

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

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**SUGGESTED ELEMENTS FOR INCLUSION IN THE REPORT
OF THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE ON THE WORK OF
ITS SECOND SESSION**

**Working paper submitted by Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan,
Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan**

1. Since the holding of the 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, the issue of the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones in various regions of the world on the basis of arrangements freely arrived at among the States concerned has become firmly established on the international disarmament agenda. In the “Principles and Objectives for Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament” agreed on at the 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, it was stated that the development of nuclear-weapon-free zones should be encouraged as a matter of priority. In the period since 1995, two new nuclear-weapon-free zones have been created, in South-East Asia and Africa. The treaties of Tlatelolco, Rarotonga, Bangkok and Pelindaba are continuing to make a significant contribution to the establishment of the nuclear non-proliferation regime, which is an important step towards the attainment of the ultimate goal of eliminating all types of nuclear weapons under strict and effective international control. Following the entry into force of the Pelindaba Treaty, nuclear-weapon-free zones will cover almost the entire southern hemisphere in addition to Antarctica, the seabed and outer space, with participation by 114 States.

2. Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan are unanimous in their view that the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones in various regions of the world contributes significantly to nuclear disarmament. Recent events in the world have confirmed yet again the urgent need to strengthen the non-proliferation regime, as reflected in the work of the 2000 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. They also demonstrate the importance of regional approaches to disarmament and non-proliferation, which can strengthen the global non-proliferation regime.

3. Proceeding from their common conviction that the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones contributes significantly to the maintenance and consolidation of peace and security at the global and regional levels, the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Republic of Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and the Republic of Uzbekistan launched an initiative for the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of Central Asia, as reflected in the relevant provisions of the Almaty Declaration of 28 February 1997, the statement issued at Tashkent on 15 September 1997 by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Republic of Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and the Republic of Uzbekistan and the communiqué issued on 10 July 1998 by the Bishkek Consultative Meeting.

4. The Preparatory Committee notes with satisfaction the adoption by consensus by the United Nations General Assembly of resolution 52/38 S of 9 December 1997, resolution 53/77 A of 9 December 1998, resolution 55/33 W of 20 November 2000 and resolution 57/69 of 22 November 2002, all entitled "Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Central Asia", in which the Assembly calls upon all States to support the initiative aimed at the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Central Asia, commends the concrete steps taken by the States of the region in preparing the legal groundwork for their initiative and requests the United Nations Secretary-General, within existing resources, to continue to provide assistance to the five Central Asian States in their further work for the early establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Central Asia.

5. The Preparatory Committee also welcomes the practical steps taken by the Central Asian States towards the implementation of their initiative. These steps have included the holding, on 15 and 16 September 1997, of the Tashkent International Conference on Central Asia as a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone, in which official delegations from the United Nations, the International Atomic Energy Agency, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe,

the Organization of the Islamic Conference and 54 Member States, including the permanent members of the United Nations Security Council, took part, and also meetings of experts in Geneva, Bishkek, Tashkent, Sapporo and Samarkand. Experts from the nuclear-weapon States, the United Nations and the International Atomic Energy Agency took part in the Bishkek meeting, which was held on 9 and 10 July 1998. As a result of these meetings, substantial progress was made in the preparation of a draft treaty on the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Central Asia. The Central Asian States welcome the continuing assistance of the international organizations and States concerned in connection with the advancement of this process.

6. The Preparatory Committee also refers to the report of Main Committee III of the Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, which notes that there have been exceptional instances in which serious environmental consequences have resulted from uranium mining and associated nuclear fuel-cycle activities in the production and testing of nuclear weapons. The Preparatory Committee reiterates the appeal of the 1995 Conference to all Governments and international organizations that have expertise in the field of clean-up and disposal of radioactive contaminants to consider giving appropriate assistance as may be requested for remedial purposes in these affected areas.

7. The Preparatory Committee notes that in the Final Document of the 2000 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT/CONF.2000/28 (Parts I and II)) the Parties expressed support for the intention and commitment of the five Central Asian States to establish a nuclear-weapon-free zone in their region, welcomed the practical steps taken towards implementation of their initiative, and also noted with satisfaction the substantial progress made by the Central Asian States in drawing up and agreeing on a draft treaty on the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Central Asia. The Preparatory Committee also refers to the working paper submitted to the 2000 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT/CONF.2000/MC.II/WP.15) by the five Central Asian States concerning progress towards the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in their region.

8. The Preparatory Committee also notes that the factual summary by the Chairman of the Preparatory Committee for the 2005 Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons at its first session, which was held in New York from 8 to 19 April 2002, contains provisions relating to support for the efforts of the Central Asian countries to establish a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region.

9. The Preparatory Committee notes the substantial progress which has been made by the Central Asian States with the direct support of the United Nations, in particular the Secretary-General, the Department for Disarmament Affairs, the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific and the International Atomic Energy Agency in the process of drawing up and agreeing on a draft treaty on the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Central Asia.

10. The Preparatory Committee notes that during the meeting held in Samarkand from 25 to 27 September 2002, the five Central Asian States reached general agreement at the expert level on a treaty and a protocol. In resolution 57/69 of 22 November 2002, the General Assembly welcomed the decision by the five Central Asian States to sign the treaty on the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Central Asia. The Central Asian States appeal to the Preparatory Committee to reflect this progress in the report on the work of its second session.

11. The Central Asian States note that, in accordance with paragraph 25 of the Principles and Guidelines for the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones adopted by the Disarmament Commission at its substantive session in 1999, two consultative meetings of experts from the five Central Asian States and the five nuclear States were held in New York in October and December 2002 to discuss the treaty for the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Central Asia and the protocol to the treaty. These meetings constituted a follow-up to the process of consultations with the nuclear States that had started in 1998 at the Bishkek meeting of experts. The process of consultations between the five Central Asian States and the five nuclear States is continuing.

12. The Central Asian States note that the official and unofficial meetings on the preparation of the treaty and the protocol to it, as well as work on the texts, have taken place on the basis of

the recommendations adopted by the Disarmament Commission and set out in the document entitled “Establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones on the basis of arrangements freely arrived at among the States of the region concerned”.

13. The Central Asian States remain firmly committed to the continuation of the work to implement the initiative for the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Central Asia and, in this connection, reaffirm their intention to sign a treaty on the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Central Asia.
