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Agenda item 4

Recommendations for achieving the objective of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation of nuclear weapons

Working paper submitted by the Chairman

General principles for achieving the objective of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation of nuclear weapons

1. The Charter of the United Nations constitutes the fundamental pillar for the maintenance of international peace and security.
2. Nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation are closely linked and constitute essential elements for the preservation of peace and security for all States.
3. The Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) is the cornerstone of the global nuclear non-proliferation regime.
4. The proliferation of nuclear weapons would heighten the risk of nuclear war, with catastrophic effects upon humanity and the natural environment. The achievement of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation is therefore a compelling task ahead of humankind.
5. Disarmament, non-proliferation and the right to peaceful uses of nuclear energy, form the three pillars of the NPT. The future of the treaty depends upon full compliance with each of these goals.
6. The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) safeguard system is an essential part of the nuclear non-proliferation regime.
7. All States parties to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty have the inalienable right to develop research, production and use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes without discrimination and in conformity with articles I, II and III of the Treaty.
8. The establishment of internationally recognized nuclear-weapon-free zones, on the basis of arrangements freely arrived at, enhances regional and international peace and security.



9. Efforts to pursue transparency as a voluntary confidence-building measure would contribute to further progress in the fields of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation.

10. Multilateral cooperation is essential for achieving nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation of nuclear weapons. Unilateral, bilateral and regional initiatives that are consistent with these ends can also contribute to these efforts.

Recommendations

1. While the reduction of nuclear weapons stockpiles since the end of the cold war is recognized, the nuclear-weapon States are urged to take further steps to reduce their arsenals in accordance with article VI of the NPT.

2. Nuclear disarmament undertakings, including intermediate steps, should follow the guidelines of promoting global strategic stability with undiminished security for all.

3. The United Nations disarmament machinery should be revitalized in order to deal effectively with challenges related to international security, nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation.

4. All States should fully comply with their legal obligations to eliminate or prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons and the means of their delivery. All States should support the establishment and maintenance of universal legal norms serving these objectives.

5. All States should reaffirm the right to equal security.

6. Further steps to assure the non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons would enhance global and regional peace and security.

7. The Conference on Disarmament should intensify efforts to agree on a comprehensive programme of work in order to fulfil its mandate as the sole multilateral negotiating body of the international community.

8. Recognizing that international security is jeopardized by the risk of proliferation of nuclear weapons, related materials and technology to non-State actors, all States should take relevant and effective measures and support international efforts within the United Nations framework to prevent non-State actors from acquiring such weapons.

9. Acknowledging that the cessation of nuclear weapon tests is a key factor in the process of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, all States should maintain moratoriums on nuclear testing.

10. All States should support the creation of nuclear-weapon-free zones in accordance with the guidelines adopted by the Disarmament Commission at its 1999 substantive session.

11. Every State's right to the peaceful uses of nuclear energy in conformity with NPT articles I, II and III should be respected.

12. All States should reaffirm the role of IAEA as the competent authority responsible for verifying and assuring compliance with its Safeguards Agreement.

13. All States are encouraged to implement the IAEA Additional Protocol.