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TITLE	A THORNY PATH TO ‘GLOBAL ZERO’
SUMMARY	<p>An increased uncertainty and conflict potential of contemporary international relations, particularly, a further deterioration of situation on the Korean peninsula, render special importance and relevance to issues of nuclear disarmament. This paper focuses on the development of international debates on the ambitious idea of ‘Global zero’ – absolute prohibition of nuclear weapons and total elimination of existing nuclear arsenals. The paper examines preconditions for emergence of this idea, its development during the Cold War, and re-emergence in the 2000s. The author highlights a certain inconsistency in the U.S. policy in this area, compounded by a discrepancy between official declarations expressing commitment to nuclear disarmament principles and an offensive character of the U.S. nuclear doctrine. Turning to current challenges and prospects for general and complete nuclear disarmament the author examines positions of both nuclear superpowers – the United States and the Russian Federation – and some other members of the ‘nuclear club’ (the United Kingdom and France) as well as the countries which directly link their security to the preservation of the United States’ nuclear umbrella (Japan and the Republic of Korea). The policies of the U.S. allies is of particular importance since, in the author’s opinion, it is impossible to achieve total nuclear disarmament without active engagement of all relevant stakeholders in the negotiation process and without security assurances to both nuclear-weapon and non-nuclear-weapon states. Elimination of all nuclear weapons could only be the last step in this process.</p>
KEYWORDS	Global zero, nuclear weapons, nuclear disarmament, Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, strategic stability, missile defense, International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons, Pugwash Group.
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	The reported study was funded by RFBR according to the research project № 15-37-11136.