

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

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Procedural and other arrangements for the effective and successful outcome of the Preparatory Committee and 2015 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

Working paper submitted by the Group of Non-Aligned States Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons**

1. The Group of Non-Aligned States Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons reiterates its commitment to article VIII (3) of the Treaty, as well as the consensus reached at the 2000 Review Conference on improving the effectiveness of the strengthened review process of the Treaty, including the stipulation (see NPT/CONF.2000/28 (Vol. I, Part I)) that:

“The States Parties, recalling paragraph 4 of Decision 1 of the 1995 NPT Review and Extension Conference, agreed that the purpose of the first two sessions of the Preparatory Committee would be to ‘consider principles, objectives and ways in order to promote the full implementation of the Treaty, as well as its universality’. To this end, each session of the Preparatory Committee should consider specific matters of substance relating to the implementation of the Treaty and Decisions 1 and 2, as well as the Resolution on the Middle East adopted in 1995, and the outcomes of subsequent Review Conferences, including developments affecting the operation and purpose of the Treaty.”

2. The Group of Non-Aligned States Parties to the Treaty recalls that the Preparatory Committee for the 2015 Review Conference is mandated and tasked, in fulfilment of the 1995 and 2000 decisions on the strengthened review process, to undertake the following:

(a) Consider specific matters of substance relating to the implementation of the Treaty and Decisions 1 and 2 as well as the Resolution on the Middle East

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adopted in 1995, and the outcomes of subsequent Review Conferences, including developments affecting the operation and purpose of the Treaty;

(b) At its third and, as appropriate, fourth session, the Preparatory Committee, taking into account the deliberations and results of its previous sessions, should make every effort to produce a consensus report containing recommendations to the Review Conference;

(c) The States parties agreed that the procedural arrangements for the Review Conference should be finalized at the last session of the Preparatory Committee;

(d) As legally binding security assurances by the five nuclear-weapon States to the non-nuclear-weapon States parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons would strengthen the nuclear non-proliferation regime, the Preparatory Committee should make recommendations to the 2015 Review Conference on this issue;

(e) The establishment of such subsidiary bodies would be recommended by the Preparatory Committee for each Review Conference in relation to the specific objectives of the Review Conference.

3. In the context of the above-mentioned tasks and mandates, the Group of Non-Aligned States Parties to the Treaty calls for:

(a) An agreement on the provisional agenda of the Preparatory Committee and 2015 Review Conference, which would include “Preparatory work for the review of the operation of the Treaty in accordance with article VIII (3) of the Treaty, in particular, consideration of principles, objectives and ways to promote the full implementation of the Treaty, as well as its universality, including specific matters of substance related to the implementation of the Treaty and Decisions 1 and 2, as well as the Resolution on the Middle East adopted in 1995, and the outcome of the 2000 Review Conference”, as well as the “Conclusions and recommendations for follow-on actions” of the 2010 Review Conference of the Treaty;

(b) Recalling that the 2000 Final Document states clearly that “each session of the Preparatory Committee should consider specific matters of substance relating to the implementation of the Treaty and the Decisions 1 and 2, as well as the Resolution on the Middle East adopted in 1995, and the outcomes of subsequent Review Conferences”, the Group of Non-Aligned States Parties to the Treaty believes that this Preparatory Committee should deal with all the procedural issues necessary to take its work forward as well as with matters of substance as was decided at the 1995, 2000 and 2010 Conferences;

(c) To this end, the Preparatory Committee should substantially focus on nuclear disarmament so as to ensure that there is a proper accounting in the reports by the States of their progress in achieving nuclear disarmament. In this regard, the Group of Non-Aligned States Parties to the Treaty wishes to recall that the Final Document of the 2000 Review Conference (see NPT/CONF.2000/28 (Parts I-IV)) called for regular reports within the framework of the Treaty’s strengthened review process by all States parties on the implementation of article VI and paragraph 4 (c) of the 1995 decision on “Principles and objectives for nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament”. The Group recalls the stipulation of section B on “Disarmament of nuclear weapons”, contained in the “Conclusions and recommendations for follow-on actions” of the 2010 Review Conference of the Treaty that: “The nuclear-weapon

