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

13 March 2015

Original: English

New York, 27 April-22 May 2015

Recommendations for consideration by the 2015 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

Joint working paper submitted by the Nordic countries (Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden)

Guiding principles

The Nordic countries — Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden — remain committed to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, the cornerstone of nuclear non-proliferation, nuclear disarmament and the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. The three pillars of the Treaty are mutually reinforcing. The Treaty has, since its inception, contributed to our common security. Its continued effectiveness and integrity rests on its implementation and universalization.

The Nordic countries will strive to achieve a forward-looking outcome document of the 2015 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, focusing on the implementation of all commitments undertaken under the Treaty as such, as well as during previous Review Conferences, including in 1995, 2000 and 2010.

In this working paper the Nordic countries have outlined a number of recommendations to the Conference, focusing on the disarmament pillar. Our positions and recommendations pertaining to non-proliferation, peaceful uses of nuclear energy and the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty are covered by the working paper of the Vienna Group of Ten, which we support in full.

Nuclear disarmament

The Nordic countries recommend that the Conference:

1. Reaffirm that all States parties are committed to pursue policies that are fully compatible with the Treaty and the objective of achieving a world without nuclear weapons;
2. Call for effective disarmament of all nuclear weapons, including strategic and non-strategic, deployed and non-deployed weapons;



3. Reiterate that reductions in nuclear armaments should be based on the principles of irreversibility, verifiability and transparency;
4. Note the unequivocal undertaking by the nuclear-weapon States, at the 2000 and 2010 Review Conferences, to accomplish the total elimination of their nuclear arsenals leading to nuclear disarmament, as well as their recent statement recommitting towards achieving a world without nuclear weapons to which all parties are committed under article VI of the Treaty;
5. Stress that the equal participation of men and women in disarmament analyses, delegations, discussions and decisions increases the legitimacy, quality and effectiveness of disarmament agreements.

Rule of law

As we remain committed to the Non-Proliferation Treaty, and bearing in mind the current situation, we stand committed to upholding the rule of law in international affairs, including disarmament and non-proliferation obligations.

Recognizing the current challenges to security, including to the disarmament and non-proliferation regime, we are convinced of the need to implement disarmament and non-proliferation commitments of the Non-Proliferation Treaty with increased urgency.

The Nordic countries recommend that the Conference:

6. Reiterate the need for all States at all times to comply with international law, including international humanitarian law, and other relevant agreements;
7. Underline that increasing international tension makes the implementation of disarmament and non-proliferation commitments of the Non-Proliferation Treaty all the more urgent.

Humanitarian perspective

The Nordic countries all subscribe to the humanitarian perspective on nuclear weapons. Three international conferences have been arranged during this review cycle, by Norway, Mexico and Austria, respectively, aimed at highlighting the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of any use of nuclear weapons.

The Nordic countries recommend that the Conference:

8. Express its deep concern at the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of any nuclear weapons use;
9. Take duly into account the international discourse during the review cycle with regard to the humanitarian perspective of nuclear weapons;
10. Express its concern at the risk of accidental, unauthorized or deliberate use of nuclear weapons;
11. Stress that the risk and consequences of nuclear weapons are a threat to, and a concern of, all humanity;
12. Underline that the responsibility to prevent the use of nuclear weapons rests with all States.

Effective disarmament

The Nordic countries subscribe to a world free of nuclear weapons. A number of methods, solutions and forums have been proposed to achieve this goal, which lies at the heart of article VI of the Non-Proliferation Treaty. We do not subscribe to a specific solution, but to the principle of effective disarmament. Each step, building block, discussion or forum should bring us closer to a world free of nuclear weapons, to which all States parties are committed under the Treaty.

Commitments undertaken under the Non-Proliferation Treaty should be fully respected, as unfulfilled promises will erode the confidence in the Treaty. Where possible, we should seek new disarmament commitments and measures, in order to guarantee continued progress to achieve the goals of the Treaty.

The Nordic countries recommend that the Conference:

13. Emphasize that disarmament needs to be pursued without conditions through multilateral, regional, bilateral or unilateral means;
14. Express its deep regret that the Conference on Disarmament has failed to produce tangible results, and urge that forum to begin work according to its mandate without delay, including on a fissile material cut-off treaty;
15. Note that the United Nations disarmament machinery as a whole, including the General Assembly, subsidiary bodies and expert groups, should be used to pursue multilateral disarmament, especially when the Conference on Disarmament remains stalled;
16. Welcome the continued implementation of the New Start Treaty between the Russian Federation and the United States of America, and call upon the two countries to negotiate and finalize further and deeper cuts in their nuclear arsenals without further delay;
17. Urge the nuclear-weapon States to include non-strategic nuclear weapons in future reduction and disarmament agreements;
18. Underline that increased transparency regarding non-strategic nuclear weapons, while not a substitute for disarmament, can contribute to increased confidence and lead to disarmament, and that other transparency and confidence-building measures should be explored.

De-alerting nuclear weapons

The Nordic countries welcome commitments to de-alerting made at previous Review Conferences of the Non-Proliferation Treaty. De-alerting nuclear weapon systems would decrease risks and contribute to increased confidence between States, and can lead to disarmament.

The Nordic countries recommend that the Conference:

19. Urge all nuclear-weapon States, as a confidence-building measure and a step towards disarmament, to decrease the operational readiness of nuclear weapons.

Reducing the role of nuclear weapons in strategic doctrines

The Nordic countries recommend that the Conference:

20. Emphasize that the reduction of the role of nuclear weapons represents a positive step in reducing the risk of nuclear weapons use and in building confidence between nations, and urge all countries possessing nuclear weapons to agree on concrete measures in this regard.
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