

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

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Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty

**Working paper submitted by Australia, Austria, Canada, Denmark,
Finland, Hungary, Ireland, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway
and Sweden (the Vienna Group of Ten)**

Key points

- The entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty is of the utmost urgency.
- All States that have yet to do so should sign and/or ratify the Treaty without delay, in particular those remaining eight annex 2 States necessary for the Treaty's entry into force.
- All States should refrain from any action that would defeat the object and purpose of the Treaty, pending its entry into force.
- Existing moratoriums on nuclear-weapon test explosions and any other nuclear explosions must be maintained, pending the entry into force of the Treaty.
- The use of the data from the Treaty's international monitoring system for civil uses should be encouraged, especially in the context of natural disasters and other emergency situations.
- States signatories to the Treaty should support the work of the Provisional Technical Secretariat by providing adequate resources and political support, as well as relevant expertise, and make every effort to ensure that the technical aspects of the work of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization continue to move ahead at an appropriate pace and do not impede political progress towards entry into force.

Working paper on the implementation of the action plan

1. The Vienna Group of Ten firmly believes that the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty constitutes an effective measure of nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation in all its aspects and is vital to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. The Test-Ban Treaty was an integral part of the 1995 decision to indefinitely extend the Non-Proliferation Treaty. The Group



therefore stresses that the entry into force of the Test-Ban Treaty is of the utmost urgency and recalls that the 2000 and 2010 Review Conferences of the Parties to the Non-Proliferation Treaty reaffirmed the vital importance of the entry into force of the Test-Ban Treaty, with the action plan from the 2010 Review Conference again emphasizing the resolve of States parties to the Non-Proliferation Treaty to achieve that aim. The Group reaffirms that the provisions of article V of the Non-Proliferation Treaty are to be interpreted in the light of the Test-Ban Treaty.

2. Reiterating that the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty constrains the development of nuclear weapons and their qualitative improvement, the Vienna Group reaffirms that the Treaty combats both horizontal and vertical nuclear proliferation. The Group is concerned that any development of new types of nuclear weapons may result in the resumption of tests and a lowering of the nuclear threshold. The Group calls upon all States to refrain from any action that would defeat the object and purpose of the Treaty, pending its entry into force. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea nuclear tests of 9 October 2006 and 25 May 2009, internationally condemned, further underlined the need for a universal and effective international monitoring and verification system for detecting nuclear explosions and for the Treaty to enter into force.

3. The Vienna Group underlines that existing moratoriums on nuclear-weapon test explosions and any other nuclear explosions must be maintained, pending the entry into force of the Treaty. The Group stresses, however, that such moratoriums cannot serve as a substitute for ratifying the Treaty and that only the entry into force of the Treaty will provide the global community with a permanent, non-discriminatory and legally binding commitment to end nuclear-weapon testing and all other nuclear explosions.

4. The Vienna Group notes with concern that, more than 15 years after it was opened for signature, the Treaty has yet to enter into force. However, the Group warmly welcomes the continuing progress in ratifications and all efforts to that effect, in particular the ratification by Indonesia, the first annex 2 State to ratify since 2008. The Treaty has now been signed by 182 States, of which 157 have ratified, including 36 whose ratification is necessary for entry into force. The Group renews its call upon all States that have yet to do so to sign and/or ratify the Treaty without delay, in particular the eight remaining annex 2 States, and to recognize the value of the Treaty for regional and international security.

5. The seventh article XIV conference, held in New York in September 2011 — during a year when we celebrated the fifteenth anniversary of the Treaty — confirmed the continuing commitment of the international community to the Treaty and highlighted the importance of its earliest possible entry into force, which was also recognized by the Security Council in its resolution 1887 (2009). The Group recognizes the contribution of the article XIV conferences to the facilitation of the entry into force of the Treaty and to the process of its universalization. The Group encourages the use of this and other mechanisms for the promotion of the Treaty, including outreach activities and capacity-building initiatives.

6. The Vienna Group is convinced of the potential benefits of widespread advocacy for further ratifications of the Treaty. The Group urges all States, but particularly those that have recently ratified, to engage with countries yet to ratify,

sharing their experiences of ratification and encouraging further ratifications of the Treaty.

7. The Vienna Group supports ideas and initiatives, such as the “Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty: Science and Technology 2011” conference, aimed at further enhancing the involvement of individual Governments, scientists and national scientific institutions, that are being pursued as a useful way to create broader national support for the benefits of the Treaty and to maintain levels of expertise and investment required for its verification. The Group also encourages the use of the data from the international monitoring system for civil uses, especially in the context of natural disasters and other emergency situations. The Group notes that the system demonstrated its effectiveness during the tragic events of Fukushima, including through the data that it provided for seismic and tsunami warning systems, as well as by tracking the dispersal of radionuclides released by the accident. The Group welcomes the enhanced cooperation with other international organizations in this field.

8. The Vienna Group welcomes the progress made by the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization in building the system to verify compliance with the Treaty upon its entry into force. The goal of this work should be an effective, reliable, participatory and non-discriminatory verification system with global reach. All major components of the verification system, including the capability to conduct an on-site inspection, must be ready to operate by the time of entry into force. The Vienna Group welcomes the plans being made by the Preparatory Commission to hold an integrated field exercise in 2014 to help develop, test and refine the procedures and tools to conduct on-site inspections, as well as provide inspectors with hands-on experience.

9. In order to enable the Provisional Technical Secretariat of the Preparatory Commission to complete its mandate, the Vienna Group calls on States signatories to support the work of that organization by providing adequate resources and political support, as well as relevant expertise, and to make every effort to ensure that the technical aspects of the work of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization continue to move ahead at an appropriate pace and do not impede political progress towards entry into force.
