

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

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Bridging the generation divide for peace and a sustainable future through disarmament and non-proliferation education: implementing the action plan of the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, in particular action 22

Working paper submitted by Austria and Japan

1. The conclusions and recommendations for follow-on actions of the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons contain principles, objectives and individual actions to be implemented by States parties. Action 22 encourages all States to implement the recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General of the United Nations (A/57/124) regarding the United Nations study on disarmament and non-proliferation education, in order to advance the goals of the Treaty in support of achieving a world without nuclear weapons.
2. Japan has long supported activities in the field of disarmament and non-proliferation education. It also emphasized the importance of promoting cooperation with civil society towards a world without nuclear weapons in its joint working paper with the United Nations University submitted to the 2010 Review Conference (NPT/CONF.2010/WP.6). For Austria, strengthening the role of civil society in disarmament and non-proliferation matters is of particular importance, as demonstrated by the announcement by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Michael Spindelegger, at the 2010 Review Conference of the creation of the Vienna Center for Disarmament and Non-Proliferation.
3. In his report, the Secretary-General encourages disarmament and non-proliferation education activities at all academic levels, including secondary education. In that regard, and in line with action 22 of the action plan of the 2010 Review Conference, Austria and Japan are supporting the James Martin Center for Nonproliferation Studies to bring the Critical Issues Forum, a programme that promotes non-proliferation and disarmament education for high school students, to the Preparatory Committee.



4. Given the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of any use of nuclear weapons and that the effects of nuclear activities span the lives of generations, raising awareness about issues at the core of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons will provide young people with knowledge and insight of relevance throughout their lifetime and beyond.

5. Many activities can serve as models for disarmament education, such as:

(a) *Critical Issues Forum for high school students.* Since 1997, the James Martin Center for Nonproliferation Studies at the Monterey Institute of International Studies has been conducting an annual programme for high school teachers from the Russian Federation, the United States of America and other countries to assist them in developing curricula, innovative teaching methods and resources on topics related to preventing the spread of weapons of mass destruction and ballistic missiles. In 2012, part of the programme is co-hosted by Austria and Japan;

(b) *United Nations Conference on Disarmament Issues.* Every year since 1989, Japan has hosted the United Nations Conference on Disarmament Issues in various cities. Large local audiences have actively participated in the debates and deepened their understanding of disarmament and non-proliferation issues;

(c) *United Nations Disarmament Fellowship Programme.* Every year since 1983, Japan has been honoured to host participants in the United Nations Disarmament Fellowship Programme, who have visited Hiroshima and Nagasaki and learned about the realities of the terrible devastation wrought by the atomic bombings;

(d) *Global Forum on Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Education.* Japan will join with the United Nations University in hosting the Global Forum on Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Education in Nagasaki on 10 and 11 August 2012. Through this forum, which will see the participation of Governments, international organizations and civil society, Japan will raise awareness of the importance of disarmament and non-proliferation education, promote cooperation and contribute to the development of further efforts in this area;

(e) *Work of a special communicator for a world without nuclear weapons.* In 2010, Japan launched a programme of appointing hibakusha (atomic bomb survivors) as special communicators for a world without nuclear weapons, in order to share their experiences first-hand with people worldwide, especially younger generations;

(f) *Atomic bomb exhibition.* In November 2011, the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, in cooperation with the Government of Japan, jointly opened a permanent exhibition on the atomic bombings, similar to that at United Nations Headquarters in New York, at the United Nations Office at Geneva. It seeks to promote understanding of the terrible devastation caused by the use of nuclear weapons and further deepen recognition of the need for strengthened disarmament efforts by the entire international community;

(g) *Translating the testimonies of atomic bomb survivors.* Japan has sought to make the testimonies of hibakusha more widely available by translating them into English and other languages and making them available on the website of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

6. In view of General Assembly resolution 65/77, on disarmament and non-proliferation education, Austria and Japan encourage other countries and international and civil society organizations to join efforts in this field and recognize the power and promise of education to achieve a world without nuclear weapons. This would contribute to reinforcing a culture of peace, to building bridges through dialogue and to forming an alliance of civilizations as a basis for peace and a sustainable future.
