

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

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Environmental consequences of uranium mining

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

Background

1. In the report of Main Committee III of the 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, it was noted that there have been exceptional instances in which serious environmental consequences have resulted from uranium mining and associated nuclear fuel cycle activities in the production and testing of nuclear weapons. Similar language is contained in the final document of the 2000 and 2010 Review Conferences of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. The General Assembly adopted resolution 68/218 on the role of the international community in averting the radiation threat in Central Asia on 20 December 2013, noting the importance of remediating areas affected by former uranium extraction plants and recognizing the need to devise and promote effective programmes and projects for the responsible and safe management of radioactive and toxic waste in Central Asia.

Recommendations

2. The 2015 Review Conference reiterates the appeal of the 1995, 2000 and 2010 Conferences to all Governments and international organizations that have expertise in the field of clean-up and disposal of radioactive contaminants to consider giving appropriate assistance, as may be requested, for radiological assessment and remedial purposes in affected areas, while noting the efforts that have been made to date in this regard.

