNY KONTROL (NUCLEAR CONTROL) IN BLACK & WHITE

On November 15, 2025, PIR Center celebrated **Rhino Day**, commemorating the 31st anniversary since the publication of the first issue of **Yaderny Kontrol (Nuclear Control) journal**, which is the predecessor of **Security Index series**.



Over the course of its history, the journal has gained recognition from both the Russian and international establishment and expert community as a source of exclusive analytical information on international security issues.

To mark the anniversary of **Yaderny Kontrol (Nuclear Control) journal**, otherwise known as **Rhino day**, a vintage edition of the PIR Center's digital bulletin was published.

This issue of **Yaderny Kontrol (Nuclear Control) journal** takes readers back to the events of 1995, when the NPT was indefinitely extended. The digital edition allows readers to feel the atmosphere of that period: recall the positions of states, read about the diplomatic struggles, that took place at the UN headquarters in New York, as well as discover the forecasts and expectations made by the Russian expert community concerning the probable extension of the NPT.

These days, thirty-one years after the decision to indefinitely extend the Treaty was made, it is vital not only to recall how the NPT was extended, but also to reflect on what this decision initially meant to us?

What are the prospects for the non-proliferation regime in the new emerging circumstances?

These are exactly the questions addressed in the new issue of **Yaderny Kontrol (Nuclear Control) bulletin**, published in honor of **Rhino Day**.



[Read the digital edition of the issue on our website](#)

PIR ALUMNI COMMUNITY: DIALOGUE AS A TOOL FOR THE FUTURE



PIR Center has come a long way in 31 years, becoming a recognized authority on international security and nonproliferation. Numerous researches, educational programs, and expert opinions have made invaluable contributions to global and national security.

Hundreds of specialists who have passed PIR Center's *school* are now successfully working in Russia and abroad, applying their knowledge in practice.

Thank you to everyone who has been and remains with us on this journey. We do not rest on our laurels and continue to move forward.

