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Disarmament Commission

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Ways and means to achieve nuclear disarmament

Working paper submitted by the European Union

1. The European Union believes that the paper entitled “Chairman’s comments on proposed structure”, dated 5 July 2000 (A/CN.10/2000/WG.I/WP.1), is a useful basis for future discussion in the Disarmament Commission’s Working Group I on nuclear disarmament.

2. The European Union’s understanding following the presentation of the paper by the Chairman is that it is not intended to be negotiated between delegations. It will contain suggested language that might not meet consensus, nor be able to serve as an agreed structure for the future outcome of our work. The next sessions in 2001 and 2002 will provide enough opportunity for Member States to continue to work on a possible structure in the light of developments of the situation in the field concerned.

3. The “Chairman’s comments on proposed structure” should only reflect the thoughts of the Chairman of the Working Group after the debate in the Working Group and the various views expressed on the subject on the agenda. It would nevertheless provide, as stated before, a useful basis for our future work.

4. Therefore, the European Union would like to make the following comments and proposals to the Chairman of the Working Group, in order for this paper to reflect accurately the ideas expressed in particular by the European Union and its Member States. The European Union would like, in this context to adhere, as far as possible, to the agreed language taken from the recent Final Document of the Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

Paragraph 1, tick 5:

This language is taken from the European Union talking points (A/CN.10/2000/WG.I/CRP.2) and should be mentioned in its entirety:

“The 2000 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, made up of nuclear-weapon States and non-

nuclear-weapon States, unanimously agreed on a number of practical steps which constitute mutually reinforcing ways and means to achieve nuclear disarmament. These practical steps can only be realized through action by all States, nuclear-weapon States by themselves and non-nuclear-weapon States. The Disarmament Commission could build on those steps.”

Paragraph 2:

The European Union supports the inclusion as new subparagraphs (c) and (e) of paragraphs 1 and 3 of the Japanese proposals dated 5 July 2000 (A/CN.10/2000/WG.II/CRP.3).

The European Union would like the inclusion as new subparagraph (d) of language taken from its previous talking points, namely:

“Further steps leading to nuclear disarmament by all nuclear-weapon States are taken in a way that promotes international stability and are based on the principle of undiminished security for all.”

The European union would like to add the following elements as a new subparagraph (f):

“Non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament are mutually reinforcing.

Steps to prevent proliferation of other forms of weapons of mass destruction and of their delivery systems are important in providing a positive international security environment for nuclear disarmament.

Furthermore, there is an interrelationship between nuclear disarmament and regional security situations”.

Paragraph 3 (a)

The European Union would suggest that a clearer distinction be established in the paper between “achievements” and “proposed new initiatives”.

The European Union would like the insertion of a reference to the Final Document of the sixth Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference as a multilateral achievement, as well as the indefinite extension of the Treaty in 1995.

The European Union would like the reference to the “unequivocal undertaking by the nuclear-weapon States” to be mentioned extensively, as in the Non-Proliferation Treaty Final Document, by adding: “to which all States parties of the Non-Proliferation Treaty are committed under its article VI”.

Paragraph 3 (c)

In conformity with paragraphs 10 and 14 of the Final Document of the Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference, and in order to reflect accurately the whole range of measures taken by the nuclear-weapon States, the European Union proposes the insertion in the first tirt of the phrase “including the close-down and dismantling of nuclear-weapon-related facilities”, and the reference in a new tirt to the de-targeting measures taken by all five nuclear-weapon States.

Paragraph 4 (a)

The European Union proposes adding a reference to the “Non-Proliferation Treaty and its Review Process” as a conceptual approach, as it represents clearly not only concrete achievements and commitments, but also a way and a set of means to achieve nuclear disarmament supported by 187 States parties.

Paragraph 4 (b)

The European Union would like to mention as an important practical step to achieve nuclear disarmament the universal adherence to the Non-Proliferation Treaty.

As it is already mentioned once as an important achievement, and in view of the risk of unnecessarily duplicating references, the European Union would like to delete the reference to the “unequivocal undertaking by the nuclear-weapon States” in the category of “practical steps”.

For any reference in this category, the European Union would like to adhere strictly to the language agreed in the context of the Final Document of the Non-Proliferation Treaty (in particular for tirit 11, insert “as soon as appropriate”) and adding other relevant paragraphs 15/ sub-sections 11 (Ultimate objective of general and complete disarmament)-12 (Decision on Principles and Objectives of 1995)-13 (Verification) of the Final Document of the Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference, as well as paragraph 11 regarding efforts undertaken by a number of States to “cooperate in making nuclear disarmament measures irreversible, in particular through initiatives on the verification, management and disposition of fissile material declared excess to military purposes”.

Paragraph 5 (b)

The European Union would like the insertion of the “Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference”.
