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

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Reduced role of nuclear weapons

Working paper submitted by the members of the Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Initiative (Australia, Canada, Chile, Germany, Japan, Mexico, the Netherlands, Poland, Turkey and the United Arab Emirates)

1. The Final Document of the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons states: “The Conference expresses its deep concern at the continued risk for humanity represented by the possibility that these [nuclear] weapons could be used and the catastrophic humanitarian consequences that would result from the use of nuclear weapons.” (para. 80)
2. As the Final Document recalls, “the total elimination of nuclear weapons is the only absolute guarantee against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons and the legitimate interest of non-nuclear-weapon States in receiving unequivocal and legally binding security assurances from nuclear-weapon States which could strengthen the nuclear non-proliferation regime.” (action plan, sect. I.C., para. i)
3. The total elimination of nuclear weapons in a transparent and irreversible manner is a goal to which members of the Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Initiative are firmly committed. In working towards this goal, one of the areas where progress is needed and feasible is the role of nuclear weapons in military doctrines. The role of nuclear weapons is defined by each nuclear-weapon State’s declaratory policy and subsequently translated into military doctrine and force posture.
4. This is also addressed in action 5 of the Final Document, which states: “The nuclear-weapon States commit to accelerate concrete progress on the steps leading to nuclear disarmament, contained in the Final Document of the 2000 Review Conference, in a way that promotes international stability, peace and undiminished and increased security. To that end, they are called upon to promptly engage with a view to ... (c) further diminish the role and significance of nuclear weapons in all military and security concepts, doctrines and policies”.
5. Members of the Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Initiative want to draw attention to the importance of further reducing the role and significance of nuclear



weapons in declaratory policies. According to the general principles of the action plan laid down in actions 1 and 2, declaratory policies should reflect the commitment to achieving a world without nuclear weapons and be consistent with the principles of irreversibility, verifiability and transparency.

On this basis, the 2015 Review Conference should reiterate the following:

6. In view of the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of any use of nuclear weapons, it is imperative that the more than 65 year record of nuclear non-use be extended forever. Members of the Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Initiative thus see the need for determined steps by the nuclear-weapon States towards nuclear disarmament, with the final objective of a nuclear-weapon-free world.

7. To ensure progress on this road and to prevent nuclear weapons from ever being used again, concrete efforts must be made so that the possible use of nuclear weapons becomes even more remote than it is now.

8. Quantitative reductions should be accompanied by steps towards reducing the role and significance of nuclear weapons in security strategies and military doctrines. These steps are important contributions towards the goal of complete nuclear disarmament and will be mutually reinforcing with further quantitative reductions.

9. All nuclear-weapon States should reiterate that they will not use or threaten to use nuclear weapons against non-nuclear-weapon States that are parties to the Non-Proliferation Treaty and in compliance with their nuclear non-proliferation obligations (what are termed “negative security assurances”).

10. All nuclear-weapon States should make a political commitment to refrain from developing new nuclear warheads.

11. The 2010 action plan calls upon the nuclear-weapon States to provide information, using a standard reporting form to be agreed under action 21, to the Preparatory Committee at its third session in 2014 on their efforts towards the reduction of the role of nuclear weapons. When developing such a form, the nuclear-weapon States are encouraged to refer to the draft reporting form (NPT/CONF.2015/PC.I/WP.12), which the Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Initiative proposed at the first session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2015 Review Conference held in 2012.

12. In order to reduce the role of nuclear weapons, States parties are called upon to promote actively disarmament and non-proliferation education. We encourage all States parties to contribute to raising awareness, in particular among younger generations, of the tragic consequences of the use of nuclear weapons.