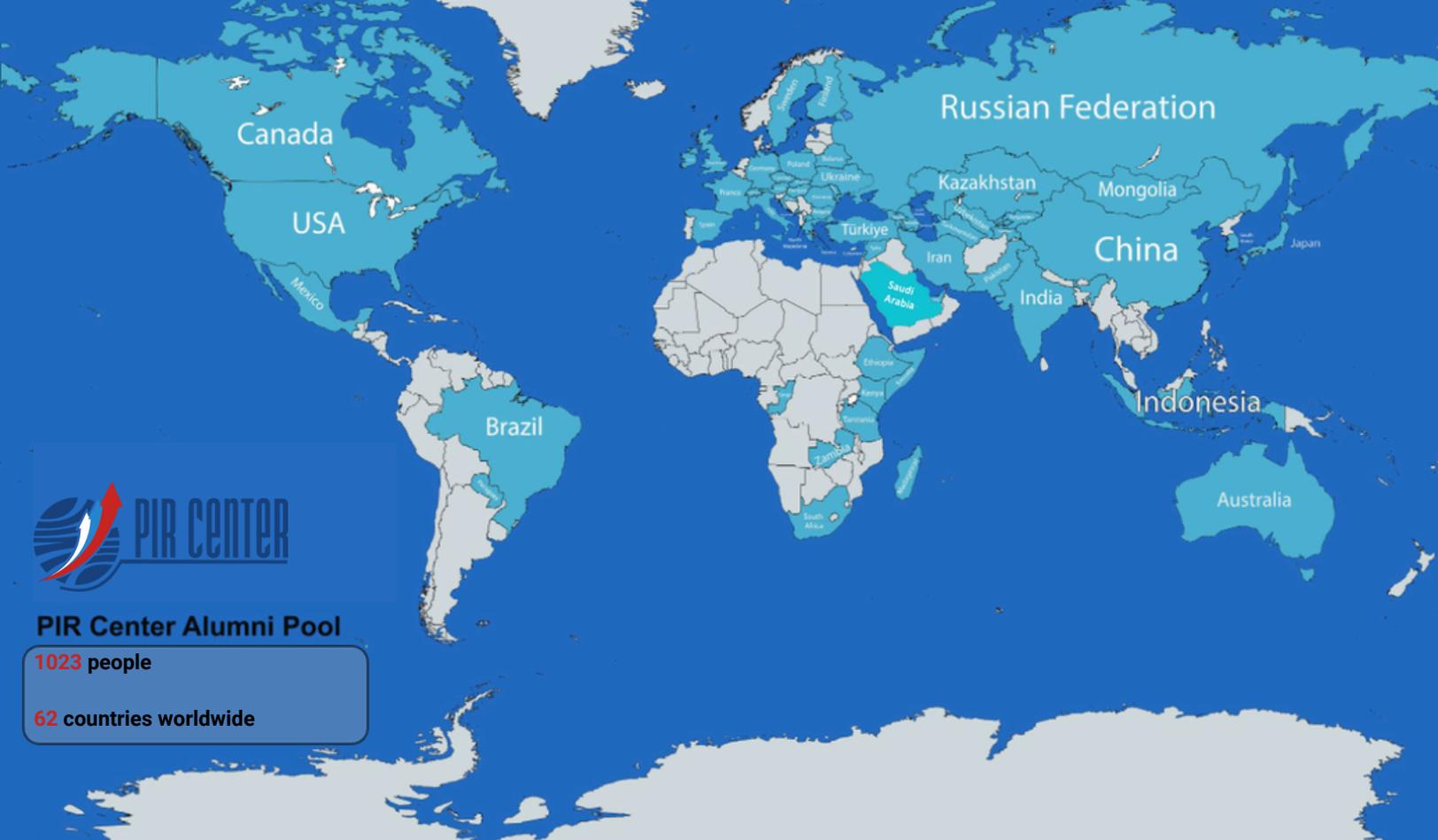


Uniqueness, the absolute peculiarity of PIR Center as a phenomenon of our life is obvious to many, including those who have little interest in 'hard' security. For a long time, the heart of PIR Center has been beating together with the country, H.E. Sergey Ryabkov, the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation

PIR Alumni Community currently brings together more than 1000 people: graduates of PIR Center programs, current and former staff, interns and consultants as well as members of PIR Center Executive Board and PIR Center Advisory Board.

The majority of *PIR Alumni Community* members constitute graduates of PIR Center Educational Program, such as International School on Global Security, International Dual Degree MA Program *Global Security, Nuclear Policy and WMD Nonproliferation*, internship and practicum programs, workshops, and courses.

PIR Center alumni span the globe, including international relations professionals from Abkhazia, Azerbaijan, Armenia, Belarus, Brazil, Germany, Greece, Georgia, Iran, Ireland, Spain, Italy, Kazakhstan, Canada, Kyrgyzstan, China, Mexico, Moldova, Mongolia, the Republic of Korea, Russia, Romania, North Macedonia, Syria, Slovakia, the United States, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Ukraine, Finland, France, Montenegro, the Czech Republic, South Ossetia, Japan, etc.



PIR Center Alumni Pool

1023 people

62 countries worldwide



PIR Alumni Community meeting in Geneva,
2022

PIR ALUMNI COMMUNITY: DIALOGUE AS A TOOL FOR THE FUTURE

On June 17, 2025, PIR Center announced the launch of a unique initiative to strengthen ties with its extensive international community. We encourage all our *Alumni Community* members to send photo and video postcards, which will become a part of our unique visual history. The goal of this project is to create a lively, geographically diverse collection that will visually demonstrate how and what our alumni and friends are doing now, what their new achievements and successes, joys, and news are. In 2025 PIR Center received and posted 15 postcards from *PIR Alumni Community* members on its website.



We are always happy to hear from those members of *PIR Alumni Community* who want to send their news to us; and we share the successes with them. The initiative to collect photo and video postcards is another step in the dialog with our alumni, **Dr. Vladimir Orlov**, Founding Director of PIR Center



PIR Alumni Community members can send their own postcards, with an attached photo and a signature to it, to the email address: editor@pircenter.org.



[Read more](#)

PIR ALUMNI COMMUNITY: DIALOGUE AS A TOOL FOR THE FUTURE

Below are just some of the news from *PIR Alumni Community* members, which are published in the corresponding section on PIR Center website:



Mr. Yakov Fedorov, Head of the Consular Department of the Russian Embassy in Mexico, Member of the PIR Alumni Community, PIR Center Intern in the 2000s, sent his song dedicated to Victory Day, Mexico City (Mexico), January 1, 2025



Dr. Sergey Ponamarev, PIR Center Advisory Board Member, Head of the External Assets Security Center at Promsvyazbank PJSC (as of March 2025), currently CEO of Master Tradings LLC, on the roof of the power unit at Zaporozhskaya NPP, March 2025



