



Over the past year, the Fissile Materials Working Group (FMWG) used the success of its April 2010 [NGO summit and side events](#) to propel itself as the “go to” group for policy expertise on the issue of fissile material security. The FMWG grew from approximately twenty U.S.-based non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to over forty U.S. and twenty-one international NGOs working in collaboration on this important issue. Finally, the FMWG hired a full-time coordinator, Ryan Costello. For more information, please do not hesitate to contact the FMWG Coordinator (rcostello@connectusfund.org or (202) 721-5600) or FMWG co-chair Alexandra Toma, atoma@connectusfund.org or (202) 728-8686. You can also visit the website: www.fmwg.org.

Media/Messaging Work

Through a generous grant by the Carnegie Corporation of New York, the FMWG has had significant media support from ReThink Media. In partnership with the continued media support from the Stanley Foundation’s Sean Harder, and input from FMWG experts, our media team has been able to:

- Generate [91 media hits](#) for FMWG members between April 1, 2010 and March 31, 2011.
- Draft and update Talking Points on the importance of fissile material security. These talking points are being used by FMWG experts when they talk with the media and public, and those talking points are being adopted by the media as well. For example, in March 2011, MSNBC’s Rachel Maddow featured a segment on radio ads placed by FMWG member Council for a Livable World; when talking about this issue, Maddow was “pitch perfect” and used many of the talking points our group has been pushing out into the media and public.
- Successfully distribute and place op-eds on a weekly basis from the beginning of our concerted “op-ed campaign,” beginning in February 2011 through the present. In March alone, we were able to place six op-eds on the fissile material issue in both national and local press outlets. Last year, FMWG members placed op-eds almost monthly and were [quoted](#) in a variety of articles on the issue.
- Draft press releases and expert “availabilities” around newsworthy events (e.g., Fukushima, budget battles on the Hill, one year anniversary of the NSS).
- Maintain a [regular column](#) in the *Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists* that features articles written by FMWG members on fissile material security.

Meetings with Obama Administration Officials

As has always been the case, the FMWG enjoys a positive relationship with the Obama administration and officials at State, the NSC, the Pentagon, and DOE. We are in particularly close contact with the American NSS Sherpa (Gary Samore) and sous-Sherpa (Laura Holgate) in the NSC, the State Department’s Cooperative Threat Reduction Coordinator, Amb. Bonnie Jenkins, and Joyce Connery, Senior Advisor to the Deputy Secretary, National Security, U.S. Department of Energy. We share information about our activities and products at quarterly in-person meetings, and more often via phone and email. The FMWG continues to be praised in public fora by our Obama administration colleagues and sought out as partners, as appropriate.

Foreign Embassy Meetings

Embassy meetings have taken place with representatives from ten of the 46 Nuclear Security Summit participating countries (besides the United States). The FMWG's goal is to engage all 46 countries before the 2012 Seoul NSS in order to continue to make the case about the importance of fissile material security to global security and force governments to focus on fulfilling the commitments they made at the 2010 NSS. As an international civil society coalition, we are able to shine a light on both action and inaction of these NSS countries. Additional goals for these meetings are to urge countries to fill out the FMWG questionnaire on NSS commitments and to invite embassy personnel to use the FMWG and its "go to" group of experts for resources on this issue. We have met with the following countries:

- Mexico
- Singapore
- France
- Indonesia
- *New Zealand**
- Russia
- Canada
- Kazakhstan
- United Kingdom
- Australia
- Switzerland
- Ukraine

* *Currently being scheduled.*

NSS Commitments Questionnaire/Survey

In the fall 2010, the FWMG sent a questionnaire/survey to the 47 NSS countries, asking them about their commitments at the NSS and progress towards or plans for fulfilling the commitments. The goal of conducting this survey is to track commitments and continue to shine a light on the NSS process and progress towards the "four year" goal of securing all vulnerable materials worldwide. As of March 30, we received survey responses from nine (19%) of the NSS countries.

- Poland
- France
- Germany
- Singapore
- Finland
- Mexico
- Australia
- Morocco
- Czech Republic
- *Ukraine**
- Indonesia*
- Japan*
- Switzerland (*refused*)
- Philippines (*refused*)

* *Working on the questionnaire and will be done "shortly."*

International Partner Engagement

When it launched in April 2009, the FMWG comprised approximately 20 U.S.-based fissile material expert organizations; however, the groups always sought international partnership. As a build up to the 2010 NSS and the parallel NGO event organized by the FMWG, the group conducted concerted outreach to civil society groups worldwide. As a result of this outreach and the catalyzing event of the NSS, the FMWG has grown to include twenty-one [international partner](#) organizations. The U.S.-based core of the FMWG strives to engage the international partners on the fissile material security agenda by sharing information through inclusion by teleconference in the monthly group meetings, the FMWG listserv, and via the website. International partners are also called upon to play a role in regional events (e.g., Cairo event in October 2010, Vienna event in April 2011). Our FMWG international partners also add an international perspective to the nuclear terrorism/fissile material debate – an important voice especially when some perceive the effort as a "Western" one. Through the FMWG, our international partners are able to share their perspectives on the *Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists* FMWG column. In fact, the most recent columns include the following international partner contributions:

- Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses, India (June);

- China Disarmament and Arms Control Association (July); and
- NPS Global, Argentina (August).

