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

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Verification and safeguards

Working paper submitted by the European Union

1. The European Union reaffirms its view that the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) is the cornerstone of the global nuclear non-proliferation regime, the foundation for the pursuit of nuclear disarmament under article VI of the Treaty and also a key element in the further development of the application of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, in accordance with article IV of the Treaty.
2. The European Union once again recognizes that the NPT is an irreplaceable multilateral instrument for maintaining and reinforcing international peace, security and stability. It is of crucial importance for the European Union that all States parties fully comply with it. Nothing should be undertaken that could endanger the integrity of the Treaty.
3. The European Union wants international organizations, regimes and treaties to be effective in confronting threats to international peace and security. It places particular emphasis on a policy of reinforcing compliance with the obligations of the multilateral treaty regime. Such a policy must be geared towards enhancing the ability to detect violations and strengthening enforcement of prohibitions and norms.
4. In its strategy against the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery, the European Union has committed itself to making the best use of, and seek improvements to, existing verification mechanism and systems. Today, at the beginning of the new NPT review cycle, the European Union is convinced that, more than ever, the same principle applies to the NPT.
5. The European Union recognizes the key role of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), developed in the course of the past decades, in verifying State parties' compliance with their nuclear non-proliferation obligations under the relevant articles of the NPT. The European Union calls on all States to support the Agency's efforts and to fully cooperate with it.
6. The European Union would like to reaffirm its long-standing view that comprehensive agreements and additional protocols on safeguards have a deterrent effect on nuclear proliferation and form today's verification standard.



7. The European Union considers that comprehensive agreements and additional protocols on safeguards now constitute the IAEA verification standard. A decision to that effect would greatly enhance the confidence necessary for more effective international cooperation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. Moreover, the European Union will continue to work within IAEA to convince the IAEA Board of Governors to acknowledge that the conclusion of comprehensive agreements and additional protocols are the verification standard of today.

8. The European Union strongly urges all States to conclude and implement a comprehensive agreement and additional protocol on safeguards without delay, thereby enhancing confidence in compliance.

9. The European Union is aware of the fact that the principal aim of international safeguards is to detect in a timely manner, and thereby to deter by risk of early detection, the diversion of nuclear materials for use in nuclear weapons or for purposes unknown, and in particular through the provisions of the Additional Protocol, to increase confidence in the absence of undeclared nuclear activities. As a result, safeguards are an irreplaceable technical tool in support of the political goal of sustaining an environment in which nuclear energy is used for peaceful purposes and without discrimination, in compliance with articles I, II and III of the Treaty.

10. The fact that more than 100 States still have not put into force the Additional Protocol constitutes, in the view of the European Union, a major non-proliferation failure. This unsatisfactory situation risks leading States parties to be reluctant to engage in increased peaceful nuclear cooperation for the benefit of economic and social development.

11. The European Union would like to encourage the Agency to further enhance its verification capabilities; the European Union is ready to cooperate further with the Agency in this regard. In the past the European Union recognized the work of the Committee on Safeguards and Verification, established by the IAEA Board of Governors in the third quarter of 2005, and expects it to deliver a report for the June Board Meeting.

12. The European Union is convinced that joint efforts by the Agency, its members and all States parties to effectively implement verification efforts concerning the NPT will be a major contribution to deterring further proliferation efforts.
