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Agenda item 4

General principles and recommendations for achieving the objective of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation of nuclear weapons

Revised working paper submitted by the Chairman

General principles

1. The principles and purposes enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations constitute the universal foundation for the maintenance of international peace and security. Nuclear disarmament, non-proliferation and verification of compliance with all respective obligations are essential for global peace and security. The objective of the total elimination of nuclear weapons and nuclear disarmament deserves the support of all States as a matter of priority, ultimately.
2. Multilateralism is essential for achieving nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation of nuclear weapons. Unilateral, bilateral, subregional and regional initiatives that are consistent with internationally agreed principles and objectives also contribute to the achievement of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation objectives.
3. The full compliance of all States with their nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation obligations and their undertaking to work towards general and complete disarmament are essential. The establishment and maintenance of universal and non-discriminatory legal instruments and other arrangements serve these objectives.
4. Efforts in the pursuit of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation of nuclear weapons are mutually reinforcing, can minimize the risk of nuclear war and can contribute to the achievement of the ultimate goal of general and complete disarmament under strict international control.
5. The reductions made in nuclear stockpiles owing to the end of the cold war have reduced the danger of nuclear war. Nuclear weapons remain a threat to humanity arising from the continued existence of large stockpiles. Thus, further



progress is needed in the field of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation in accordance with relevant international instruments.

6. All States 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. 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 effectively verifiable and irreversible also contribute significantly to these goals.

8. For its States parties, the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons is the cornerstone of the global nuclear non-proliferation regime, and it remains open for accession by all United Nations Member States. The regime established by the Treaty is based on three pillars: nuclear disarmament, non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and the inalienable right to peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

9. The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) safeguards system constitutes an essential instrument to achieve the objectives of nuclear non-proliferation. IAEA additional protocols considered in conjunction with the safeguards system also serve this end.

10. The establishment of internationally recognized nuclear-weapon-free zones, on the basis of arrangements freely arrived at among all States of the region concerned and, as appropriate, 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. Research, production and peaceful uses of nuclear energy remain an inalienable right to be exercised in full compliance with all respective international obligations and consistent with global non-proliferation objectives.

12. Non-nuclear-weapon States consider that agreements on effective international arrangements to assure them against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons are essential for their security. Negative security assurances given by nuclear-weapon States to non-nuclear-weapon States, such as those taken note of by the Security Council in its resolution 984 (1995), and the promotion of the entry into force of nuclear-weapon-free zone treaties and their protocols would contribute to international peace and security and to the strengthening of non-proliferation efforts.

Recommendations

13. All States should fully comply with their legal and other nuclear non-proliferation obligations and their legal undertakings to pursue, in good faith, negotiations on nuclear disarmament, and on a treaty on general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control.

14. All States should work together, in particular within the framework of the United Nations, to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons and nuclear weapon-related materials and technology.

15. The progressive and systematic reduction of nuclear-weapon stockpiles since the end of the cold war should be maintained until the ultimate goal of total elimination is achieved. All States currently possessing nuclear arsenals, in particular those with the largest arsenals, are encouraged to make further progress towards achieving reductions in the numbers of these weapons in a time frame to be agreed by all States concerned.

16. The United Nations disarmament machinery should be revitalized in order to deal effectively with challenges related to international security, nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation.

17. States Parties to the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty consider that the Treaty remains open for accession and participation by all United Nations Member States and that its universality is a matter of relevance to them. All States should maintain moratoriums on nuclear testing. All States should acknowledge that a verifiable ban on the production of fissile materials for nuclear weapons and other nuclear explosive devices to be negotiated in the framework of the Conference on Disarmament is essential for nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament, and should act accordingly.

18. Bearing in mind the objectives of Security Council resolution 1540 (2004), all States should take effective measures to prevent proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, their means of delivery and related materials and technology to non-State actors. All States should cooperate in the framework of existing international instruments, such as the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism, the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism and the IAEA Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material. All States should also consider adopting a universally negotiated instrument to prevent non-State actors from acquiring weapons of mass destruction, pending their total elimination.

19. All States should commit to strengthening the role of IAEA as the competent authority responsible for verifying and assuring compliance with IAEA safeguards agreements. The international community should enhance cooperation in the field of non-proliferation and seek solutions to all concerns or issues related to non-proliferation in accordance with the obligations, procedures and mechanisms established by relevant international legal instruments, in particular the Charter of the United Nations and the IAEA statute. Member States are further encouraged to conclude IAEA additional protocols.

20. The right to peaceful uses of nuclear energy should be exercised by States in strict conformity with their respective IAEA safeguards obligations and consistent with agreed principles and objectives of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. IAEA should continue its discussions on multilateral approaches to and the multilateralization of the nuclear fuel cycle with a view to creating a fair, non-discriminatory international system aiming at promoting non-proliferation of nuclear weapons while ensuring that all interested States have access to nuclear fuel.

21. All States should support the creation of nuclear-weapon-free zones, on the basis of arrangements freely arrived at by States of the region concerned, in accordance, where applicable, with the 1999 guidelines of the United Nations Disarmament Commission. All States concerned should seriously consider taking

practical steps required for the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones where they do not yet exist, in particular in the Middle East.

22. The interest of non-nuclear-weapon States in agreements on effective international arrangements to assure them against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons should be further addressed in the Conference on Disarmament. Negative security assurances provided by nuclear-weapon States, such as those taken note of by the Security Council in its resolution 984 (1995) and those given upon signature of the relevant protocols of nuclear-weapon-free zone treaties, should continue to be honoured to contribute to global and regional peace and security. The States concerned are urged to take all necessary steps for the entry into force of all existing nuclear-weapon-free zones.

23. Nuclear disarmament is a step-by-step process in which all States should participate with a special responsibility for States possessing nuclear weapons. All measures taken in this field should be guided by the principles promoting strategic stability and undiminished security for all. All States should refrain from acts contrary to those principles.

24. States possessing nuclear weapons should adopt measures, including in their security policies, to reduce the danger of a nuclear war which may arise from possible accidental use of nuclear weapons.
