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## **Disarmament Commission**

### **2008 substantive session**

New York, 7-25 April 2008

Agenda item 4

## **Draft outcome on 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. Multilateral cooperation is essential for achieving nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation of nuclear weapons. Unilateral, bilateral and regional initiatives that are consistent with internationally agreed principles and objectives also contribute to nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation objectives.
3. The full compliance of all States with their undertaking to work towards general and complete disarmament and to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons is essential. The establishment and maintenance of existing universal and non-discriminatory legal norms serves these objectives.
4. Efforts in the pursuit of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation of nuclear weapons as well as progress towards general and complete disarmament are mutually reinforcing and can constitute an incentive for reducing the importance of nuclear weapons, including in military doctrines.
5. Nuclear weapons pose a great danger to humankind and to the survival of civilization. The maintenance of large stockpiles and the qualitative improvement and development of new types as well as the proliferation of nuclear weapons would heighten the risk of nuclear war with catastrophic effects upon humanity and the environment. Nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation of nuclear weapons therefore constitute essential elements for the preservation of peace and security for all States. Thus, progress is needed in the field of disarmament and non-proliferation in accordance with relevant international instruments and by negotiating new ones.



6. All States party to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) bear responsibility for easing international tension and strengthening trust between States in order to facilitate the progress towards the elimination of nuclear weapons and to cooperate to avert the risk of proliferation of nuclear weapons, related materials and technology to non-state actors, which poses a serious threat to international peace and security.

7. The NPT is the cornerstone of the global nuclear non-proliferation regime based on the three pillars of that treaty: nuclear disarmament, non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and the inalienable right to peaceful uses of nuclear energy. Efforts to achieve universality of the NPT remain a high priority.

8. The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) safeguards system constitutes an essential part of the nuclear non-proliferation regime.

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. Disarmament measures that are verifiable and irreversible also contribute significantly to these goals.

10. The establishment of internationally recognized nuclear-weapon-free zones, on the basis of arrangements freely arrived at and in accordance with the guidelines adopted by the Disarmament Commission at its 1999 substantive session, enhances regional and international peace and security. Thus, efforts to strengthen existing nuclear-weapon-free zones are highly valued in the pursuit of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation objectives, as are efforts to establish new zones.

11. The research, production and peaceful uses of nuclear energy remain an inalienable right to be exercised in conformity with recognized international non-proliferation norms.

12. Legally binding security assurances building on negative security assurances already given by nuclear-weapon States to non-nuclear-weapon States parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons would strengthen the nuclear non-proliferation regime.

### **Recommendations**

1. All States should fully comply with their legal nuclear non-proliferation obligations and their undertakings to pursue, in good faith, negotiations on effective measures for the cessation of the nuclear arms race at an early date, on nuclear disarmament, and on a treaty on general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control.

2. All States should work together, in particular within the framework of the United Nations, to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons and their means of delivery and nuclear explosive devices, which is one of the most pressing challenges of our time.

3. Acknowledging the level of reduction of nuclear weapons stockpiles since the end of the cold war, the nuclear-weapon States, in particular those with the largest arsenals, are encouraged to make progress towards achieving further reductions in these weapons and their total elimination as a matter of priority.

4. The United Nations disarmament machinery should be revitalized in order to deal effectively with challenges related to international security, nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. The Conference on Disarmament should intensify efforts to agree on a comprehensive and balanced programme of work in order to fulfil its mandate, so as to begin at an early date negotiations, without any preconditions, on a non-discriminatory and multilateral treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices, and substantive discussions dealing with nuclear disarmament and the prevention of nuclear war, issues related to prevention of an arms race in outer space, and international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons.

5. Acknowledging that the cessation of nuclear weapons tests and a ban on the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices is a key factor in the process of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, all States should maintain moratoriums on nuclear testing and on production of fissile material for nuclear weapons and consider entering into universal, legally binding obligations in this respect. The entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty would also contribute to this process.

6. All States should take effective measures to strengthen the regime established by Security Council resolution 1540 (2004), and other existing international agreements, in order to prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery and to prevent non-state actors from acquiring such weapons, pending their total elimination. They should also consider establishing legally binding international instruments, as appropriate, within the framework of the United Nations.

7. All States should commit to strengthening the role of IAEA as the pivotal authority responsible for verifying and ensuring compliance with safeguards agreements. In this connection, all States should undertake to conclude safeguards agreements with a view to the universalization of the safeguards system. All States are encouraged to conclude and implement an IAEA Additional Protocol.

8. All States should support the creation of nuclear-weapon-free zones in accordance with the 1999 guidelines of the Disarmament Commission and United Nations resolutions and decisions. All parties concerned should consider seriously taking the practical and urgent steps required for the implementation of the proposal for a zone free of weapons of mass destruction, including their means of delivery, in the Middle East and for the establishment of other zones where such arrangements are required.

9. The right to the peaceful uses of nuclear energy should be exercised in the framework of the IAEA statute and of the NPT.

10. Nuclear-weapon States should reaffirm the negative security assurances given in Security Council resolution 984 (1995). They are encouraged to promote further consideration of security assurances including legally binding obligations in order to enhance global and regional peace and security.