

2020 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

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National report on the implementation of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

Report submitted by Morocco

1. The Kingdom of Morocco submits this national report on the implementation of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons to the tenth Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.
2. In this report, Morocco sets out the efforts deployed by the Kingdom since previous review conferences to contribute to the international community's activities to realize the objectives of the three pillars of the Treaty, namely disarmament, non-proliferation and the use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes.
3. The Kingdom of Morocco believes that, on its fiftieth anniversary, the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons has proved its usefulness and effectiveness in the areas of disarmament and non-proliferation by contributing, since the Second World War, to an 80 per cent reduction in nuclear arsenals, the limitation of the emergence of new nuclear powers and the promotion of peaceful uses of nuclear energy, at the international level.
4. New challenges to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, however, have emerged, which include the development of new national nuclear programmes; withdrawals from and the expiration of disarmament treaties; the emergence of new threats to the disarmament and non-proliferation architecture, such as the multiplication of non-State actors; cyberterrorism; and the emergence of new technologies, which must be included within the scope of application of the Treaty.
5. The Kingdom of Morocco has strengthened its efforts to implement the three pillars of the Treaty in order to face these new challenges.

Pillar I. Disarmament

6. The Kingdom of Morocco, which in April 2000 ratified the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, avails itself of every opportunity, at the domestic and international levels, to renew its call on States that have not yet done so to sign the Treaty and to encourage its ratification in order to speed up its entry into force.
7. Morocco welcomes the observance of moratoria on nuclear tests, while recalling that they cannot be considered as an alternative to ratification and entry into force of



the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty. Morocco welcomes the launching of a process of conferences on the humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons and will continue to participate in them, in the conviction that the process can contribute real added value to efforts under way to achieve a world without nuclear weapons.

8. In 2015, Morocco presided over the Conference on Disarmament and as its president it worked to:

- (a) Open negotiations on the development of a fissile materials cut-off treaty;
- (b) Start negotiations on a legal instrument on negative security assurances;
- (c) Support the launching of negotiations for the adoption of an international convention on nuclear disarmament.

9. In August 2019, Morocco participated in the plenary session of the Conference on Disarmament dedicated to the prevention of nuclear war, including all related matters, and defended the following two principles:

- (a) The objectives of the Conference on Disarmament can only be achieved through the negotiation of a legally binding instrument on nuclear disarmament;
- (b) The draft fissile material cut-off treaty is fundamental in the light of its dual objective of nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament, taking into account the progress made in the talks of the high-level group of experts with a mandate to formulate recommendations in that regard.

10. The draft fissile material cut-off treaty submitted in April 2015 could provide a useful contribution and a good working foundation for such an instrument to be brought into being.

11. Morocco, as co-chair of the working group on disarmament of the International Organization of la Francophonie, has advocated multilingualism within United Nations disarmament bodies is an essential element to promote dialogue and as a component of convergence, rapprochement and the collective perception of the challenges facing the international community. In that connection, as chair of the working group, Morocco addressed a letter to the Director-General of the office of the United Nations at Geneva, in order to pass on the concerns of the member States in question.

Pillar II. Nuclear non-proliferation

12. Morocco, which signed and ratified the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons in 1968 and 1970, respectively, believes that the instrument is the cornerstone of the nuclear non-proliferation regime and key to the preservation of international peace and security. Consequently, it has always supported initiatives aimed at preserving its credibility and promoting universality.

13. Morocco contributes to the efforts deployed to bring about the universalization of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and the comprehensive safeguards of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). It has chosen to do so because it believes that universality is essential in order to guarantee the effectiveness of the non-proliferation regime.

14. Morocco believes that IAEA has a central role to play in the implementation of the Treaty, especially in terms of the implementation of comprehensive safeguards agreements.

15. The Kingdom of Morocco concluded a comprehensive safeguards agreement with IAEA in the framework of the Treaty in 1973 and ratified the protocol additional to that agreement on 5 March 2011.

16. Morocco also concluded, in 1984, subsidiary arrangements with IAEA specifying the manner in which the terms and conditions set forth in the safeguards agreement are to be implemented.
17. Morocco, which supports the strengthening of the IAEA safeguards system, is continuing to contribute to efforts to achieve that goal and believes that this Agency must have all the necessary means at its disposal to effectively carry out its safeguards mandate.
18. Morocco has established the Moroccan Agency for Nuclear and Radiological Safety and Security (Agence Marocaine de Sûreté et de Sécurité Nucléaires et Radiologiques) as its national regulatory authority, pursuant to Act No. 142.12, which became law in 2014. The Agency now has the task of ensuring the national implementation of IAEA subsidiary arrangements.
19. Morocco is aware of the complex nature of the threat of terrorism and fully shares the international community's concern regarding the illicit and illegal use of weapons of mass destruction by non-State actors. In this context, Morocco submits its national report in accordance with paragraph 4 of Security Council resolution [1540 \(2004\)](#).
20. Morocco was able to complete the process of accession to all international conventions on nuclear safety and security when it ratified the Convention on Nuclear Safety, on 21 May 2019.
21. Morocco has been strengthening its legal arsenal in the area of the strict control of nuclear material, through the promulgation, on 20 January 2015, of a decree on the safe and secure transport and management of hazardous wastes, in conformity with the relevant provisions of the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material.
22. In December 2019, Morocco submitted its first national report on the implementation of the Convention on Nuclear Safety in preparation for the Review Meeting of the Contracting Parties to this instrument, which had originally been scheduled for March 2020.
23. Morocco contributes to advancing the implementation of the Code of Conduct on the Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources and participates in exchanges of experience with respect to implementation of the Code.
24. Morocco, pursuant to the provisions of Act No. 142-12, has prepared a regulatory text to update and establish a national nuclear material accounting system. This draft text, which is currently being finalized by the relevant government authorities, also deals with aspects of the transmission of information required under the aforementioned safeguards agreement and the protocol additional to that agreement.
25. Morocco is working towards the establishment of an export control regime for dual-use products through the adoption on 14 July 2020 of Act No. 42-18, on the control of exports of dual-use goods, both civilian and military, and related services.
26. Morocco organized the third International Regulators Conference on Nuclear Security, in Marrakech, from 1 to 4 October 2019, to continue the process of reflection on the needs and challenges facing regulatory bodies, particularly in Africa, in the nuclear and radiological fields.
27. Since 2011, Morocco has hosted the Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear Risk Mitigation Centre of Excellence, which benefits a number of experts from African countries of the Atlantic Façade, in Rabat, in cooperation with the United Nations and the European Union. The objective is to enhance capacity-building in these countries to respond to and mitigate the risks associated with the use of nuclear, radiological, biological and chemical agents.

