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

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Regional issues and security assurances

Working paper submitted by the Islamic Republic of Iran

1. The question of the security of non-nuclear-weapon States Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons has been an important issue since the inception of the NPT.
2. The 2000 NPT Review Conference, in paragraph 2 under the “Article VII” chapter of its Final Document, reaffirmed the total elimination of nuclear weapons as the only absolute guarantee against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons, and agreed that legally binding security assurances by the five nuclear-weapon States to the non-nuclear-weapon States Parties to the Treaty strengthen the nuclear non-proliferation regime and called upon the Preparatory Committee to make recommendations to the 2005 Review Conference. In view of this agreement, despite the inability of the Preparatory Committee, the NPT Review Conference has a clear mandate to make a decision on Negative Security Assurances (NSA).
3. We regret that the past review processes had been disabled from producing recommendations on the Security Assurances to the 2005 Review Conference. Therefore, we propose that the Conference would recommend to the Conference on Disarmament that it establish an ad hoc committee to work on a draft legally binding instrument on providing security assurances by the five nuclear-weapon States to the non-nuclear-weapon States Parties to the Treaty, and submit the draft of the legal instrument to the Review Conference for its consideration and adoption.
4. As a first step to address the twin issues of illegality of use and NSA, we believe that, as suggested by the non-governmental organization community, the 2010 Conference should adopt a decision by which the Conference “decides that the threat or use of nuclear weapons against non-nuclear-weapon States shall be prohibited”.
5. Attacks and the threat of attacks against peaceful nuclear facilities are other sources of concern that should be effectively banned by a proper decision by this Conference in line with decisions of the previous Review Conferences and resolution 533 of the General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).



6. Three decades have elapsed since the introduction of this idea for the very first time by Iran in 1974. The resolutions on the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East, which have been constantly adopted without a vote by the United Nations General Assembly since 1980, represent the significance of the realization of this noble idea in the vital region of the Middle East. The Security Council has also adopted resolutions, including 487 (1981) and 687 (1991).

7. Article VII of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, which was also referred to by the Final Document of the 2000 Review Conference, deals with steps to promote the achievement of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East and the realization of the goals and objectives of the 1995 resolution on the Middle East, as well as reaffirms the right of any group of States to conclude regional treaties in order to assure absence of nuclear weapons in their respective territories. The very resolution adopted by the 1995 NPT Review Conference was one of the conditions for indefinite extension of the NPT. In addition to giving each other mutual guarantees against nuclear attack, countries which form a nuclear-weapon-free zone hope to free themselves from the threats of nuclear-weapon States by receiving legally binding assurances through their adherence to nuclear-weapon-free zone protocols.

8. We are of the view that stability cannot be achieved in a region where massive imbalances in military capabilities are maintained, particularly through the possession of nuclear weapons which allow one party to threaten its neighbours and the region. In this regard, we express our serious concern over the recent statement in which the Prime Minister of the Zionist Regime in an interview with German television on 12 December 2006, in contradiction to the idea of the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East, explicitly acknowledged possession of nuclear weapons. Moreover, this Regime's clandestine development and possession of nuclear weapons not only violate basic principles of international law, the Charter of the United Nations, the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons as well as numerous General Assembly and Security Council resolutions, but also clearly defy the demands and concerns of the overwhelming majority of the States Members of the United Nations and constantly and obstinately disregard the international community, which has, time and again, called on this Regime to renounce nuclear weapons and accede to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

9. Hence, the Zionist Regime is the only obstacle for the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East. The international call for peace and security in this strategic region has had no effect since this Regime has been actively exploring the nuclear option since its earliest days. We stress that necessary steps should be taken in different international forums for the establishment of this zone. We also call for the total and complete prohibition of the transfer of all nuclear-related equipment, information, material and facilities, resources or devices and the extension of assistance in the nuclear-related scientific or technological fields to the Zionist Regime.

10. The Zionist Regime has an extensive nuclear stockpile with long-range ballistic missiles that can hit any target in the Middle East. This Regime has intransigently refused to sign the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and declined to implement the IAEA Safeguards Agreements and relevant resolutions despite international demands. This will have potentially serious

implications for the regional security as well as the reliability of the global non-proliferation regime.

11. The clandestine and undeclared nuclear activities of the Zionist Regime, its non-compliance with numerous international resolutions, by IAEA in particular, non-adherence to the non-proliferation and disarmament treaties and the IAEA full-scope safeguards, on the one hand, and the discriminatory approach to other countries in the region, on the other hand, could not be sustained. The international community, including the Review Conference, has to deal with the serious potential threat by the Zionist Regime's nuclear weapons to the peace and security of the region and the world, in an urgent manner.

12. The Islamic Republic of Iran believes that the Conferences to review the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons have a significant role in the realization of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East. The Conference has to condemn the Zionist Regime for continuing to develop and stockpile nuclear arsenals and to express its grave concern over the acquisition of nuclear weapons and capability by this Regime, which poses a serious and continuing threat to the security of neighbouring and other States. As a firm demand of the international community, it is expected that this Committee will call upon all parties to take collective urgent and practical steps towards the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East and, pending its establishment, call on the Zionist Regime, the non-party in the region, to renounce possession of nuclear weapons, to accede promptly to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons as a non-nuclear-weapon party, and to immediately place all its nuclear facilities under IAEA full-scope safeguards. IAEA, being the sole international technical organization in this area, has to prepare a thorough report on the nuclear-weapon capabilities of Israel and keep the international community informed of any development in this respect.
