

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

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## Implementation of article VI

### Report submitted by the Islamic Republic of Iran

1. The present report is submitted in accordance with action 20 of the action plan on nuclear disarmament, adopted at the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. Accordingly, it contains the list of measures taken by the Islamic Republic of Iran, since 2017, to implement article VI of the Treaty, paragraph 4 (c) of the 1995 decision on the principles and objectives for nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, the practical steps agreed to in the Final Document of the 2000 Review Conference and the action plan on nuclear disarmament adopted at the 2010 Review Conference, taking into account the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice of 8 July 1996.
2. The Islamic Republic of Iran believes that reporting, as envisaged in actions 5 and 20 of the action plan of the 2010 Review Conference, is a useful means to assess the status of implementation of obligations assumed under article VI of the Treaty and the unequivocal undertakings committed by the nuclear-weapon States in the 2000 and 2010 Review Conferences of the Treaty. At the same time, while the objectivity of such an assessment can, in fact, be best served through the adoption of a unified format that properly defines the categories of required information, this mechanism cannot and shall not substitute for the fulfilment of the obligation for nuclear disarmament under article VI of the Treaty.
3. The Islamic Republic of Iran signed and ratified the Treaty in 1969 and 1970, respectively. In accordance with article III (1) of the Treaty, the Islamic Republic of Iran also concluded a comprehensive safeguards agreement with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in June 1973. The ratification of the Treaty before its entry into force and the early conclusion of the safeguards agreement with the Agency by the Islamic Republic of Iran clearly demonstrate its long-standing and steadfast support for and commitment to the objectives of this instrument.
4. In 1974, the Islamic Republic of Iran presented the idea of establishing a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East. Since then, the proposal has been endorsed annually by the General Assembly in resolutions that have been adopted without a vote since 1982. The Islamic Republic of Iran also signed the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty in 1996.
5. The Islamic Republic of Iran has fulfilled its obligations under all the provisions of the Treaty with the aim of helping its integrity and universality, as well as achieving



its fundamental objectives. The policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran to renounce the nuclear option as a matter of principle and to place its peaceful nuclear facilities under the full-scope safeguards of IAEA is a clear manifestation of its commitment to the Treaty. The Islamic Republic of Iran considers the acquisition, development and use or threat of use of nuclear weapons to be inhuman, immoral, illegal and against its very basic principles. Accordingly, nuclear weapons have no place in the defence doctrine of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

6. The Islamic Republic of Iran attaches great importance to the implementation of nuclear disarmament obligations under article VI of the Treaty, the fulfilment of which is one of the fundamental objectives of this instrument, which can also greatly contribute to enhancing international peace and security. It is deeply disappointing, however, that the nuclear disarmament obligations under the Treaty, as well as the unequivocal undertakings committed by the nuclear-weapon States in the 2000 and 2010 Review Conferences, have remained unfulfilled.

7. As the International Court of Justice has stipulated in its advisory opinion of 8 July 1996 on the legality of the threat or use of nuclear weapons, the threat or use of nuclear weapons would generally be contrary to the rules of international law, and there exists an obligation to pursue in good faith and bring to a conclusion negotiations leading to nuclear disarmament in all its aspects under strict and effective international control. While emphasizing the importance and validity of this advisory opinion with regard to the obligations of States parties under article VI of the Treaty, the Islamic Republic of Iran calls upon the nuclear-weapon States that have the primary responsibility in this regard to implement their long overdue obligations on nuclear disarmament. The full compliance by the nuclear-weapon States with their nuclear disarmament obligations and commitments is essential for progress in nuclear disarmament.

8. As a party to the Treaty, the Islamic Republic of Iran continues its compliance with the Treaty, including obligations under its article VI. The measures that have been taken, since 2017, by the Islamic Republic of Iran to implement article VI of the Treaty, paragraph 4 (c) of the 1995 decision on principles and objectives for nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, the practical steps agreed to in the Final Document of the 2000 Review Conference and the 2010 action plan on nuclear disarmament, taking into account the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice of 8 July 1996, are, among others, as follows:

(a) During the period, the Islamic Republic of Iran continued to actively participate in and contribute to international efforts to promote nuclear disarmament. Initiatives taken towards this noble goal have always enjoyed the full support of the Islamic Republic of Iran. In this regard, in 2017 and 2019, the Islamic Republic of Iran presented two draft resolutions to the General Assembly on the follow-up to nuclear disarmament obligations agreed to at the 1995, 2000 and 2010 Review Conferences of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, which were adopted as resolutions [72/29](#) and [74/36](#). By virtue of those resolutions, the Assembly, inter alia, called for all the nuclear-weapon States to take the following practical steps, which would lead to nuclear disarmament:

- (i) Further efforts to be made by the nuclear-weapon States to reduce their nuclear arsenals unilaterally;
- (ii) Increased transparency by the nuclear-weapon States with regard to nuclear weapons capabilities and the implementation of agreements pursuant to article VI of the Treaty and as a voluntary confidence-building measure to support further progress in nuclear disarmament;