28. Within the framework of voluntary non-proliferation coalitions and international efforts to strengthen the nuclear safety and security regime, Morocco hosted the first plenary meeting of the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism and since then has organized several activities in that framework.

29. Morocco was elected, in June 2019 in Buenos Aires, to serve as the Global Initiative's Implementation and Assessment Group Coordinator and presented an action plan in that capacity.

30. Morocco organized, from 3 to 5 December 2019 in Tangiers, within the framework of the Global Initiative, a regional interministerial workshop on nuclear detection at blue and green borders to examine the underlying challenges and best practices for combating illicit trafficking in nuclear and radioactive materials at maritime and land borders.

31. In May 2008, Morocco endorsed the principles of the Proliferation Security Initiative, which is aimed at combating the illicit transport of weapons of mass destruction, their means of delivery and related materials, the proliferation of which has been identified as a threat to international peace and security by the Security Council (resolution [1540 \(2004\)](#)).

32. Morocco has participated in several activities organized in the context of the Proliferation Security Initiative and plans to host a workshop on the theme "Regional counter-proliferation: national and international regulations to combat the proliferation of dual-use items", with the participation of several African countries that are not participants in the Initiative.

Pillar III. Peaceful uses of nuclear energy

33. Morocco believes that nothing in the Non-Proliferation Treaty can be interpreted as affecting the inalienable right of States Parties to develop research, production and use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes.

34. Morocco considers that the promotion of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy contributes to the disarmament and non-proliferation efforts of the international community.

35. Morocco considers that IAEA, through its technical cooperation programme, plays a key role in assisting member States in the development of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, thereby contributing to the sustainable development objectives of those States.

36. Morocco considers that IAEA must have predictable, sufficient and assured resources for the implementation and development of its technical cooperation programme.

37. Morocco, through the Nuclear Safety Training and Support Centre of its National Centre for Nuclear Energy, Science and Technology, participates in strengthening regional capacities in this area. The Centre now constitutes an African hub for training in this field.

38. Morocco, which holds the presidency of the International Network for Education and Training in Emergency Preparedness and Response, will organize the first meeting of the Network, which was initially scheduled from 20 to 24 April 2020 in Marrakech and then postponed because of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, with the participation of more than 100 IAEA member countries.

39. Morocco offers a platform for regional cooperation, particularly in Africa, in knowledge-sharing, and actively contributes to the development of spaces for South-South regional cooperation, such as the Forum of Nuclear Regulatory Bodies in

Africa, the Regulatory Cooperation Forum, the Arab Network of Nuclear Regulators, and the Global Network for Nuclear Safety and Security, as well as the African Regional Cooperative Agreement for Research, Development and Training related to Nuclear Science and Technology.

40. In the context of its mandate as a member of the IAEA Board of Governors for the period 2019–2020, Morocco maintained its commitment to supporting the Agency’s role in strengthening international cooperation and compliance with its recommendations and standards in the area of nuclear security and safety.

General considerations

41. Morocco continues to actively support the efforts of the Arab countries to implement the 1995 resolution on the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East, which is consistent with the Kingdom’s principled position in support of disarmament and the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction and stems from its commitment to peace and security in the region and at the international level.

42. Morocco stresses the importance of defending the gains achieved in the final documents of the 2000 and 2010 Review Conferences of the Parties to the Treaty on Non-Proliferation and believes that those gains should not constitute either a stumbling block in the process or an obstacle to breaking the consensus.

43. In this regard, the Kingdom of Morocco wishes to take the opportunity of this high-level meeting to welcome the adoption of General Assembly Decision 73/546 and the subsequent holding of the first session of the Conference on the Establishment of a Middle East Zone Free of Nuclear Weapons and Other Weapons of Mass Destruction in November 2019 under the able presidency of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. The work of that historic first session of the Conference was concluded with the adoption of important outcomes, as reflected in the report of the Secretary-General ([A/75/63](#)).

44. Similarly, Morocco welcomes the holding, planned for 2021, of the second session of the Conference on the Establishment of a Middle East Zone Free of Nuclear Weapons and Other Weapons of Mass Destruction under the presidency of Kuwait.

45. At the third session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2020 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, Morocco strongly advocated the adoption of General Assembly decision 73/546, in which the Assembly called for the convening of a conference on the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction, and the holding of the very first session of that conference.

46. Morocco stresses the importance of strict compliance with the provisions of General Assembly resolution [73/71](#), in which the Assembly called for the organization of the fourth Conference of Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones and Mongolia, and the need to preserve the exclusively United Nations framework for this process.

47. Morocco, along with more than 60 countries, endorsed the “declaration” presented to the third session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2020 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, held in New York from 29 April to 10 May 2019.

48. Morocco considers that the success of the Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons depends largely on the ability of United Nations Member States to establish zones free of nuclear weapons.