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# 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

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## **Working paper on disarmament submitted by Lebanon on behalf of the States members of the League of Arab States to the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons**

1. The Arab States take note of the positive atmosphere in the areas of disarmament and non-proliferation created by the stated intention of a number of nuclear States to rid the world of nuclear weapons. However, they wish to stress the importance of translating that intention into practical steps, including a specific timetable, in order to restore confidence in the benefits and effectiveness of multilateral diplomacy in relation to disarmament and non-proliferation.

2. The Arab States affirm that the continued existence of nuclear weapons poses a grave threat to international peace and security and call for a ban on the use or threat of nuclear weapons until such weapons have been completely eliminated.

3. The Arab States support calls for the establishment, under Main Committee I, of a subsidiary body on nuclear disarmament mandated to focus on the issue of fulfilment of the obligations under article VI and further practical measures required to achieve progress in that regard. The Arab States call on the Conference to:

(a) Call on nuclear-weapon States to fulfil all their obligations under the Treaty, as well as their commitment to disarmament and the other agreed obligations set forth in the Final Document of the 2000 Review Conference, with the goals of disarmament and the elimination of nuclear weapons subject to international verification;

(b) Establish a timetable and specific plan for nuclear disarmament with a view to accelerating the negotiations called for in article VI of the Treaty and to commencing negotiations on a treaty on the prohibition of nuclear weapons;

(c) Call on the Conference on Disarmament to draft a plan of work that includes the commencement of negotiations on a comprehensive, non-discriminatory and internationally verifiable treaty banning the production of fissile material for military purposes. The treaty should also include a ban on the future production of fissile material and a commitment to eliminate stockpiles of such material;

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(d) Emphasize that the improvement of existing nuclear weapons, the development of new types of nuclear weapons and the insistence of certain States on including nuclear weapons in their security policies and strategies undermine the commitment to nuclear disarmament and are counter to the letter and spirit of the Treaty;

(e) Develop effective international arrangements for granting security assurances to non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of nuclear weapons;

(f) Take practical measures towards the conclusion of a universal and legally binding instrument on unconditional security assurances to non-nuclear-weapon States parties to the Treaty. The Final Document of the Review Conference should give priority to this matter and, pending the conclusion of such an instrument, the Conference should issue a decision on the prohibition of the use of nuclear weapons against the non-nuclear-weapon States parties to the Treaty;

(g) Call on the Conference on Disarmament to establish a subcommittee concerned with negotiations on a nuclear disarmament treaty.

### **Universality of the Treaty**

4. Achieving the universality of the Treaty requires that States not parties to the Treaty accede to the Treaty as non-nuclear-weapon States. This would help rid the world of nuclear weapons. The Arab States affirm that simply calling for the accession of States not parties to the Treaty will not produce any results as long as States parties, in particular nuclear-weapon States, provide those States with technical assistance and conclude cooperation agreements that offer them capacities not available to States parties.

5. States parties should make every effort to achieve the universality of the Treaty. They should strive to fulfil their obligations under the Treaty and should comply with the outcomes of the Review Conferences, including the complete prohibition of the transfer of nuclear material and technology to States not parties to the Treaty until the accession of those States to the Treaty. The Arab States stress that the ongoing cooperation with States not parties to the Treaty not only encourages them to remain outside the Treaty, but also undermines the non-proliferation regime, violates the spirit and the letter of the Treaty, and threatens international peace and security.

6. The Arab States affirm their rejection of any attempt to legitimize the status of nuclear-weapon States that are not parties to the Treaty and to include them in the non-proliferation regime as nuclear States. The Arab States caution that such inclusion would undermine both the Treaty and confidence in the regime as a whole.