

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

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**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 underpins the international community's shared and enduring interests in realising a world free of nuclear weapons. The Treaty remains essential to international efforts to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons, facilitate access to the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and progress nuclear disarmament. 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 requires carefully calibrated steps that buttress international peace and security – 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 confirmation by Nuclear Weapon States of a reduced role for nuclear weapons in national security policies through transparency and confidence-building measures.

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3. Australia welcomes the substantial cuts made by Nuclear Weapon States to their nuclear arsenals. It is notable that by 2012 the United States and Russia will have arsenals approximately one quarter and one third of Cold War heights respectively. Australia also welcomed France's recent announcement of further cuts to its nuclear arsenal that will bring its number of warheads to half the size of its Cold War heights. These reductions, however, need to be entrenched by further irreversible reductions by all Nuclear Weapon States in all kinds of nuclear weapons.

4. The historic Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty will expire in 2009. We look to the United States and Russia to build on the disarmament gains of this treaty, and those of the Strategic Offensive Reduction Treaty, by swiftly concluding a new bilateral agreement for the further reduction of arsenals in a systematic and verifiable manner. We also look to all Nuclear Weapon States to pursue further reductions in the operational status of nuclear weapon systems in ways that promote international stability and security.

5. 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.

6. As a Non Nuclear Weapon State, the main contributions Australia can make to nuclear disarmament are working in multilateral fora for progress on the reinforcing steps essential to create an environment favourable to the elimination of nuclear weapons, and, through our bilateral relationships, encouraging Nuclear Weapon States to fulfil their Article VI commitments.

7. Australia strongly supports the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty and 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. In this context, Australia welcomed Colombia's ratification of the Treaty as an annex 2 state earlier this year, bringing to nine the number of annex 2 states necessary to bring the treaty into force. 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 stressed the fundamental importance of the CTBT to nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation and urged all States that have not yet signed the Treaty to sign and ratify it as soon as possible. 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 expects soon to host the third highest number of IMS facilities (after the United States of America and the Russian Federation).

8. A legally-binding and non-discriminatory fissile material cut-off treaty, with effective verification mechanisms, 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.

9. 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 2008 session of the Conference on Disarmament. After the near-consensus of 2007, Australia urges all members of the Conference on Disarmament to allow for a compromise that can support the 2008 six presidents' proposal.

10. 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.

11. 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.

12. 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

13. 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, all of which help to create a political climate conducive to disarmament.
