

Preparatory Committee for the 2015 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

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Report submitted by New Zealand

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to action 20 of the Action Plan contained in the Final Document adopted by the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. That Action Plan stipulates that parties should submit regular reports, within the framework of the strengthened review process for the Treaty, on the implementation of the Action Plan, as well as of article VI, paragraph 4 (c), of the 1995 decision entitled “Principles and objectives for nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament”, and the practical steps agreed to in the Final Document of the 2000 Review Conference, and recalling the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice of 8 July 1996.
2. At the 2010 Review Conference, States parties also recognized that nuclear disarmament and achieving the peace and security of a world without nuclear weapons would require openness and cooperation. States parties affirmed the importance of enhanced confidence through increased transparency and effective verification. The Final Document agreed on a number of actions on transparency. Under action 2, all States parties committed to apply the principles of irreversibility, verifiability and transparency in relation to the implementation of their Treaty obligations. Under action 5, the nuclear-weapon States committed to accelerate concrete progress on the steps leading to nuclear disarmament and were called upon to promptly engage in order, inter alia, to “further enhance transparency and increase mutual confidence”. Under action 19, all States agreed on the importance of supporting cooperation among Governments, the United Nations, other international and regional organizations and civil society aimed at increasing confidence, improving transparency and developing efficient verification capabilities related to nuclear disarmament. And under action 21, all the nuclear-weapon States were encouraged as a confidence-building measure to agree as soon as possible on a standard reporting form and to determine appropriate reporting intervals for the purpose of voluntarily providing standard information without prejudice to national security.
3. New Zealand takes the view that transparency is a principle to which all States should adhere because it helps to reinforce compliance with Treaty obligations. The more that is known about the manner of implementation of a State’s binding Treaty commitments, the greater will be the level of international trust in the regime. In



this spirit, New Zealand has consistently lodged transparency reports since the 2000 Review Conference, and in the light of action 20 will continue to do so.

4. New Zealand is a strong supporter of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and its three pillars. We are dedicated to achieving a world free of nuclear weapons, and we continue to encourage national, regional and global efforts to realize this goal. We note the importance of the undertakings during the Treaty's Review Conferences, particularly the outcomes reached in 1995, 2000 and 2010, which represent an integral part of the Treaty regime and must be implemented.

5. New Zealand takes very seriously the obligations of article VI and the commitments agreed upon at subsequent Review Conferences, particularly the 1995 Principles and Objectives, the 13 practical steps agreed at the 2000 Review Conference and the nuclear disarmament action points agreed at the 2010 Review Conference. The 2010 Action Plan provides a very important blueprint for action in the short term, and New Zealand continues to take all available opportunities to urge all States parties to implement their obligations in full.

6. New Zealand is an active member of the New Agenda Coalition,¹ which promotes nuclear disarmament. The Coalition's annual resolution, adopted by the General Assembly in 2011 (resolution 66/40 entitled "Towards a nuclear-weapon-free world: accelerating the implementation of nuclear disarmament commitments"), highlighted the central role of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, sought to place emphasis on the relevant action points in the 2010 Action Plan and called upon States to abide fully by their commitments. New Zealand is pleased to be associated with two working papers presented by the New Agenda Coalition to the first session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2015 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons: a general working paper on nuclear disarmament and a more specific working paper on nuclear disarmament verification.

7. New Zealand is pleased to work with Chile, Malaysia, Nigeria and Switzerland (the De-alerting Group) to promote action to lower the operational readiness of nuclear weapons systems. The De-alerting Group presented a resolution at the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly in 2010 (resolution 65/71 entitled "Decreasing the operational readiness of nuclear weapons systems"), in which the Assembly welcomed the commitment in 2010 of the nuclear-weapon States to promptly engage to consider the legitimate interest of non-nuclear-weapon States in further reducing the operational status of nuclear weapons and called for further practical steps to be taken in that regard. The De-alerting Group remains committed to achieving progress in this area as part of an incremental approach to nuclear disarmament and will be presenting a follow-up resolution at this year's session of the General Assembly.

8. New Zealand remains a strong proponent of entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty and supported the Final Declaration of the Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty in September 2011. New Zealand was pleased that the 2010 Review Conference reaffirmed the essential role of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty within the nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime and the vital importance of entry into force of the Treaty. The Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban

¹ Brazil, Egypt, Ireland, Mexico, New Zealand, South Africa and Sweden.

