
Preparatory Committee for the 2015 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

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Nuclear disarmament and reduction of the danger of nuclear war

Working paper submitted by China

1. The comprehensive prohibition and total elimination of nuclear weapons and the attainment of a nuclear-weapon-free world are the shared aspirations of peace-loving people all over the world. The maintenance of a global strategic balance and stability and the promotion of international nuclear disarmament serve the common interests of all parties and necessitate joint efforts by the international community.
2. The 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons achieved a positive outcome and agreed on an action plan for the comprehensive implementation of each of the Treaty's objectives. The international community should take this opportunity to embrace a new security paradigm centred on mutual trust, mutual benefit, equality and cooperation, continue to uphold multilateralism and work to create an international environment that ensures mutual benefit and global security and to set in place the necessary conditions for progress in nuclear disarmament.
3. All nuclear-weapon States should be committed to the comprehensive prohibition and total elimination of nuclear weapons, should scrupulously fulfil their non-proliferation obligations under article VI of the Treaty and should give public undertakings not to seek the permanent possession of nuclear weapons.
4. All nuclear-weapon States should abandon both the policy of the "nuclear umbrella" and the practice of "nuclear sharing", and reject the nuclear deterrence policy based on the first use of nuclear weapons. They should make a clear commitment not to be the first to use nuclear weapons and under no circumstances to use or threaten to use nuclear weapons against non-nuclear-weapon States and nuclear-weapon-free zones, in that way substantially reducing the threat posed by nuclear weapons.
5. The countries with the largest nuclear arsenals should take the lead in substantially reducing their nuclear arsenals in a verifiable, irreversible and legally binding fashion, thus creating the necessary conditions for the ultimate goal of total



and comprehensive nuclear disarmament. When conditions are ripe, other nuclear-weapon States should also join the multilateral negotiations on nuclear disarmament.

6. Countries that have not yet signed or ratified the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty should do so at the earliest opportunity, in order that the Treaty can enter into force as soon as possible, as stipulated by the applicable provisions. Pending the entry into force of the Treaty, nuclear-weapon States should continue to honour their commitment to a moratorium on testing.

7. The Conference on Disarmament in Geneva is the only appropriate forum for the negotiation of a treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices. Negotiations should start in the Conference at the earliest opportunity on such a treaty with the full participation of all the parties concerned. The Conference should also engage in substantive work on the issues of nuclear disarmament, the prevention of the weaponization of outer space and an arms race in outer space and negative security assurances.

8. For the attainment of the ultimate goal of total and comprehensive nuclear disarmament, the international community should develop, at the appropriate juncture, a viable long-term plan comprising phased actions, including the conclusion of a convention on the complete prohibition of nuclear weapons.

9. Nuclear disarmament efforts should follow the principles of promoting global strategic stability and ensuring undiminished security for all. Processes such as the development and deployment of missile defence systems that disrupt global and regional strategic stability and undermine international cooperation should be renounced, so that international nuclear disarmament efforts are not impaired. Multilateral negotiations on preventing the weaponization of outer space and the prevention of an arms race in outer space should be vigorously pursued.

10. It is essential that the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons gain universal adherence and that its authority be enhanced. Countries that have not yet acceded to the Treaty should do so as non-nuclear-weapon States at the earliest opportunity.
