
**Preparatory Committee for the 2005 Review
Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the
Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons**

7 May 2003

ORIGINAL: English

Second Session
Geneva, 28 April–9 May 2003

**Implementation of Article VI of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons
and paragraphs 3 and 4 (c) of the 1995 Decision on 'Principles and Objectives for Nuclear
Non-Proliferation and Disarmament**

Report submitted by Ireland

1. States Parties agreed in the Final Document of the 2000 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons that there should be regular reports, within the framework of the NPT 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'.
2. Ireland hereby submits its report to the second session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2005 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.
3. During the first session of the Preparatory Committee, Ireland participated actively, including as a member of the New Agenda Coalition and the European Union.
4. Ireland was the Coordinator of the New Agenda Coalition during the 57th session of the United Nations General Assembly and as such was a lead co-sponsor of the two resolutions put forward by the NAC. These were GA Resolution 57/59 (Towards a nuclear-weapon-free world: the need for a new agenda) and GA Resolution 57/58 (Reductions of non-strategic nuclear weapons)

**Implementation of the 13 practical steps for the systematic and progressive efforts to
implement Article VI of the NPT and paragraphs 3 and 4(c) of the 1995 Decision on
"Principles and Objectives for Nuclear Non-proliferation and Disarmament" included in
the Final Document adopted by consensus at the 2000 Review Conference**

Step 1

The importance and urgency of signatures and ratifications, without delay and without conditions and in accordance with constitutional processes, to achieve the early entry into force of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty

5. Ireland ratified the CTBT in July 1999 and has advocated the urgent need for its entry into force without delay and without conditions. Ireland has worked in support of this within the European Union and the New Agenda Coalition. At the 57th session of the United Nations General Assembly, Ireland also co-sponsored Resolution 57/100 (CTBT) and aligned itself with the Joint Ministerial Statement on the CTBT delivered in New York in September 2002 on the initiative of the governments of Japan, New Zealand and the Netherlands.

Step 2

A moratorium on nuclear weapon test explosions or any other nuclear explosion pending entry into force of that Treaty

6. The Joint Ministerial Statement and the New Agenda omnibus Resolution at UNGA 57 both reaffirm the importance of the maintenance of moratoria pending entry into force of the CTBT. The New Agenda Resolution 57/59 called for the upholding and maintenance of the moratorium on nuclear weapon test explosions or any other nuclear explosions pending the entry into force of the CTBT.

Step 3

The necessity of negotiations in the Conference on Disarmament on a non-discriminatory, multilateral and internationally and effectively verifiable treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices in accordance with the statement of the Special Coordinator in 1995 and the mandate contained therein, taking into consideration both nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation objectives. The Conference on Disarmament is urged to agree on a programme of work, which includes the immediate commencement of negotiations on such a treaty with a view to their conclusion within five years

7. Ireland has been a member of the Conference of Disarmament since 1999 and has actively supported efforts to break the deadlock on the work programme. Ireland supports the efforts of the five Ambassadors (CD/1693) to build on the initial Amorim proposal (CD/1624). We also maintain the view that the CD should begin negotiations on a Treaty dealing with fissile material as provided for under the Shannon mandate (CD/1299).

8. In September 2002, the Irish Ambassador to the CD Ms Mary Whelan delivered a statement which, inter alia, urged that “[o]ur respective national and multilateral interests be brought together so as to complement one another and be mutually reinforcing”. Speaking as the first Irish Chair of the Conference on Disarmament on 20 March 2003, Ambassador Mary Whelan urged delegations which have not yet expressed views on CD/1693 to do so and she requested the five Ambassadors to report back to the CD on the progress of their consultations.

Step 4

The necessity of establishing in the Conference on Disarmament an appropriate subsidiary body with a mandate to deal with nuclear disarmament. The Conference on Disarmament is

urged to agree on a programme of work which includes the immediate establishment of such a body

9. In addition, Ireland continues to favour the early establishment of a subsidiary body to deal specifically with the issue of nuclear disarmament. We also see merit in embarking on a process, which will eventually lead to an agreement on the non-weaponisation of outer space.

Step 5

The principle of irreversibility to apply to nuclear disarmament, nuclear and other related arms control and reduction measures

10. The principle of irreversibility is a fundamental one which must be applied to all disarmament and arms control measures (regardless of whether they are unilateral, bilateral or multilateral). Ireland considers the application of this principle is the only guarantee against the possibility of redeployment.

Step 6

An unequivocal undertaking by the nuclear-weapon states to accomplish the total elimination of their nuclear arsenals leading to nuclear disarmament to which all States Parties are committed under Article VI

11. Ireland as a member of the New Agenda Coalition continues to press for verifiable progress under this step. The fulfillment, by the nuclear weapon states, of this unequivocal undertaking is a basic necessity for the achievement of a nuclear weapon-free world.