Mr. Mher Saakyan, PhD in Politics, Associate Professor, Fulbright Visiting Scholar at the School of Advanced International Studies, Director of the “China-Eurasia” Council for Political and Strategic Studies, Member of PIR Alumni Community since 2015, during the presentation of the book “Routledge Handbook of Chinese and Eurasian International Relations” at the Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS), March 12, 2025



Mr. Dauren Aben, Member of PIR Alumni Community since 2013, was appointed Deputy Director of the KazISS under the President of RK. October 20, 2025

PIR ALUMNI COMMUNITY: DIALOGUE AS A TOOL FOR THE FUTURE



The PIR Center's highest authority is its Executive Board, uniting prominent Russian political scientists, academics, experts in international affairs, journalists and public figures.

The Executive Board members' recommendations, along with their experience and expertise on issues related to global trends in the development of the non-governmental sector in Russia and worldwide, offer invaluable support for the organization's strategic development. Furthermore, they play a key role in shaping the priority directions of the PIR Center's research work.



PIR Center Executive Board, December, 2022

The annual meeting of the PIR Center Executive Board, the highest management body of PIR Center, was held on **October 13, 2025**.

All active members of the Executive Board as well as special guests attended the meeting. As part of the official session, **Dr. Vladimir Orlov** presented the main results of PIR Center's activities in 2024, reported on the current implementation of the organization's 2025 work plan, and delivered a development program for 2026-2027.

Following Dr. Orlov's report, the Board members and invited guests discussed PIR Center's ongoing projects, shared experiences from their implementation in 2024, and exchanged views on expanding the organization's project activities and ensuring their financial sustainability in the coming years.

[Read more](#)



Center Executive Board Meeting, October 13, 2025

PIR ALUMNI COMMUNITY: DIALOGUE AS A TOOL FOR THE FUTURE



The current members of PIR Center Executive Board include: **Gen. Evgeny Buzhinsky**, Lieutenant-General (ret.), Chairman of the PIR 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 of the Department of Information Security at the Faculty of Computer Science, Artificial Intelligence, and Control Systems at Bauman Moscow State Technical University; **Dr. Vadim Kozyulin**, Chief Researcher of the Center for Global Studies and International Relations at the ICIS, Diplomatic Academy of MGIMO University, PIR Center Consultant; **Mr. Vasily Lata**, Chief Research Fellow at Peter the Great Military Academy of the Strategic Missile Forces; **Dr. Vladimir Orlov**, Founding Director of PIR Center, Professor at the MGIMO University; **Ms. Lubov Soldatkina**, Head of the Department for Patriotic Work and Interaction with Public Organizations at State Foundation “Defenders of the Fatherland”, Founder of the non-governmental organization “Art-Formula”, Member of the Committee of Russian State Council on Culture; **Dr. Ekaterina Stepanova**, Head of the Group on Peace and Conflict Studies at Primakov National Research Institute of World Economy and International Relations (IMEMO RAS), and **Dr. Dmitry Trenin**, Research Professor at the Faculty of World Economy and International Affairs at the HSE University, Leading Researcher at the Section for Non-Proliferation and Arms Limitation of the Center for International Security at Primakov National Research Institute of World Economy and International Relations (IMEMO RAS).



*Dr. Vladimir Orlov and Dr. Dmitry Trenin at the
PIR Center Executive Board meeting,
October 13, 2025*

PIR Center Advisory Board was established in 1995. It plays a crucial role in the organization's project activities. It brings together more than 80 individual experts, including representatives of think tanks and research centers, government agencies and business structures, as well as social activists and journalists from Russia and foreign countries. PIR Center Advisory Board also includes 9 corporate members – research institutes working in the field of global security.

PIR Center Advisory Board includes the representatives of such countries as Argentina, Germany, Egypt, India, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Libya, Norway, Russia, Türkiye, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Switzerland, and the US.

Members of PIR Center Advisory Board attend the PIR Center expert seminars as speakers, invited guests and commentators.

They also conduct classes within the framework of PIR Center International School on Global Security, provide advisory support for preparation of research works under the auspices of PIR Center and act as their reviewers.

They have excellent expertise in a variety of international and global security issues. They are bright personalities with fascinating personal and professional life experience.

