



# THE NUCLEAR TRANSPARENCY INVENTORY

## PROJECT SUMMARY

**The Nuclear Transparency Inventory (NUTRI) website will catalogue the practices and perspectives of all nuclear-armed states regarding transparency around their nuclear arsenals and related facilities and policies.**

NUTRI is a new research project from BASIC's Non-Proliferation and Disarmament programme.<sup>1</sup> It will catalogue whether, how, and why nuclear-armed states *choose to disclose information* about their nuclear arsenals and related facilities and policies. The NUTRI website will not focus primarily on the size or make up of nuclear arsenals – sources such as the *Nuclear Notebook* series and *SIPRI Yearbook* do that already. Rather, it will provide an interactive catalogue of whether and how states deliberately reveal information about their arsenals.

The goal of NUTRI is to increase mutual understanding and international dialogue to address a fundamental security concern, which is that the likelihood of nuclear weapons being used in battle is increasing due to rapid political, technological, and ecological changes. To that end, NUTRI will document, as objectively as possible, how governments in nuclear-armed states think and act regarding nuclear transparency and how they view its impact on national and international security.

The NUTRI website will apply a standardised framework to document the views of nuclear-armed states "in their own words." It will rely primarily on official documents and communications, not secondary analysis, open-source intelligence, or data leaks. To conduct the research, BASIC is engaging external experts who are fluent in the relevant languages, and the findings will undergo blind peer review.

BASIC aims to support research and dialogue on nuclear transparency by offering officials and analysts a go-to source of trusted information on the subject. We are not advocating specific transparency measures, but rather, providing a simple reference tool to quickly assess and compare how different nuclear-armed states understand the impacts of such measures. The long-term goal is to expand the scope for "strategic empathy"—the practice of considering the drivers and constraints of adversaries' actions, enabling policymakers to reflect on how their own actions, even if intended as defensive measures, might provoke insecurity and escalation.<sup>2</sup>

Alongside NUTRI, BASIC's Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Programme is also developing the [NPT Monitor](#). This is a separate but complementary project that will assess the implementation of the NPT across all three of its "pillars"—disarmament, non-proliferation, and peaceful uses of nuclear technologies. BASIC is grateful to Global Affairs Canada and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands for their generous funding of the two projects. For more information on NUTRI, contact the Project Manager, Dr Lyndon Burford, at [lburford@basicint.org](mailto:lburford@basicint.org).

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<sup>1</sup> BASIC is an independent, nonprofit think tank working to safeguard humanity and Earth's ecosystem from nuclear risks and interconnected security threats, for generations to come. For more information, go to [basicint.org](http://basicint.org).

<sup>2</sup> Claire Yorke, "[Is Empathy a Strategic Imperative? A Review Essay](#)," *Journal of Strategic Studies* 46, no. 5 (2023).