

Preparatory Committee for the 2015 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

17 April 2013
English
Original: Chinese

Second session

Geneva, 22 April-3 May 2013

Nuclear disarmament

Working paper submitted by China

1. The complete prohibition and total elimination of nuclear weapons, getting rid of the danger of nuclear war and the attainment of a nuclear-weapon-free world serve the common interests and benefits of humankind.
2. The international community should make joint efforts to pursue a new security concept featuring mutual trust, mutual benefit, equality and coordination, to fully respect and accommodate the legitimate and reasonable security concerns of all countries, to resolve international disputes through peaceful means and to work to create a peaceful and stable international security environment and set in place the conditions necessary for progress in nuclear disarmament.
3. It is important to adhere to multilateralism, maintain the authority, universality and effectiveness of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and adhere and give full play to the role of the existing multilateral mechanisms, including the United Nations Disarmament Commission and the Conference on Disarmament, so as to provide legal support and institutional guarantees for the nuclear disarmament process.
4. With the preparatory process for the 2015 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons developing in depth, all the parties should take this opportunity to continuously take active measures to implement, in a comprehensive manner, the action plan adopted by the 2010 Review Conference. The relationship between nuclear disarmament, nuclear non-proliferation and peaceful uses of nuclear energy should be properly handled so as to promote the three pillars of the Treaty in a balanced way.
5. All nuclear-weapon States should be committed to the complete prohibition and total elimination of nuclear weapons, should scrupulously fulfil their non-proliferation obligations under article VI of the Treaty and should give public undertakings not to seek the permanent possession of nuclear weapons.
6. Nuclear disarmament should follow the principles of promoting global strategic stability and ensuring undiminished security for all and be promoted in a step-by-step way.



7. States possessing the largest nuclear arsenals bear special and primary responsibility for nuclear disarmament and should take the lead in substantially reducing those arsenals in a verifiable, irreversible and legally binding manner, thus creating the conditions necessary for the ultimate goal of general and comprehensive nuclear disarmament. When conditions are ripe, other nuclear-weapon States should also join the multilateral negotiations on nuclear disarmament.

8. Global missile defence systems, which undermine global strategic stability and international cooperation in this regard, should not be developed or deployed so as to avoid impairing international nuclear disarmament efforts. The prevention of an arms race in outer space is conducive to maintaining the global strategic balance and stability and to creating the international security environment necessary for nuclear disarmament.

9. The Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty is an important step in the nuclear disarmament process. Countries that have not yet done so should sign and ratify the Treaty as soon as possible so that it may enter into force at the earliest opportunity, as stipulated by the relevant provisions. Pending the entry into force of the Treaty, nuclear-weapon States should continue to observe their moratoriums on nuclear tests.

10. The Conference on Disarmament in Geneva is the only appropriate forum for the negotiation of a treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices. Negotiations on such a treaty should start in the Conference at the earliest opportunity with the full participation of all the parties concerned. The Conference should also engage in substantive work on the issues of nuclear disarmament, the prevention of an arms race in outer space and the provision of security assurances to the non-nuclear-weapon States.

11. For the attainment of the ultimate goal of general and comprehensive nuclear disarmament, the international community should develop, at the appropriate juncture, a viable long-term plan comprising phased actions, including the conclusion of a convention on the complete prohibition of nuclear weapons.

12. Before the conclusion of the international legal instruments on nuclear disarmament, all nuclear-weapon States should take the following measures to reduce the danger of nuclear war, diminish the role of nuclear weapons in national security policy and increase mutual trust among States:

(a) To abandon the nuclear deterrence policy based on first use of nuclear weapons;

(b) To honour their commitments not to target their nuclear weapons against any countries, or to list any countries as targets of nuclear strikes;

(c) To undertake not to be the first to use nuclear weapons at any time or under any circumstances; unconditionally not to use or threaten to use nuclear weapons against non-nuclear-weapon States or nuclear-weapon-free zones; and to conclude relevant international legal instruments;

(d) To support efforts of relevant countries and regions in establishing nuclear-weapon-free zones and other weapons-of-mass-destruction-free zones in accordance with the regional conditions and on the basis of voluntary consultation and agreement;

(e) To abandon the policy of the “nuclear umbrella” and the practice of “nuclear sharing”. Countries that deploy nuclear weapons abroad should withdraw and repatriate all such weapons;

(f) To take all steps necessary to avoid accidental or unauthorized launches of nuclear weapons.

13. Achieving the universality of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and enhancing its authority are of extreme importance. Countries that have not yet done so should accede to the Treaty as non-nuclear-weapon States at the earliest opportunity.
