

COUNTERING RADIOLOGICAL & NUCLEAR DISINFORMATION: 2026 REVIEW CONFERENCE OF THE NPT



BRIEFING NOTE | APRIL 2026

Disinformation* by State-sponsored and State-adjacent actors has been observed in international disarmament forums and **will likely feature at the 2026 Review Conference (RevCon) of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT)**. This briefing note aims to prepare delegations for disinformation narratives they may encounter. For further information: www.GPWMDCounterDisinfo.com.

WHAT IS RN DISINFORMATION AND WHY DOES IT MATTER?

Radiological and nuclear (RN) disinformation refers to **deliberately false or manipulated information** concerning radiological or nuclear technologies, materials, weapons or their associated risks and uses. Like other WMD-related disinformation, RN narratives matter because of their negative and disruptive impact in multilateral fora. See examples of the risk below:



Complicate risk communication and response coordination during emergencies.



Distract resources and delay effective decision-making.



Put technical facts in question through selective interpretation of data, reducing the impact of impartial assessments.



Create diplomatic friction and misperceptions between Member States, making collective action harder.



Weaken norm coherence and pave the way for norm fragmentation.

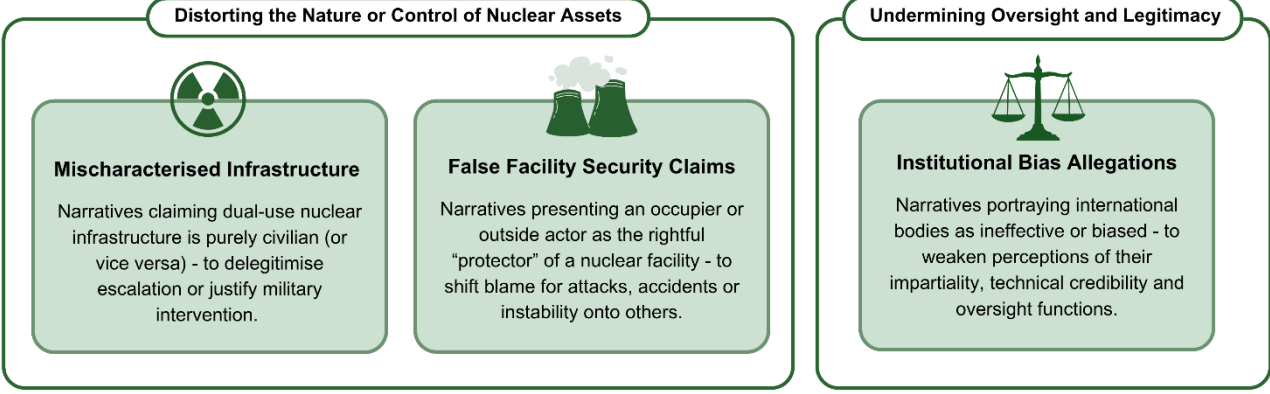
REVCON NARRATIVES

In the context of the 2026 NPT RevCon, such RN disinformation narratives can erode trust in shared facts, increase suspicions and harden negotiating positions. When false claims circulate, they can distort perceptions and narrow the space for compromise across the NPT's pillars. This can weaken political support for collective measures on nuclear non-proliferation, safety, security and peaceful uses. Delegations should therefore pause to assess whether the claims they encounter are supported by credible evidence. The following false or misleading narratives are among those most likely to be encountered at RevCon:



* *Definitively identifying disinformation can be challenging as intent and attribution are often unclear. For brevity, this report adopts a broad definition of "disinformation" that includes misinformation and other information operations, as all mislead the public and shape perceptions.*

REVCON NARRATIVES CONTINUED...



DISINFORMATION TACTICS

Within RN international forums, including the RevCon, **the right of reply is a key vehicle for disinformation**. These replies are reactive and not formally recorded, which enables further opportunities for the spread of false or misleading claims. By contrast, pre-prepared national statements often contain less overt disinformation, though they still advance selective or strategically framed narratives.

State actors draw on a range of tactics designed to deceive audiences, shape perceptions and legitimise political or military action. See our graphic below for examples of some of the most common disinformation tactics. Recognising and responding to these tactics will better equip RevCon participants to identify, contextualise and mitigate their potential impact.

Appeal to authority	Appeal to emotions	Claims of victimisation
Credibility inflation	Discrediting opponents	Distraction & misdirection
Manipulation of evidence	Entities as puppets	Recycling narratives

Scan the QR code to view the Tactic Tracker, access detailed tactic definitions and monitor RN disinfo present at the RevCon.

REVCON TACTIC TRACKER

WANT TO LEARN MORE?

Understanding these common disinformation narratives and tactics will better equip delegations to **pre-emptively debunk falsehoods**, **alert others to recurring patterns** and **build organisational and state resilience** against the harmful effects of RN disinformation. *Scan the QR codes below to learn more:*

LIST OF REFERENCES

BEST PRACTICES FOR COUNTERING RN DISINFO

RN DISINFO ROADMAP

REFERENCES

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