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

30 April 2007

Original: English

First session

Vienna, 30 April-11 May 2007

**Implementation of article VI of the Treaty on the
Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and paragraph 4 (c)
of the 1995 decision on “principles and objectives for
nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament”**

Report submitted by Australia

1. The Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons remains essential to international efforts to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons, facilitate access to the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and advance nuclear disarmament. The current intense international concern about weapons of mass destruction proliferation, including potentially to non-State groups, has added to the importance of the nuclear non-proliferation regime based on the Treaty. Universality remains a key objective. Australia calls upon the countries yet to join to accede to the Treaty as non-nuclear-weapon States.
2. Australia believes that the article VI goal of nuclear disarmament can be achieved only through a series of balanced, incremental and reinforcing steps — including nuclear warhead reductions, entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, negotiation of a fissile material cut-off treaty, further progress on nuclear-weapon-free zones, and a strong and effective nuclear non-proliferation regime.
3. The Moscow Treaty, which entered into force on 1 June 2003, is a notable further step towards nuclear disarmament. The significance of the Moscow Treaty lies not just in its quantitative reductions but also in its ushering in of a more cooperative arms control relationship between the United States of America and the Russian Federation. Australia hopes both countries will take advantage of the opportunities provided by that approach to pursue progressive reductions to strategic and non-strategic nuclear weapons in both deployed and reserve holdings. We also look to the nuclear-weapon States to pursue further reductions in the operational status of nuclear weapon systems in ways that promote international stability and security.
4. At the sixty-first session of the General Assembly, Australia was an original co-sponsor of the nuclear disarmament resolution “Renewed determination towards



the total elimination of nuclear weapons”, which reaffirmed the crucial importance of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons as the cornerstone of the international nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime.

5. As a non-nuclear-weapon State, the main contribution Australia can make to nuclear disarmament is working for progress on the reinforcing steps essential to create an environment favourable to the elimination of nuclear weapons.

6. Australia strongly supports the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty and is currently coordinating efforts of CTBT parties to promote the Treaty’s entry into force. We continue to urge countries yet to sign or ratify, especially annex 2 countries and those in the Asia-Pacific region, to do so without delay. Australia, Mexico and New Zealand formed the core group that put forward the resolution adopted at the sixty-first session of the General Assembly which stresses the fundamental importance of the CTBT to nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation and urges all States that have not yet signed the Treaty to sign and ratify it as soon as possible. Australia jointly convened a Ministerial meeting in support of the CTBT in New York in 2006. Australia is an active participant in development of the verification system for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty and welcomes the continued progress being made — especially in relation to the International Monitoring System (IMS). Australia will host the third highest number of IMS facilities (after the United States of America and the Russian Federation). Of Australia’s 21 IMS facilities, 17 are already fully operational.

7. A fissile material cut-off treaty remains a priority for Australia. Australia continues to press for a start to negotiations for such a treaty. Australia is also active in promoting examination of issues that will arise in those negotiations.

8. A viable means to make practical progress on a number of key issues, especially the fissile material cut-off treaty, is offered by the draft programme of work proposed by the six presidents of the 2007 session of the Conference on Disarmament on 23 March 2007. Australia urges all members of the Conference on Disarmament to support the six presidents’ proposal.

9. Effective non-proliferation is crucial to a climate conducive to nuclear disarmament. Recent events have highlighted a clear and urgent need to strengthen the Treaty’s compliance and verification mechanisms.

10. International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) safeguards are not static and have undergone considerable evolution since the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons entered into force in 1970. The Additional Protocol and the development of strengthened and integrated safeguards are the most recent manifestation of that evolution. Australia played a prominent role in negotiation of the Additional Protocol and was the first country to ratify such a protocol. Australia notes that of the 64 non-nuclear-weapon States with significant nuclear activities, 45 have Additional Protocols in place and a further 12 have signed or been approved by the IAEA Board of Governors — an uptake of 90 per cent of all such States. It is of concern that seven non-nuclear-weapon State NPT parties with significant nuclear activities have yet to conclude an Additional Protocol.

11. The risk of misuse by States parties to the Treaty of its peaceful nuclear energy provisions in order to acquire the technical basis for a rapid breakout to nuclear weapons is a serious matter for the international community. Australia strongly supports the current extensive dialogue in relevant international forums on steps that

would limit the spread of sensitive technology while respecting the rights of parties to the Treaty to peaceful nuclear energy in conformity with the non-proliferation provisions under articles I, II and III.

Outreach and regional assistance

12. Australia conducts outreach to regional countries on agreements such as the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty and the Additional Protocol. Australia is also working with regional countries on practically based outreach in key areas such as export controls, nuclear security and safeguards training.