States are called upon to report the undertakings under that section to the Preparatory Committee at 2014 (see NPT/CONF.2010/50 (Vol. I)). The 2015 Review Conference will take stock and consider the next steps for the full implementation of article VI.” In this connection, the Group expects that the States parties, in particular the nuclear-weapon States, should submit reports to each Preparatory Committee session, including this one, unless otherwise decided by the Review Conference. In the view of the Group, the reports on article VI should cover issues and principles addressed by the 13 practical steps and undertakings under section B on “Disarmament of nuclear weapons”, in the “Conclusions and recommendations for follow-on actions” of the 2010 Review Conference and should include specific and complete information on each of these steps and follow-on actions. These reports should also address, *inter alia*, current policies and intentions, as well as developments in these areas;

(d) The Group of Non-Aligned States Parties to the Treaty also believes that the Preparatory Committee should substantially focus on the Middle East by devoting sufficient time within the indicative timetable and the full opportunity for all speakers to thereby engage in a substantive debate. The Group further recalls that the Final Document of the 2000 Review Conference called on all States parties to the Treaty, particularly the nuclear-weapon States, the States of the Middle East and other interested States, to report through the United Nations Secretariat to the President of the Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty, as well as the Chairperson of the Preparatory Committee meetings to be held in advance of the Conference, on the steps that they have taken to promote the achievement of such zone and the realization of the goals and objectives of the 1995 Resolution on the Middle East. The Group expects that all States parties to the Treaty, in particular the nuclear-weapon States, would submit reports in this regard as agreed in the 2000 Final Document;

(e) Moreover, the Group of Non-Aligned States Parties to the Treaty recalls the stipulation of the 2010 Review Conference that “The Conference reaffirms that all States Parties to the Treaty, particularly the nuclear-weapon States and the States in the region, should continue to report on steps taken to implement the 1995 Resolution, through the United Nations Secretariat, to the President of the 2015 Review Conference, as well as to the Chairperson of the Preparatory Committee meetings to be held in advance of that Conference” and that “The facilitator will report to the 2015 Review Conference and its Preparatory Committee meetings”. The Group accordingly emphasizes the importance of and calls for submitting required reports by all States parties to the Treaty, in particular the co-sponsors of the 1995 Resolution, as well as the facilitator of the 2012 Conference on the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction, to the current and upcoming meetings of the Preparatory Committee and the 2015 Review Conference. The Group wishes to refer to its working paper on “Regional issues: Middle East” which stipulates its substantive position in this regard;

(f) The Group of Non-Aligned States Parties to the Treaty also calls for an agreement to establish subsidiary bodies to the relevant Main Committees of the 2015 Review Conference to deliberate on issues related to nuclear disarmament, in particular the 13 practical steps for systematic and progressive efforts to eliminate nuclear weapons as well as the undertakings under section B on “Disarmament of nuclear weapons”, in the “Conclusions and recommendations for follow-on actions”

of the 2010 Review Conference; on the implementation of the Resolution on the Middle East adopted by the 1995 Review and Extension Conference and the practical steps on the Middle East, particularly implementation of the 1995 Resolution on the Middle East, contained in the “Conclusions and recommendations for follow-on actions” of the 2010 Review Conference of the Treaty; and a legally binding international instrument on unconditional security assurances to all non-nuclear-weapon States parties to the Treaty against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons. In this regard, the Group emphasizes the need for the Preparatory Committee meetings to continue to allocate specific time for deliberations on nuclear disarmament, the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, the implementation of the 1995 Resolution on the Middle East and security assurances;

(g) The Group of Non-Aligned States Parties to the Treaty furthermore calls on the Preparatory Committee and the 2015 Review Conference to

- (i) Consider the further strengthening or enhancement of the review process of the Treaty;
- (ii) Further strengthen or enhance the regular reporting mechanism provided for in accordance with the Final Document of the 2000 Review Conference;
- (iii) Consider the steps and other actions that could be taken to promote disarmament and non-proliferation education, with particular reference to the Treaty; and
- (iv) Support participation of non-governmental organizations in the Preparatory Committee and 2015 Review Conference meetings.

4. The Group of Non-Aligned States Parties to the Treaty stresses the importance of the review of the operation of the Treaty in the framework of the Review Conferences and, in this context, emphasizes that the inclusion of the review part of the Final Document of the 2010 Review Conference as an opinion of the President of the Conference and not as a consensus language should not be considered as a precedent to be followed in the future, without prejudice to the prerogatives of the Review Conference.