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Open-ended Working Group taking forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations¹

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Taking forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations

Measures to reduce and eliminate the risk of accidental, mistakes, unauthorized or intentional nuclear weapon detonations

Submitted by Iraq

Foreword

1. Iraq is presenting this paper on the purpose of participation and support to the international efforts to ensure the success of the Open-ended Working Group meeting, and come up with practical and applicable recommendations in order to “take forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations in 2016”.
2. Iraq believes that nuclear disarmament should be the highest priority of the international community, and reiterates its deep concern at the danger posed on the survival of humankind by the continued existence of nuclear weapons and of their possible use or threat of use. Iraq reaffirms strong commitment to nuclear disarmament, and underscores the urgent need to commence negotiations on this issue in the Conference on Disarmament without further delay.
3. Iraq firmly believes that it is the responsibility of everyone to respect and implement the conventions and treaties of disarmament and non-proliferation, and the Iraqi Government, in addition to its commitments to these International instruments, respects all international arrangements that are related to disarmament, arms control and non-proliferation. Proceeding with its belief of the importance of the peace and international security, it strives to establish a world free of nuclear weapons, and endorses all efforts spearheaded in this regard, and deems these consultations on “taking forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations in 2016” an important phase to the international non-proliferation. This meeting should not be merely another one to speculate in the success and failure that might have happened in the international nuclear disarmament. However, we must achieve tangible progress in the field of non-proliferation by taking practical steps to

¹ Established pursuant to resolution 70/33 of the General Assembly of the United Nations.



address the challenges, expectations and failures that have emerged due to the lack of will to fully comply with the provisions of the Treaty on Non-proliferation and the failure for the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty to enter into force.

4. The lone guarantee to ensure reducing and eliminating of the risk of accidental, mistaken, unauthorized or intended nuclear weapon detonations could be via:

(a) Stressing the important role of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, in particular article VI, as the means to clear the way to all Parties to the Treaty to undertake and pursue negotiations in good faith and through effective measures related to the cessation of the nuclear arms race and to fulfil the nuclear disarmament without any further delay.

(b) The Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty, as one of the most prominent measures in the field of non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and nuclear disarmament, thereby significantly contributing to the enhancement of international peace and security. Its entry into force would therefore strengthen the international security architecture built upon the foundation of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT).

(c) The non-proliferation, that could be attained only if all parties join the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons as well as the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty and other related legal instruments, and the belief that the nuclear arms cannot be seen a tool to ensure security for any party, because this will inevitably lead to regional nuclear arms race. In this context, the Government of Iraq stresses that preventing the spread of nuclear weapons can only be achieved through the accession of all States to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty, in addition to subjected all States' facilities and programs to the comprehensive safeguards regime of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), in order to ensure the peaceful purposes for these programs, and the full acceptance of applying the IAEA'S additional protocol, and to encourage the universal compliance with it, to enhance the role of the IAEA in the field of verification.

(d) The need for signing a treaty to prevent the production of FMT, which is complementary to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty in the non-proliferation system.

5. The Government of Iraq ensures the need of consultation between neighbouring countries whenever a given country intends to establish a nuclear reactor, and seek to reach agreement therein. These reactors have to be censored by the IAEA in addition to the relevant regional and international organizations, in order to reduce of the negative impacts on the environment in the region, and put in place the safeguards to avoid leaks of any dangerous material that might be harmful to humans and the environment. Furthermore, the border-line populous areas and cross-border streams of international rivers, lakes and tributaries of surface and groundwater must be protected from all kinds of waste and pollution, in compliance with the provisions and standards of nuclear safety for the designing, construction and safety of nuclear installations.

6. All States and parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and the international community are required to work immediately on a world free of nuclear weapons, and emphasize the need to have international initiatives to attain this target, and also to develop applicable plans with specific binding timetables, and that the progress to reach this goal requires a first step towards achieving a global treaty to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons. Albeit bilateral agreements on nuclear disarmament are significant, they should not replace the ultimate target of the total and comprehensive nuclear disarmament.

7. The settlement of political disputes and reaching long-term solutions for these disputes; eliminating the causes of conflicts and terrorism, especially in the most troubled regions in the world in which terrorist groups are spread; improving political relationships among the countries and building trust and understanding among them, all these are significant means to renounce arms race and access to nuclear weapons, and will certainly reduce or limit any access to these weapons by terrorists.
 8. The establishment of regional nuclear-weapon-free zones (NWFZ) will strengthen global nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament norms and consolidate international efforts towards peace and security. Ratification by the nuclear states of the additional protocols to the conventions on nuclear-free zones.
 9. The need to impose additional security measures and to work with the IAEA, in order to support countries that want to develop peaceful uses of nuclear energy in safe ways; this shall reduce the risk of the proliferation of nuclear weapons.
 10. In order to ensure the prevention of the leakage of nuclear materials to non-states actors, there is a need to find safe ways to store the nuclear material and dispose of nuclear waste, and ensure the security of nuclear facilities, as well as the development of new techniques that deal with the spent fuel.
 11. Stressing the necessity to review nuclear doctrines and to take immediate and urgent steps to reduce the risks of unintentional and accidental use of nuclear weapons, including through de-alerting and de-targeting of nuclear weapons, as well as calling on the five nuclear-weapon states to take measures towards the implementation of these issues.
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