In 2025, PIR Center Advisory Board membership was updated. Among the new members of PIR Center Advisory Board are representatives of the Russian diplomatic corps and the corporate sector. In 2025, **Mr. Marat Berdyev**, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Russian Federation, Ambassador-at-large of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and **Dr. Sergey Ponamarev**, CEO of Master Tradings LLC, *PIR Alumni Community* member since 2005.



Amb. Marat Berdyev



Dr. Sergey Ponamarev

IN THE SPOTLIGHT: PIR PRESS NEWS

On May 20, 2025, an interview from “MGIMO Journal” (MJ) with **Dr. Vladimir Orlov**, Founding Director of PIR Center, Professor at MGIMO University, [was published on the PIR Center website \(in Russian\)](#). The interview addressed the evolution of PIR Center as one of the leading non-governmental analytical institutions in the realm of global security, The PIR Center Education & Training Program, as well as cooperation between PIR Center and MGIMO University.



1st Russian-African Forum of Young International Relations Professionals on Security and Development, October 1-6, 2024



Read more about PIR Center in the [“PIR Press News” section on our website](#)

FIRST HAND: EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEWS BY PIR CENTER'S EXPERTS



On March 12, 2025, PIR Center [published an interview](#) with **Dr. Anatoly Antonov**, Professor at the MGIMO University, Russian Ambassador to the United States (2017-2024).

This interview is based on the Q&A session that took place during the seminar held at the MGIMO University on **February 27, 2025**. The seminar, dedicated to the future of Russian-American relations, took place within the framework of the class *The Current Problems in International Security* of the MA Program *International Security*.

On March 17, 2025, PIR Center [conducted an interview](#) with **Dr. Ali Asghar Soltanieh**, Iran's former Ambassador to the IAEA, President of the Vienna International Institute for Middle East Studies, and a Member of the PIR Center Advisory Board.



The discussion covered the future of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), Iran's national interests regarding its nuclear program, and the PRC-Russia proposal to lift Western sanctions on Iran. The interview also addressed the implementation of the initiative to establish a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone (NWFZ) in the Middle East.

On April 11, 2025, PIR Center [interviewed](#) **Mr. Hubert Foy**, Director of the African Center for Science and International Security (AFRCISIS).

During the interview, issues of regional security, development of atomics in the African countries, activation of the terrorist groupings in the Sahel region, as well as further fostering the investment climate in region have been deliberated.



On May 20, 2025, PIR Center [interviewed](#) **Dr. Tariq Rauf**, former Head of Verification and Security Policy Coordination Department at the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), PIR Center Advisory Board Member.

During the interview, issues of reporting format between the nuclear-weapon States (NWS), the NPT Review Process, and negative security assurances have been deliberated.

On June 17, 2025, PIR Center [conducted an interview](#) with **Mr. Majid Afshani**, Board Member of Governance and Policy Think Tank (Iran). In the interview, he provided his insights on situation in Iran, following the Israeli attack on Iran's nuclear infrastructure on **June 13, 2025**.



FIRST HAND: EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEWS BY PIR CENTER'S EXPERTS

On July 10, 2025, PIR Center [interviewed Ms. Ana Livia Araujo Esteves](#), PhD in Politics, Lecturer at the Department of International Regional Studies, HSE University.



In this interview, Ana Livia Esteves shared her perspectives on Brazil's foreign policy priorities, the internal dynamics of BRICS, and the potential impact of Brazil's leadership on the future of the organization.

On August 26, 2025, PIR Center [conducted an interview](#) with **Mr. Thomas Graham**, Special Assistant to the US President and Senior Director for Russia on the National Security Council staff from 2004 to 2007, Distinguished Fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations.



The interview touched upon the main outcomes of the Russia-US summit in Anchorage as well as the stance of European states on truce matters and security guarantees.



On October 30, 2025, [an interview was held](#) with **Dr. Mikhail Lysenko**, Advisor to Director-General at State Atomic Energy Corporation "Rosatom", Member of PIR Center Advisory Board.

During the interview, Mr. Mikhail Lysenko reflects on the true cost of "assurances", the future role of the IAEA and the pressing need for the international community to establish new legal frameworks to safeguard nuclear sites.

On November 7, 2025, PIR Center [interviewed Dr. Ivan Safranchuk](#), PIR Center Advisory Board Member and Professor at MGIMO University. In the interview, Dr. Ivan Safranchuk assesses the current state of the Russian-American dialogue and reflects on its prospects.

