

# 2015 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

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## Comprehensive implementation of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and active promotion of global nuclear governance

### Working paper submitted by China

1. China attaches great importance to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons as the cornerstone of the international non-proliferation regime. Firmly committed to its obligations under the Treaty, China has been working actively to advance the three major goals of the Treaty, namely, the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, nuclear disarmament, and the peaceful use of nuclear energy, and to further enhance the universality, authority and effectiveness of the Treaty.

2. The Treaty review process is a major platform for global nuclear governance. As 2015 marks the forty-fifth anniversary of the Treaty's entry into force, the 2015 Review Conference will provide an important opportunity to advance global nuclear governance and comprehensively promote the process of building a nuclear-weapon-free world. China has constructively participated in the preparation of the Review Conference and been actively involved in all the previous preparatory sessions. China has submitted working papers<sup>1</sup> on the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, nuclear disarmament, security assurances, peaceful uses of nuclear energy and nuclear-weapon-free zones. Pursuant to actions 5, 20 and 21 of the 2010 Review Conference action plan (see NPT/CONF.2010/50 (Vol. I)), China has submitted its national report on the implementation of the Treaty to the 2014 Preparatory Committee and the 2015 Review Conference. China is committed to facilitating a positive outcome from the Review Conference.

3. For the 2015 Review Conference, the Chinese delegation wishes to reiterate the points listed below and calls for their inclusion in the reports of all the main committees and the final document of the Conference.

<sup>1</sup> NPT/CONF.2015/PC.I/WP.39, NPT/CONF.2015/PC.I/WP.40, NPT/CONF.2015/PC.I/WP.41, NPT/CONF.2015/PC.I/WP.42, NPT/CONF.2015/PC.I/WP.43, NPT/CONF.2015/PC.I/WP.44, NPT/CONF.2015/PC.II/WP.28, NPT/CONF.2015/PC.II/WP.29, NPT/CONF.2015/PC.II/WP.30, NPT/CONF.2015/PC.II/WP.31, NPT/CONF.2015/PC.III/WP.39, NPT/CONF.2015/PC.III/WP.40, NPT/CONF.2015/PC.III/WP.41, NPT/CONF.2015/PC.III/WP.42.



**General principles**

4. Nuclear disarmament, non-proliferation and peaceful uses of nuclear energy are important components of global governance in the nuclear field and have a direct bearing on global and regional peace and stability as well as on the security of all countries and the well-being of their people.

5. To improve global nuclear governance, all parties should further build consensus, strengthen cooperation and promote nuclear disarmament, non-proliferation and the peaceful use of nuclear energy in a comprehensive, balanced and prudent way.

6. The actions agreed upon in the final document at the 2010 Review Conference reflect universal consensus among all parties and should become the road map for the further promotion of the review process.

7. It is necessary to uphold multilateralism, maintain the authority, universality and effectiveness of the Treaty, adhere and fully utilize existing multilateral mechanisms such as the First Committee, the United Nations Disarmament Commission and the Conference on Disarmament in order to provide legal support and institutional guarantees for advancing international arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation, including the nuclear disarmament process.

**Nuclear disarmament and reducing the threat of nuclear war**

8. Nuclear disarmament should be guided by the principle of universal security. A new security concept featuring mutual trust, mutual benefit, equality and cooperation should be pursued. The legitimate and reasonable security concerns of all countries should be fully respected and accommodated. Relations among countries should be built on the basis of mutual understanding and trust. International disputes should be resolved peacefully through equal-footed dialogue. Efforts should be made to create a peaceful and stable international security environment so as to provide the necessary conditions for further progress in nuclear disarmament.

9. All nuclear-weapon States should be committed to the complete prohibition and thorough destruction of nuclear weapons, earnestly fulfil their obligations under article VI of the Treaty and openly declare their commitment to not seek to permanently possess nuclear weapons.

10. Nuclear disarmament efforts should adhere to the principles of maintaining global strategic stability and ensuring undiminished security for all and promote these principles in a step-by-step manner.

11. Countries with the largest nuclear arsenals bear special and primary responsibility for nuclear disarmament and should continue to take the lead in making drastic and substantive reductions in their arsenals in a verifiable, irreversible and legally binding way so as to create the necessary conditions for complete and total nuclear disarmament. When conditions are ripe, other nuclear-weapon States should join in the multilateral negotiations on nuclear disarmament. To attain the ultimate goal of complete and total nuclear disarmament, the international community should develop, at an appropriate time, a viable long-term plan comprising phased-in actions, including the conclusion of a convention on the complete prohibition of nuclear weapons.

