

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

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Security assurances

Working paper submitted by Italy

1. Non-nuclear-weapon States party to the NPT can legitimately claim to receive security assurances from the five nuclear-weapon States as defined by article IX of the NPT. Such assurances can play an important role: they can serve both as an incentive to forgo the acquisition of weapons of mass destruction and as a deterrent. Such assurances have also propitiated the adhesion of many States to the NPT.
2. Security assurances are already contemplated by the engagements by the five nuclear-weapon States as defined by article IX of the NPT undertaken in 1995 and noted by the United Nations Security Council in its resolution 984 (1995). **The five NPT nuclear-weapon States should reiterate their commitment and affirm or reaffirm its legally binding nature.**
3. Legally binding negative security assurances are also contemplated within the framework of the six declared nuclear-weapon-free zones: Treaty of Tlatelolco, Treaty of Pelindaba, Treaty of Bangkok, Treaty of Rarotonga, Antarctic Treaty and Treaty of Semipalatinsk. **Entry into force of these treaties and finalization of negative security assurance provisions contained therein should be achieved as a matter of priority after appropriate consultations.**
4. Not all NPT non-nuclear-weapon States have the same status with regard to security assurances. **A numerical survey could be made on countries that: (a) already enjoy security assurances; and (b) are susceptible to receiving security assurances.**
5. Several countries have requested the conclusion of a legally binding instrument on security assurances. **Further efforts should be made to explore the possibility that existing security assurances may be complemented by a multilateral legally binding instrument.**
6. Some countries have expressed the wish to receive security assurances on a bilateral basis. **It would be useful to explore the possibility of establishing legally binding security assurances on a unilateral, bilateral, plurilateral or regional basis.**

