
2005 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

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Working paper submitted by the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Republic of Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and the Republic of Uzbekistan

1. Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan consider nuclear-weapon-free zones as a means for achieving the effective implementation of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. The Central Asian States are firmly convinced that the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones on the basis of arrangements freely arrived at among States concerned significantly promotes nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation at the regional and global levels. Recent trends in the world once again confirm the importance of the establishment and functioning of such zones in order to avert the dangers posed by nuclear weapons. On the basis of their understanding of this situation, the Central Asian States launched an initiative for the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of Central Asia, which was set forth in the relevant provisions of the Almaty Declaration of 28 February 1997, the statement issued at Tashkent on 15 September 1997 by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Republic of Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and the Republic of Uzbekistan, and the Communiqué issued on 10 July 1998 by the Bishkek Consultative Meeting.

2. The 2005 Review Conference has notes with satisfaction the adoption by consensus by the United Nations General Assembly of resolution 52/38 S, of 9 December 1997, resolution 53/77 A, of 4 December 1998, resolution 55/33 W, of 20 November 2000, and resolution 57/69, of 22 November 2002, entitled "Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Central Asia", in which the Assembly calls upon all States to support the initiative aimed at the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Central Asia, commends the concrete steps taken by the States of the region in preparing the legal groundwork for their initiative, and requests the Secretary-General, within existing resources, to continue to provide assistance to the five Central Asian States in their further work for the early establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Central Asia.

3. The 2005 Review Conference also notes the concrete steps taken by the Central Asian States towards the implementation of their initiative. These steps have included the holding on 15 and 16 September 1997 of the Tashkent International Conference on Central Asia as a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone, and also meetings of

experts in Geneva, Bishkek, Sapporo, Samarkand and Tashkent. As a result of the Bishkek meeting, held on 9 and 10 July 1998 with the participation of the five nuclear-weapon States, the United Nations and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), substantial progress was made in the preparation of a draft treaty on the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Central Asia.

4. The 2005 Review Conference recalls that the “Principles and Objectives for Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament”, agreed on at the 1995 NPT Review and Extension Conference stated that the development of nuclear-weapon-free zones should be encouraged as a matter of priority. In this context, it notes that the Final Document of the 2000 Review Conference (NPT/CONF.2000/28 (Parts I and II)) and the documents of the three sessions of the Preparatory Committee for the 2005 Conference of the Parties to the Treaty express support for the intentions and commitment of the five Central Asian States to establish a nuclear-weapon-free zone in their region, welcomes the practical steps that they have taken towards implementation of their initiative, and also notes with satisfaction the substantial progress made by the Central Asian States in drawing up and agreeing on a draft treaty on the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Central Asia.

5. The 2005 Review Conference notes the substantial progress that has been made by the Central Asian States with the direct support of the United Nations, in particular the Secretary-General, the Department for Disarmament Affairs, the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific, the United Nations Office of Legal Affairs, and also the International Atomic Energy Agency, in the process of drawing up and agreeing on a draft treaty on the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Central Asia.

6. The 2005 Review Conference notes that the Central Asian States also view the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region as an effective contribution to combating international terrorism and preventing nuclear materials and technologies from falling into the hands of non-state actors, primarily, terrorists.

7. The 2005 Review Conference, recalling the decisions adopted during the 1995 and 2000 Review Conferences, once again calls upon Governments and international organizations that have expertise in the field of the clean-up and disposal of radioactive contaminants to consider giving appropriate assistance to the States of the region as may be required for remedial purposes in their effected areas.

8. The 2005 Review Conference welcomes the outcome of the Tashkent meeting, held from 7 to 9 February 2005, which finalized the agreed draft treaty on a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Central Asia, and also the designation of the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic as depositary of the treaty. The Conference further notes that the early agreements on the treaty and its protocol reached by the Central Asian States at the Samarkand meeting in September 2002 were important in order to achieve consensus.

9. The 2005 Review Conference notes that the official and unofficial meetings on drawing up the texts of the treaty on a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Central Asia and the protocol to it were conducted with account taken of the principles and guidelines set forth by the Commission on Disarmament in the document entitled “Establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones on the basis of arrangements freely arrived at among the States of the corresponding region concerned”.

10. The 2005 Review Conference also welcomes the holding, in accordance with paragraph 25 of the principles and guidelines for the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones, adopted by the Disarmament Commission in 1999, of the two consultative meetings between experts from the Central Asian states and the five nuclear-weapon countries on the question of a treaty on the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Central Asia and the protocol to it. These consultations, which took place in October and December 2002 in New York, were a continuation of the process of consultations with the nuclear-weapon States begun in 1998 at the Bishkek meeting of experts. The proposals and observations put forward during these three consultative meetings by the nuclear-weapon States were, to the extent possible, taken into account in the agreed text of the draft treaty on the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Central Asia.

11. The 2005 Review Conference welcomes the sincere aspiration of the Central Asian States to sign, as speedily as possible, the treaty on the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Central Asia.