12. Development and deployment of global missile defence systems, which undermine global and regional strategic stability, should be abandoned and international cooperation in this regard should not be pursued to avoid damaging international nuclear disarmament efforts. Preventing the weaponization of and an arms race in outer space will be beneficial to maintaining global strategic balance and stability and the creation of the international security environment necessary for nuclear disarmament.

13. The Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty is an important step in the nuclear disarmament process. Countries that have not yet signed or ratified the treaty should do so as early as possible in order for the treaty to enter into force at an early date, as stipulated by the relevant treaty provisions. Pending the entry into force of the treaty, nuclear-weapon States should continue to observe their moratoriums on nuclear testing.

14. The Conference on Disarmament, in Geneva, is the only appropriate forum for negotiations on a treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices. Negotiations on such a production ban treaty should begin as early as possible in the Conference on Disarmament, in accordance with the mandate established under document CD/1299 and with the full participation of all parties concerned. The Conference on Disarmament should also engage in substantive work on the issues of nuclear disarmament, the prevention of an arms race in outer space and security assurances for non-nuclear-weapon States.

15. Pending the conclusion of international legal instruments on nuclear disarmament, all nuclear-weapon States should take the following measures to reduce the danger of nuclear war, diminish the role of nuclear weapons in national security policy and increase the level of mutual trust between States:

(a) Abandon nuclear deterrence policies based on first use of nuclear weapons and undertake not to be the first to use nuclear weapons at any time or under any circumstances;

(b) Honour their commitments not to target their nuclear weapons against any country, refrain from listing any country as the target of nuclear strikes or targeting the nuclear weapons under their control at any country;

(c) Clearly and unconditionally undertake not to use or threaten to use nuclear weapons against non-nuclear-weapon States or nuclear-weapon-free zones, and to conclude a legally binding international instrument to this end;

(d) Continue to support the efforts of relevant countries and regions in establishing nuclear-weapon-free zones and other zones free of weapons-of-mass-destruction in accordance with regional conditions and on the basis of voluntary consultation and agreement. All nuclear weapon States should assume obligations in this regard in a legally binding manner;

(e) Abolish nuclear umbrella and nuclear sharing policies and practices. Countries that deploy nuclear weapons abroad should withdraw and repatriate all such weapons;

(f) Take all necessary steps to avoid accidental or unauthorized launches of nuclear weapons.

**Prevention of nuclear weapons proliferation**

16. The prevention of nuclear weapons proliferation is an effective and necessary step towards the complete prohibition and thorough destruction of nuclear weapons and a holistic approach should be taken to address both the symptoms and the root causes.

17. All countries should pursue universal security and remove the root causes of nuclear weapons proliferation, abandon zero-sum thinking and cold war mentalities and endeavour to foster a peaceful and stable international environment, fully respect and accommodate the legitimate security concerns of all countries, attach importance to both one's own security and joint security and build a community of shared destiny.

18. The issue of nuclear proliferation should be addressed peacefully through political and diplomatic means within the framework of existing international laws. Countries should refrain from reflexively resorting to sanctions, the use or threat of force and should not use non-proliferation as an excuse for pursuing other aims.

19. All countries should abandon double standards and opportunism; uphold the authority of the nuclear non-proliferation regime; ensure comprehensive, faithful and balanced compliance with all Treaty obligations; avoid setting non-proliferation standards according to the existence or absence of affinities between States; uphold multilateralism and continuously reinforce the fair, reasonable and non-discriminatory nature of the international nuclear non-proliferation regime on the basis of universal participation and democratic decision-making; take seriously the issue of the severe imbalance between supply and demand for nuclear materials in individual countries and adopt effective measures to address it.

20. The universality of the Treaty should be enhanced and countries that have not yet joined the Treaty should do so as non-nuclear-weapon States as soon as possible and place all of their nuclear facilities under the safeguards of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in accordance with Treaty provisions.

21. The role of the United Nations and other relevant international organizations and mechanisms should be fully utilized and Security Council resolutions 1540 (2004) and 1887 (2009) should be earnestly implemented. Earnest efforts should be made to promote the universality of the IAEA comprehensive safeguards agreements and additional protocols. All countries should further enhance their nuclear export control mechanisms and support the efforts of the Zangger Committee and the Nuclear Suppliers Group in this regard.

22. All countries should observe the principles of fairness and balance and properly handle the relationship between nuclear non-proliferation and the peaceful use of nuclear energy. Any measures taken to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons should not undermine the legitimate rights of countries to the peaceful use of nuclear energy; all proliferation activities carried out under the pretext of peaceful use should be prohibited.