In June, FMWG International Partner Rajiv Nayan submitted a column, “Nuclear materials security: cooperation is key,” to the [FMWG’s blog](#) at the *Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists*; his blog was cross-posted on at least three different websites, including [The Nukes Daily](#), [Michelle Kearney’s Nuclear Wire](#), and [Intelli-Briefs](#).

Congressional Education and Engagement

Even though the FMWG, as a coalition, is a strictly non-partisan, non-lobbying entity, we realize the importance of educating Members of Congress and their staff on the fissile material/nuclear security issue. From the beginning, the FMWG worked with Hill colleagues to fill in knowledge gaps, through individual meetings with Hill staff and expert panel events, several of which we conducted over the past year.

This year has been a particularly important one for engagement with our Capitol Hill colleagues, particularly regarding the current debates in Congress over the budget. To this end and through information sharing, the FMWG created a “master list” of those Hill staffers that are working on the fissile material issue, and conducted a series of meetings with these key Hill staffers around the nonproliferation budget. FMWG members FCNL and the Center for Arms Control and Nonproliferation led this effort. Another outreach and educational tool has been a series of letters from FMWG member groups to Members of Congress and Administration officials on the importance of the nonproliferation programs to the four-year effort.

A direct outcome of these meetings – coupled with our FMWG talking points and [group letters](#) – was a bipartisan letter sent on March 23, 2011, by the House Armed Services Subcommittee on Strategic Forces to Chairman of the House Budget Committee on the importance of maintaining NNSA funding for nonproliferation programs.

From February through April 2011, the Fissile Materials Working Group spearheaded a campaign engaging grassroots, Washington and media pressures to secure funding for priority nonproliferation programs. Although full funding of the Obama administration’s request was not achieved, the result of these efforts were nonetheless notable: a \$190 million increase for target nonproliferation programs was secured amid \$38.5 billion in overall federal budget cuts. Many in the FMWG celebrated this as a resounding victory for our coalition’s efforts.

FMWG Events

After last year’s successful NGO summit, the FMWG set out to continue to bring to the forefront nuclear material security on the global agenda. To this end, the FMWG is holding a series of regional meetings to strategically advance the policies necessary for effective global nuclear material security. At these meetings region-specific concerns, challenges, and perspectives as they relate to nuclear material security are highlighted. The purpose is to draw continued attention to and build increased awareness of the commitments made by leaders attending the 2010 NSS. Through regional discussions, the FMWG continues to develop a network of NGO experts throughout the world who are engaged, educated, and advocating for the four year goal. Finally, the series generally provides momentum for the FMWG and its members in the period before the next heads-of-state level meeting on the issue in South Korea in 2012.

Additionally, we were open to partnering with embassies in Washington DC to elevate critical yet neglected FM issues (i.e., the role of the IAEA or G8 GP in the NSS process).

Regional Meetings

Our [first](#) regional event took place on October 21, 2010, in Cairo, Egypt, as part of the larger event, “Prospects for Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament: Beyond the 2010 NPT Review Conference and Nuclear Security Summit” co-organized by Partnership for Global Security (an FMWG member), the Arab Institute for Security Studies (an FMWG international partner), and the League of Arab States. This event highlighted regional and multilateral roles in the NSS process; included a nuclear terrorism threat briefing from the FMWG; presentations by the Jordanian Sherpa and the South Korean sous-Sherpa on the Nuclear Security Summits; a presentation by the FMWG on the outcomes of the 2010 summit and recommendations for the 2012 summit. The event allowed the 85-plus experts to exchange views and perspectives from the Middle East and African regions, as well as build relationships and explore potential collaborative opportunities for future projects.

Our second [regional event](#) coincided with the one-year anniversary of the Nuclear Security Summit. On April 13, 2011, the FMWG convened a conference to review progress on nuclear security in the year since the 2010 NSS. This conference, [Next Generation Nuclear Security: Measuring Progress and Charting the Way Forward](#), brought together nearly 100 participants from more than 25 countries representing civil society, academia, governments and missions, and intergovernmental organizations. The participants discussed global progress on meeting the commitments made at the 2010 NSS, Eurasian regional nuclear security efforts, education and training in nuclear security, and the role the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) is playing in advancing nuclear security. The conference created a forum for participants to network and share policy ideas on nuclear security, particularly by providing them with an opportunity to assess progress and suggest further opportunities for governmental and nongovernmental action. Those interactions helped bolster a global network of experts to press for the implementation of nuclear security measures.

At all regional meetings, the FMWG brings together civil society, government representatives, and media to engage on this issue.

Ad Hoc Events

On March 11, the FMWG co-hosted a half-day, high-level [symposium](#) with the Canadian Embassy in Washington, DC. This event focused on the G8 Global Partnership and the NSS process, and featured speakers from the Russian, Korean, Norwegian, and French Embassies, the NSC and State Department, and the FMWG. More than 100 experts, senior congressional staff, USG officials, embassy representatives, and others attended this symposium. The FMWG continues to be willing to partner with DC-based embassies to hold similar events.

Monthly FMWG Meetings

Nearly monthly, the FMWG coalition meets in person to strategize about how to implement the group’s work plan, which was developed between June and September 2010. Meeting agendas also often include brainstorming on how to continue to raise the profile of fissile material security with relevant stakeholders. These meetings are usually 2 hours long and include both our funders and international partners.