Step 7

The early entry into force and full implementation of START II and the conclusion of START III as soon as possible while preserving and strengthening the ABM Treaty as a cornerstone of strategic stability and as a basis for further reductions of strategic offensive weapons, in accordance with its provisions

12. Developments since 2000 (the US abrogation of the ABM and the demise of START I and START III) have not removed the need for a basis for further reductions of strategic offensive weapons. Ireland notes the conclusion of the Moscow Treaty between the US and the Russian Federation but questions its contribution to nuclear disarmament. As we have emphasised, through the New Agenda, reductions in the number of deployed strategic nuclear warheads are not a substitute for irreversible cuts in, and the total elimination of, nuclear weapons.

Step 8

The completion and implementation of the Trilateral Initiative between the United States of America, the Russian Federation and the International Atomic Energy Agency

13. Ireland continues to support this initiative, reiterates the call made by the NAC in GA Resolution 57/59 for its completion and implementation, and would welcome regular updates on progress from the parties involved.

Step 9

Steps by all the nuclear-weapon states leading to nuclear disarmament in a way that promotes international stability, and based on the principle of undiminished security for all:

- Further efforts by the nuclear-weapon states to reduce their nuclear arsenals unilaterally.
- Increased transparency by the nuclear-weapon states with regard to their nuclear weapons capabilities and the implementation of agreements pursuant to Article VI and as a voluntary confidence-building measure to support further progress on nuclear disarmament.
- The further reduction of non-strategic nuclear weapons, based on unilateral initiatives and as an integral part of the nuclear arms reduction and disarmament process.
- Concrete agreed measures to further reduce the operational status of nuclear weapons systems.
- A diminishing role for nuclear weapons in security policies to minimise the risk that these weapons ever be used and to facilitate the process of their total elimination.
- The engagement as soon as appropriate of all the nuclear-weapon states in the process leading to the total elimination of their nuclear weapons.

14. As a non-nuclear weapon State, Ireland can only press for progress on the implementation of these steps. We note in particular the importance of the principle of transparency contained in this step. Together with the principles of irreversibility and verification, this should apply to all disarmament and arms control efforts.

15. Work has been ongoing in particular in the area of reductions of non-strategic nuclear weapons. The New Agenda Coalition, following on from discussion at the First Preparatory Committee, introduced Resolution 57/66 at the United Nations General Assembly and has reiterated its views on this issue in its Position Paper tabled at the second Preparatory Committee for the 2005 NPT Review Conference. We welcome the working paper submitted to this Preparatory Committee by Austria, Mexico and Sweden, an initiative which Ireland fully supports.

Step 10

Arrangements by all nuclear-weapon states to place, as soon as practicable, fissile material designated by each of them as no longer required for military purposes under IAEA or other relevant international verification and arrangements for the disposition of such material for peaceful purposes, to ensure that such material remains permanently outside of military programmes.

16. Ireland calls on nuclear weapon States, which have not yet done so, to make such arrangements.

Step 11

Reaffirmation that the ultimate objective of the efforts of States in the disarmament process is general and complete disarmament under effective international control

17. Ireland works actively in a number of disarmament fora and is a State Party to, inter alia, the NPT, CWC, BTWC, CTBT, CCW, and Ottawa Convention. Speaking about WMD in his statement to the General Assembly in September 2002, Ireland's Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Brian Cowen emphasised that "[t]he international instruments and regimes which control the spread and bring about the elimination of such weapons must be strengthened and fully implemented. Ultimately the long-term control and elimination of Weapons of Mass Destruction can only be achieved through a comprehensive and rigorous system of international treaties and obligations that are verifiable and universal." Ireland is also active in working within the European Union to strengthen the Union's policy on Weapons of Mass Destruction.

18. Ireland also participates in a number of export control fora, namely the Australia Group, The Missile Technology Control Regime, Nuclear Suppliers Group, Wassenaar Arrangement and Zangger Committee. Ireland sees effective export control as complementary to multilateral disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control efforts.

Step 12

Regular reports, within the framework of the NPT 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', and recalling the Advisory Opinion of the International Court of Justice of 8 July 1996

19. Ireland considers regular reporting to be a key element of the 13 steps and presented a report to the last Preparatory Committee. Ireland views reporting, not as an end in itself, but as an important tool in strengthening the NPT process, through greater transparency.

Step 13

The further development of the verification capabilities that will be required to provide assurance of compliance with nuclear disarmament agreements for the achievement and maintenance of a nuclear-weapon-free world

20. Ireland supports the IAEA in its verification tasks and strongly favours a system of strengthened IAEA Safeguards. Ireland has signed an Additional Protocol with the IAEA and expects the necessary steps for ratification to be completed before the end of 2003.