Treaty makes an important contribution to preventing the proliferation of nuclear weapons as well as to constraining the qualitative improvement of existing nuclear weapons and ending the development of advanced new types of such weapons. New Zealand is pleased to be a core sponsor, with Australia and Mexico, of an annual resolution on the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty in the General Assembly that recognizes the Treaty as a fundamental instrument in the field of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation.

9. New Zealand supports the early negotiation of a non-discriminatory, multilateral and internationally and effectively verifiable treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices. New Zealand remains disappointed that efforts to agree on a programme of work in the Conference on Disarmament, including intensive efforts earlier this year, have not been successful. New Zealand supports all efforts to overcome the current impasse in the Conference on Disarmament so that substantive work in the Conference, including negotiations on fissile materials, can commence without further delay. It is of concern to New Zealand that the Conference is not fulfilling its potential and contributing to efforts to achieve progress on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation.

10. New Zealand is in full compliance with its article II commitments. New Zealand's obligations under the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons are legislated in the New Zealand Nuclear Free Zone, Disarmament and Arms Control Act 1987. New Zealand's concerns about compliance by other non-nuclear-weapon State parties to the Treaty have been expressed in various forums, including at the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

11. New Zealand's safeguards agreement with IAEA came into force on 29 February 1972. New Zealand concluded an Additional Protocol on 24 September 1998. In 2001, IAEA assessed New Zealand to be in full compliance with all its safeguards commitments. With no nuclear weapons, no nuclear energy generation, no nuclear reactors and no production of uranium or other relevant material, New Zealand has only very minor activities subject to safeguards. New Zealand is supportive of the IAEA decision and its efforts to modify the Small Quantities Protocol to address weaknesses in the safeguards system identified by IAEA. New Zealand applies export controls to materials and dual-use goods which can be used in a nuclear weapons programme and coordinates these measures with other members of the Nuclear Suppliers Group.

12. New Zealand has given strong support to a system of strengthened IAEA safeguards. The IAEA safeguards system is an essential component of the global non-proliferation regime. IAEA safeguards provide assurances that States are meeting their undertakings under the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and provide the mechanism for States to demonstrate their compliance. Universal application of the integrated safeguards system, including the Additional Protocol, would promote collective security, and New Zealand calls upon all States that have not yet done so to conclude such agreements at the earliest possible date.

13. New Zealand is a staunch advocate of the role of nuclear-weapon-free zones in contributing to nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. New Zealand is a full party to the South Pacific Nuclear Free Zone Treaty of 1985 (the Treaty of Rarotonga) and is involved in efforts to promote greater engagement between States that are part of nuclear-weapon-free zones.

14. New Zealand was pleased to work with Brazil to submit a draft resolution at the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly (adopted as resolution 65/58 entitled “Nuclear-weapon-free southern hemisphere and adjacent areas”), in which the Assembly recognizes the contribution of nuclear-weapon-free zones to the achievement of a nuclear-weapon-free world and welcomes the fact that all nuclear-weapon-free zones in the southern hemisphere are now in force.

15. New Zealand welcomes the reaffirmation, at the 2010 Review Conference, of the 1995 resolution on the Middle East and the agreement to convene a conference in 2012 on the establishment of a zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East. We look forward to the successful convening of the conference and welcome the steps taken in preparation for it, including the appointment of Under Secretary of State Jaako Laajava of Finland as Facilitator and the designation of Finland as host Government.

16. New Zealand reaffirms the inalienable right of States parties to peaceful nuclear technology, in conformity with articles I, II and III of the Treaty and was pleased to be an early supporter of the IAEA Peaceful Uses Initiative. It remains New Zealand’s view that safeguards, safety, security and waste management all need to be an integral part of the development of peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

17. New Zealand has been active at such forums as the IAEA General Conference in promoting close attention to the safe transport of radioactive materials and radioactive waste. New Zealand is concerned that the highest possible safety standards are adopted and applied fully, that coastal and other interested States receive notification in advance of shipments, and that adequate liability arrangements are in place.

18. New Zealand remains committed to efforts to promote disarmament and non-proliferation education. In New Zealand, funding is available through the Peace and Disarmament Education Trust (PADET) for postgraduate research to promote international peace, arms control and disarmament. The Disarmament Education United Nations Implementation Fund (DEUNIF) was established in 2004 to implement recommendations of the 2002 United Nations Study on Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Education. New Zealand is pleased that funding provided through DEUNIF supports the work of New Zealanders in promoting progress on disarmament and non-proliferation, including in relation to nuclear weapons.