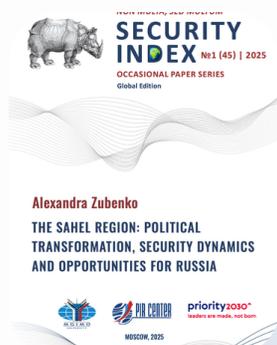


On December 16, 2025, PIR Center held an interview with **H.E. Sergey Ryabkov**, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation. The interview addressed the

matters concerning the evolution of BRICS. Russian Deputy Foreign Minister offered his perspective on how BRICS responds to emerging challenges and what forms the BRICS "institutionalization" may take in the near future.

Read the full version of the interview in the digital edition of [Security Index Yearbook Vol.2 \(2026-2027\)](#).

[Read all exclusive interviews](#)

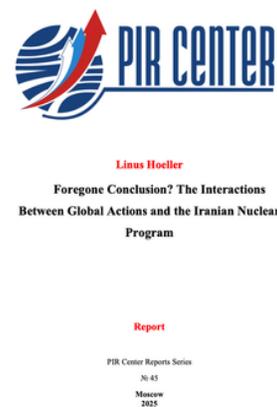


On November 21, 2025, a new issue of the Security Index Occasional Paper [was released](#), featuring the occasional paper of PIR Center Research Fellow **Ms. Alexandra Zubenko**, devoted to the topic

“The Sahel Region: Political Transformation, Security Dynamics and Opportunities for Russia”.

The paper analyzes the political transformation processes in Sahel countries, the consequences of the end of France’s Operation Barkhane, the evolution of terrorist threats, and the formation of new military-political alliances, such as the Alliance of Sahel States (AES).

This occasional paper was prepared within the framework of PIR Center and MGIMO University Consortium under the auspices of the Priority-2030 Strategic Academic Leadership Program.



On October 2, 2025, PIR Center issued the report [“Foregone Conclusion? The Interactions Between Global Actions and the Iranian Nuclear Program”](#) by emerging nonproliferation researcher **Mr. Linus Hoeller**, Member of *PIR Alumni Community*.

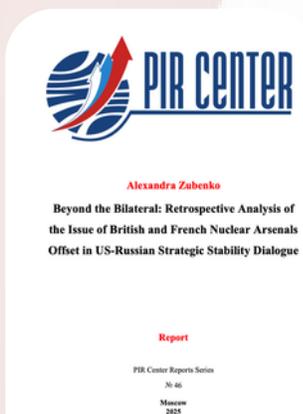
The analysis examines key phases of Iran’s nuclear program – from the early days during the Shah’s regime and the influence of the Iran-Iraq War, to the 2003 disclosures of secret nuclear programs and subsequent diplomatic efforts culminating in the 2015 Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

On October 27, 2025, a new report, entitled [“Beyond the Bilateral: Retrospective Analysis of the Issue of British and French Nuclear Arsenals Offset in US-Russian Strategic Stability Dialogue”](#), by **Ms. Alexandra Zubenko**,

PIR Center Research Fellow, was released.

The report offers a retrospective analysis of the discussion about the potential inclusion of France’s and the UK’s nuclear weapons in arms control talks between the USSR/Russia and the USA.

The study aims to explain why the inclusion of French and British forces has not been possible to date and whether the current state of European security can open up new possibilities for such a long-term vision.



PIR REPORT SERIES: THOUGHT-PROVOCATIVE & FORWARD-LOOKING

On December 1, 2025, PIR Center published a report [“Uranium Competition in the Sahel Region and Russia’s Interests. Current Situation. Assessment of Prospects. Recommendations”](#), authored by PIR Center Research Fellow **Ms. Alexandra Zubenko**.

The study examines the political, economic, and legal characteristics of the region, as well as the specifics of the mining sector in Niger, Mali, Burkina Faso, Mauritania, and Chad. It also explores the influence of geopolitical factors on the industry’s development. Particular attention is given to Russia’s role in ensuring the region’s security and shaping new avenues of cooperation in nuclear energy and the peaceful uses of the atom. The report includes an assessment of the region’s geological potential, the competitive landscape of the uranium market, and trends in the participation of international actors – France, China, Canada, and Russia.

The report was prepared within the framework of PIR Center and MGIMO University Consortium under the auspices of the Priority-2030 Strategic Academic Leadership Program.

The report was prepared within the framework of PIR Center and MGIMO University Consortium under the auspices of the Priority-2030 Strategic Academic Leadership Program.



