
**Preparatory Committee for the 2005 Review
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**The prevention of nuclear weapons proliferation, nuclear-
weapon-free zones and the Middle East nuclear question**

Working paper submitted by China

Prevention of nuclear weapons proliferation

1. The prevention of nuclear weapons proliferation is an effective and essential step towards the complete prohibition and thorough destruction of nuclear weapons. Nuclear non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament complement each other and are mutually reinforcing. The efforts made by the international community to prevent nuclear weapons proliferation are an indispensable part of the international disarmament process.
2. All States should devote themselves to building a global security environment of cooperation and mutual trust, and to ensuring common security for all members of the international community, thereby eliminating the motivation for some States to acquire, develop and maintain nuclear weapons. This is the fundamental guarantee for preventing the proliferation of nuclear weapons.
3. The application of double or multiple standards with regard to the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons must be discarded. This is an important prerequisite for the success of non-proliferation efforts.
4. All States should strengthen dialogue and cooperation for the prevention of nuclear weapons proliferation on an equal footing. Concerns about nuclear proliferation should be addressed in strict accordance with the obligations and procedures stipulated in the relevant international legal instruments. This is the correct and effective way to deal with issues relating to the prevention of nuclear weapons proliferation.
5. Universal adherence to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) is an important component of preventing nuclear weapons proliferation. Countries that have not yet acceded to the NPT are urged to do so unconditionally at an early date and to place all their nuclear facilities under International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) safeguards in accordance with the Treaty.

6. IAEA safeguards constitute an effective shield against nuclear weapons proliferation. All States should support the safeguards and the “integrated safeguards programme” developed by the IAEA secretariat which combines the traditional safeguards programme with strengthened safeguards measures. Those States that have not yet signed the Protocol Additional to the Safeguards Agreement should accelerate their negotiations with IAEA and ensure that it enters into force as soon as possible.

7. All States bear unavoidable responsibility for the physical protection of nuclear material and facilities. Every State should, taking account of its own situation, enact and enhance national laws and regulations on physical protection in order to prevent nuclear material from being acquired and nuclear facilities from being targeted by terrorists. All States should support the efforts of IAEA to counter nuclear terrorism. In order to achieve an early amendment of the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material, States parties should abide by the consensus reached at the Informal Expert Meeting in May 2001.

8. Efforts should be made to prevent restrictions from being placed on international cooperation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy in the name of preventing nuclear weapons proliferation.

9. Strengthening nuclear export control is an important means of preventing nuclear weapons proliferation. All States parties should, in accordance with article 3, paragraph 2, of the NPT, strengthen the control of nuclear exports. A universal and non-discriminative international treaty should be concluded through negotiations at an early date, with a view to establishing a just and equitable global non-proliferation mechanism that would replace the current export control regimes based on groups of countries.

Nuclear-weapon-free zones

10. Nuclear-weapon-free zones have major significance in promoting nuclear disarmament, preventing nuclear weapons proliferation and enhancing peace and security at the regional and global levels.

11. All nuclear-weapon States should undertake unconditionally not to use or threaten to use nuclear weapons against non-nuclear-weapon States or nuclear-weapon-free zones, and should conclude international legal instruments to that end.

12. The principles on the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones adopted by the United Nations Disarmament Commission in 1999 should be faithfully upheld.

13. Nuclear-weapon States should support the efforts of non-nuclear-weapon States to establish nuclear-weapon-free zones on the basis of arrangements freely arrived at among the States of the regions concerned. The legal status of nuclear-weapon-free zones should be respected. Nuclear-weapon States should undertake corresponding obligations in a legally binding manner.

14. Nuclear-weapon States should, in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 5 of the section of the Final Document of the 2000 NPT Review Conference, dealing with article VII of the Treaty, take steps to bring into effect the assurances provided by nuclear-weapon-free zones treaties and their protocols.

The Middle East nuclear question

15. The question of the Middle East should be resolved in a spirit of reconciliation. The United Nations, and the Security Council in particular, should be encouraged to play an active role in this regard. The parties concerned should earnestly implement the agreements and common understanding reached on the basis of relevant United Nations resolutions and the principle of land for peace.

16. The initiatives and the efforts made by the States of the region to establish a zone free of nuclear weapons as well as other weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East should be supported. Practical measures must be taken to promote the establishment of a zone free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East in accordance with the relevant General Assembly resolutions and the Resolution on the Middle East adopted at the 1995 NPT Review and Extension Conference.

17. Israel's accession to the NPT and the placement of all its nuclear facilities under comprehensive IAEA safeguards will play an important role in realizing the goal of universal adherence to the Treaty in the Middle East.
