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# Preparatory Committee for the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

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## First session

Vienna, 30 April-11 May 2007

### Perspectives on issues related to cluster 1

#### Working paper submitted by Australia

1. The NPT is vital to global efforts to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons and to realise complete and irreversible nuclear disarmament. Australia is committed to achieving the goal of nuclear disarmament through balanced, progressive and reinforcing steps.
2. As required under the Treaty, all States must play their part in reaching this goal. But the international community rightly looks to the nuclear-weapon States to take the lead through lasting reductions of their nuclear arsenals.
3. Australia welcomes the steps taken in this direction. In particular, we acknowledge the deep reductions in warhead weapons — as well as delivery systems — undertaken by the United States and the Russian Federation, including as part of the Moscow Treaty. Australia notes the sharply reduced number of strategic nuclear warheads that are expected to remain deployed by 2012. We encourage the United States and Russia to continue efforts aimed at further deep and irreversible cuts to their nuclear arsenals thereafter.
4. Australia also welcomes the recent announcement by the United Kingdom that it will reduce its holdings of nuclear warheads by 20 per cent. This is a significant cut by any measure and will reduce the number of that country's nuclear warheads to a low point seemingly unimaginable during the cold war.
5. Despite these positive steps, however, Australia looks to States within and outside the Treaty that possess nuclear weapons to continue efforts towards the elimination of their nuclear arsenals. Such efforts must be undertaken transparently. Australia welcomes reports to the Preparatory Committee and other meetings, but notes that such transparency is applied unequally by nuclear-weapon States.
6. Australia encourages the nuclear-weapon States to reduce the role of nuclear weapons in their security policies, thereby lowering the risk that these weapons might ever be used and ensuring they are eventually eliminated altogether. And we urge these States to reduce further the operational status of their nuclear weapons in ways that promote global security and stability.



7. The burden of responsibility for nuclear disarmament is not the nuclear-weapon States' alone. All States must contribute to ensuring an environment conducive to nuclear disarmament. Australia is playing its part in strengthening that environment.

8. Australia is a committed party to the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty. As Coordinator of the article XIV effort to secure entry into force of the CTBT, Australia urges all NPT and other States to accede to this vital treaty without delay. Australia acknowledges the effort of Ambassador Jaap Ramaker, Special Representative of States Ratifiers, to promote entry into force of the CTBT.

9. Australia strongly supports negotiation of a legally binding, non-discriminatory treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons that provides for appropriate measures to verify parties' compliance with their obligations — a key measure to ensuring irreversible nuclear disarmament.

10. Australia is a party to the South Pacific Nuclear Free Zone and continues to support strongly this treaty. Australia reaffirmed its commitment not to develop, produce, otherwise acquire, stockpile, retain or use nuclear weapons in the Agreement between the Republic of Indonesia and Australia on the Framework for Security Cooperation (the Lombok treaty) signed in November 2006. Australia has joined others in sending a clear political signal on the need for nuclear disarmament through General Assembly resolutions on the elimination of nuclear weapons, the CTBT, disarmament education and the fissile material cut-off treaty (FMCT).

11. States have an opportunity to make significant progress on some of these issues, notably an FMCT, through the work programme proposal of the Conference on Disarmament's six presidents. Australia urges Conference member States to seize this opportunity by agreeing to the proposal when the Conference resumes after the conclusion of the Preparatory Committee.

12. Australia is also contributing to nuclear disarmament through its strong adherence to and promotion of the vital non-proliferation provisions of the NPT. Australia has extensive domestic legislation implementing our non-proliferation obligations under the NPT. Our uranium exports are subject to strict safeguards agreements that ensure they cannot be used for nuclear weapons.

13. Australia has undertaken extensive outreach in our region and beyond to promote non-proliferation measures, including strengthened safeguards under the Additional Protocol, export controls, nuclear security and efforts against nuclear terrorism.

14. Such non-proliferation measures are essential, for there cannot be a world free of nuclear weapons without complete and permanent assurances of non-proliferation. In this regard, the non-proliferation objectives of the NPT have suffered significant setbacks.

15. North Korea's nuclear test was a fundamental challenge to the NPT and all States parties' interests in it. Iran's serious violations of its NPT nuclear safeguards obligations and continuing development of its uranium enrichment programme in defiance of the IAEA Board of Governors and the Security Council is also a concern for States parties.

16. The DPRK and Iran cases are critical challenges to the nuclear non-proliferation regime. Their actions undermine the international confidence,

security and stability that is fundamental not only to preventing the proliferation of nuclear weapons, but also to ensuring further progress on nuclear disarmament.

17. Australia welcomes — but is not satisfied by — the progress being made on nuclear disarmament. Australia is gravely concerned by recent setbacks on non-proliferation, but heartened by the strong non-proliferation commitment of the overwhelming majority of NPT parties. Progress on non-proliferation *and* nuclear disarmament are fundamental to the strength of the NPT and to ensuring its shared and enduring security value to all States parties.

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