23. The Iranian nuclear issue and the nuclear issue on the Korean Peninsula have direct bearing on the international nuclear non-proliferation regime and on the peace and stability of relevant regions. In this connection, China welcomes the progress made in the negotiations on the Iranian nuclear issue in Lausanne, in March 2015, and encourage all relevant parties to step up diplomatic efforts to conclude a

comprehensive agreement at an early date. All relevant parties should continue to oppose the development of nuclear weapons on the Korean Peninsula and earnestly implement relevant Security Council resolutions and the Joint Statement of the Fourth Round of the Six-Party Talks; continue to make joint efforts for the resumption of meaningful Six-Party Talks and for substantial progress in the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula.

#### **Nuclear-weapon-free zones and the nuclear issue in the Middle East**

24. The establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones is an important guarantee for preventing nuclear weapons proliferation and is of great significance to maintaining international and regional peace, security and stability.

25. Efforts by all countries to establish nuclear-weapon-free zones based on article VII of the Treaty and the guidelines adopted by the United Nations Disarmament Commission in 1999 should be actively supported.

26. All nuclear-weapon States should explicitly and unconditionally undertake not to use or threaten to use nuclear weapons against non-nuclear-weapon States or nuclear-weapon-free zones and conclude a legally binding international instrument to this end.

27. All nuclear-weapon States should respect the legal status of nuclear-weapon-free zones, sign and ratify the protocols of relevant treaties on nuclear-weapon-free zones and faithfully fulfil relevant obligations. In this context, China welcomes the signing of the Protocol to the Treaty on a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Central Asia by the five nuclear-weapon States in May 2014 and is appreciative of the States that have already ratified the Protocol; and hopes to see the early signing and ratification of the Protocol to the Treaty on the Southeast Asia Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone.

28. While promoting reconciliation and cooperation among the countries of the Middle East and facilitating the Middle East peace process, countries should continue to attach importance to and support the efforts to establish a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction. All countries should earnestly implement relevant General Assembly resolutions, the resolution on the Middle East adopted at the 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT/CONF.1995/32 (Part I), Annex) and relevant provisions of the final documents of the review conferences in 2000 and in 2010. In this connection, China encourages the relevant countries to step up consultations and to convene at an early date an international conference on the establishment of a zone in the Middle East free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction.

29. Israel should accede to the Treaty as a non-nuclear-weapon State as soon as possible. The relevant countries in the Middle East should sign and ratify the IAEA comprehensive safeguards agreements as soon as possible. Relevant countries are encouraged to sign and ratify the additional protocols to the IAEA comprehensive safeguards agreements.

#### **Peaceful use of nuclear energy**

30. As a mature, clean, safe and competitive source of energy, nuclear energy is of great importance to ensuring energy security and addressing climate change.

Promoting international cooperation on the peaceful use of nuclear energy is one of the key goals set forth in the Treaty and the Statute of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

31. The prevention of nuclear weapons proliferation and the peaceful use of nuclear energy are mutually reinforcing and of equal importance; one cannot be favoured over the other. Efforts to prevent nuclear-weapon proliferation should not undermine the legitimate right of countries, particularly the developing countries, to the peaceful use of nuclear energy.

32. The developed countries and the IAEA should step up assistance to developing countries in the peaceful use of nuclear energy based on their actual needs.

33. The IAEA should observe the principles set forth in its Statute and maintain the balanced development of activities to prevent nuclear weapons proliferation and to peacefully use nuclear energy. China appreciates the effective work of the IAEA in promoting nuclear technology applications. All member States should actively support IAEA technological cooperation activities and ensure the sufficiency and predictability of resources for such cooperation.

34. Nuclear safety is the lifeline for nuclear power development and nuclear technology applications. It is both relevant to the economic development and social stability of countries concerned and may have serious regional or even global consequences. The international community should earnestly take stock of the experience and lessons from the Fukushima nuclear accident, continuously strengthen nuclear safety measures and promote the safe development of nuclear energy.

35. All countries should strengthen nuclear security and eliminate the threat of nuclear terrorism; follow a rational, coordinated and balanced nuclear security approach; build an international nuclear security regime featuring fairness and win-win cooperation in line with the principles of placing equal emphasis on development and security, on rights and obligations, on independence and collaboration as well as on treating symptoms and addressing root causes; earnestly assume their primary responsibilities, continuously build up their own nuclear security capacity and actively participate in international cooperation on nuclear security; and support the continued leading role of the IAEA in international nuclear security process.

36. A guaranteed supply of reactor fuel is of great significance to the sustainable development of nuclear energy. All countries should steadily promote relevant multilateral cooperative mechanisms through extensive consultations, with equal attention to the principles of peaceful use of nuclear energy and preventing the proliferation of nuclear weapons.