The report is beneficial as a source of factual material, above all, of its numerical dataset. It utilizes interesting schemes, diagrams, and tables. Fortunately, this report has been released today. It seems to me that it will become an indispensable reference tool for State Atomic Energy Corporation «Rosatom» and for other Russian companies that work, or plan to work, on the African continent, **Dr. Mikhail Margelov**, Head of the UNESCO Chair in Oriental and African Studies: Modern Methods of Study and Teaching at the Institute of Oriental and African Studies, Lomonosov Moscow State University; Member of PIR Center Advisory Board

[Read all PIR Center reports](#)

OPEN COLLAR: HARD TALK... SMOOTH TALK... FRIENDLY TALK



The PIR Center project *Open Collar* aims to demonstrate that the PIR Center’s experts, staff and friends constitute a cohesive community of fascinating individuals – people whose multifaceted nature, uniqueness and breadth of personality frequently go unnoticed.

We invite our friends to share with us stories about their interests, hobbies, mindset, principles they adhere to and their attitudes toward values such as friendship, love, etc.

On March 24, 2025, PIR Center [conducted an interview](#) with **Mr. Nabil Fahmi**, Foreign Minister of Egypt (2013-2014), Dean Emeritus of School of Global Affairs and Public Policy at the American University in Cairo.

In the interview, he offered his perspectives on the challenges confronting foreign ministry officials, discussed the process of making critical decisions amidst complex geopolitical circumstances, his shift from government service to academia, and his experiences living in different countries while adapting to new cultures.



[Read more about the project](#)

PLACE WHERE THOUGHTS UNITE: *TRIALOGUE CLUB* INTERNATIONAL

Founded in 1993, the *Triologue Club International* continues to serve as a leading platform for discussing key global security issues, the broader international agenda, as well as Russian foreign and defense policy. Its members include representatives from political and expert circles, diplomatic and defense agencies of Russia and foreign countries accredited in the Russian Federation.

The Club's members include representatives from Germany, New Zealand, the Republic of Singapore, the United States, Finland, France, Switzerland, Sweden, Japan, and other countries, as well as from the EU Delegation to Russia, the Regional Delegation of the International Committee of the Red Cross in Moscow, and other organizations.

On April 7, 2025, the 125th Spring Session of the *Triologue Club International* entitled “Russia and the DPRK: New Alliance or ad hoc Partnership? New Realities for the Korean Peninsula” was held. **Dr. Alexander Vorontsov**, Head of the Department of Korea and Mongolia at the Institute of Oriental Studies RAS, PIR Center Advisory Board Member, delivered the keynote speech.

[Read more](#)



*125th Spring Session of the Triologue Club International,
April 7, 2025*

On June 30, 2025, the 126th Summer Session of the *Triologue Club International*, entitled “Russian-American Relations: What is the Future?”, was held in Moscow.

Dr. Fedor Lukyanov, Editor-in-Chief of the Russia in Global Affairs journal, PIR Center Advisory Board Member, delivered the keynote speech.

Mr. Thomas Graham, Honorary Fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations in New York City (online), delivered his speech as a special guest of the President of the Club, thus, contributing to the dialogue and sharing his expertise

[Read more](#)

PLACE WHERE THOUGHTS UNITE: *TRIALOGUE CLUB* INTERNATIONAL



The 126th Summer Session of the Trialogue Club International, June 30, 2025

The keynote speakers were:

- **Mr. Vsevolod Sviridov**, Deputy Director of the Faculty of World Economy and International Affairs / Centre for African Studies of HSE University
- **Ms. Alexandra Zubenko**, PIR Center Research Fellow

On November 14, 2025, international expert seminar was held in Moscow on the topic “Russia-Africa: Analyzing Prospects for Strategic Cooperation & Identifying Obstacles. From uranium to high technologies”.

It was organized and conducted by PIR Center in cooperation with the *Trialogue Club International* (as part of the 128th Winter Session of the Club)

The event was attended by ambassadors, senior diplomats, business representatives, experts and young professionals from 25 countries, namely Russia, Chad, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Gabon, Ghana, Egypt, Eritrea, Kenya, Rwanda, Niger, Namibia, Brazil, Australia, Finland, France, Israel, Germany, South Korea, Spain, Singapore, Sweden, Switzerland, New Zealand, Japan, the USA, the delegation of the International Committee of the Red Cross in Moscow, among others



The 128th Winter Session of the Trialogue Club International, November 14, 2025

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



PIRogue

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