(iii) The further reduction of non-strategic nuclear weapons, based on unilateral initiatives and as an integral part of the nuclear arms reduction and disarmament process;

(iv) Concrete agreed measures to reduce further the operational status of nuclear weapons systems;

(v) A diminishing role for nuclear weapons in security policies so as to minimize the risk that these weapons will ever be used and to facilitate the process of their total elimination;

(vi) The engagement, as soon as appropriate, of all the nuclear-weapon States in the process leading to the total elimination of their nuclear weapons;

(b) The Islamic Republic of Iran, along with the other members of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries has continued to sponsor the General Assembly resolutions on the follow-up to the 2013 high-level meeting of the Assembly on nuclear disarmament. Through those resolutions, the Assembly:

(i) Calls for urgent compliance with the legal obligations and the fulfilment of the commitments undertaken on nuclear disarmament;

(ii) Calls for the urgent commencement of negotiations in the Conference on Disarmament for the early conclusion of a comprehensive convention on nuclear weapons to prohibit their possession, development, production, acquisition, testing, stockpiling, transfer, use or threat of use and to provide for their destruction;

(iii) Decides to convene, on a date to be decided later, a United Nations high-level international conference on nuclear disarmament to review the progress made in that regard;

(iv) Welcomes the commemoration and promotion of 26 September as the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons devoted to furthering that objective, including through enhancing public awareness and education about the threat posed to humanity by nuclear weapons and the necessity for their total elimination, in order to mobilize international efforts towards achieving the common goal of a nuclear-weapon-free world;

(c) During the period, and along with the other members of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, the Islamic Republic of Iran continued to vote in favour of General Assembly resolutions on the follow-up to the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the legality of the threat or use of nuclear weapons. Through those resolutions, the Assembly:

(i) Underlines the unanimous conclusion of the International Court of Justice that there exists an obligation to pursue in good faith and bring to a conclusion negotiations leading to nuclear disarmament in all its aspects under strict and effective international control;

(ii) Calls upon all States to immediately engage in multilateral negotiations leading to nuclear disarmament in all its aspects under strict and effective international control, including under the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons;

(d) During the period, the Islamic Republic of Iran continued to actively participate in annual substantive sessions of the Disarmament Commission and relevant deliberations on its agenda item on recommendations for achieving the objective of nuclear disarmament and the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons;

(e) Likewise, during the period, the Islamic Republic of Iran continued to actively participate in the work of the Conference on Disarmament. The Islamic Republic of Iran strongly believes that the Conference, as the sole multilateral disarmament negotiating body, should uphold its credibility and maintain its relevance to international peace and security despite its current difficulties. To that end, the Islamic Republic of Iran has contributed to efforts to reach an agreement on a comprehensive and balanced programme of work that includes the establishment of an ad hoc committee on nuclear disarmament and the commencement of negotiations on a comprehensive nuclear weapons convention;

(f) Moreover, the Islamic Republic of Iran has contributed to the work of the Conference on Disarmament, in particular its agenda item on nuclear disarmament, including through its active participation in preparing the statement and working paper of the Group of 21 on nuclear disarmament;

(g) During the period, the Islamic Republic of Iran continued to fully support all international and regional efforts towards the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East. Likewise, the Islamic Republic of Iran maintained its principled position to vote in favour of all resolutions on the establishment of such a zone, including in the General Assembly, the General Conference of IAEA and the summits and ministerial conferences of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation;

(h) The Islamic Republic of Iran also actively participated in the meetings of the Preparatory Committee of the Tenth NPT Review Conference in 2017, 2018 and 2019, and submitted a report on the implementation of article VI of the Treaty, paragraph 4 (c) of the 1995 decision on principles and objectives for nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, the practical steps agreed to in the Final Document of the 2000 Review Conference and the action plan on nuclear disarmament adopted at the 2010 Review Conference. The Islamic Republic of Iran also submitted three working papers on nuclear disarmament to those meetings;

(i) The Islamic Republic of Iran also actively participated in the 2017 United Nations conference to negotiate a legally binding instrument to prohibit nuclear weapons, leading towards their total elimination, convened pursuant to General Assembly resolution [71/258](#), and voted in favour of the adoption on 7 July 2017 of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons by conference;

(j) The Islamic Republic of Iran participated in and made statements at the level of Foreign Minister and Deputy Foreign Minister at all meetings of the General Assembly, convened in 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021, on the occasion of the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons;

(k) During the period, the Islamic Republic of Iran conducted several rounds of bilateral dialogue, on promoting the implementation of treaties banning weapons of mass destruction, with some nuclear and non-nuclear-weapon States parties to the Treaty, in which particular importance was attached to nuclear disarmament and the need for intensive international efforts towards the early realization of a nuclear-weapon-free world.