

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

Distr.: General
29 October 2021
English
Original: French

New York, 4–28 January 2022

Implementation of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

Report submitted by Algeria

1. During the eighth Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, held in 2010, the States parties undertook, in action 20 of the action plan adopted at that Conference, to submit regular reports, within the framework of the strengthened review process for the Treaty, on the implementation of the action plan, as well as article VI of the Treaty, paragraph 4 (c) of the 1995 decision entitled “Principles and objectives for nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament”, and the practical steps agreed to in the Final Document of the 2000 Review Conference. The purpose of submitting such reports is to provide the transparency needed for verification.
2. The present report mainly addresses implementation by Algeria of the provisions of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and of the action plan adopted at the 2010 Review Conference, as well as the practical steps adopted at the 2000 Review Conference.

Article I

3. Under article I of the Treaty, nuclear-weapon States are legally bound by the undertaking not to transfer to any recipient whatsoever nuclear weapons directly or indirectly. They have also undertaken not in any way to assist, encourage or induce any non-nuclear-weapon State to acquire such weapons. Fully respecting those undertakings is a primary consideration in the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons.
4. Algeria urges nuclear-weapon States, under the Treaty, to ensure the comprehensive implementation of the provisions of article I, in particular by avoiding nuclear cooperation with States that are not parties to the Treaty. Cooperation with States that are not parties to the Treaty would encourage those States not to accede to it. Nuclear-weapon States parties to the Treaty have a special responsibility to implement the article in order to achieve the universality of the Treaty.



Article II

5. Since its accession to the Treaty on 12 January 1995, Algeria, which is a non-nuclear-weapon State party to the Treaty, has continued to fully observe and implement article II. In the same spirit, Algeria is a State party to the African Nuclear-Weapon Free-Zone Treaty and the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty. It is also a signatory to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

6. Algeria remains convinced that disarmament and non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and all weapons of mass destruction are vital to preserve and consolidate international peace and security and for socioeconomic development.

Article III

7. In accordance with its obligations and commitments under article III of the Treaty, in 1996, Algeria concluded a comprehensive safeguards agreement with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). Under the terms of that agreement, the two research reactors owned by Algeria are regularly inspected by the Agency. Inspections by IAEA have always confirmed that Algeria respects its obligations under the Treaty.

Article IV

8. Algeria attaches the utmost importance to the preservation of the inalienable right of States parties under article IV to develop research, production and use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes without discrimination. Algeria shall not accede to any measure or action that might restrict that right. All States parties to the Treaty have the right to benefit from the use of nuclear energy and technology for peaceful purposes, provided that they respect their obligations under articles I, II and III.

9. In 2019, Algeria adopted a law on nuclear activities that provides for the establishment of the National Authority for Nuclear Safety and Security, in compliance with its international commitments. The purpose of the law is to establish the general provisions applicable to activities related to the use of nuclear energy and nuclear technology for peaceful purposes and to sources of ionizing radiation, in accordance with the principles of radiation protection and nuclear safety and security.

Article V

10. Algeria has ratified the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, since it is a party to the African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty.

11. Algeria is actively involved in efforts and initiatives to promote the entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty. For example, it votes in favour of the annual General Assembly resolution entitled “Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty”. It actively participates in meetings of the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization and its bodies in order to convey its commitment to the entry into force of the Treaty and to contribute to the consolidation of progress made in establishing the verification regime. In this context, from 2019 to 2021, Algeria co-chaired, with Germany, the eleventh Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the Treaty, commonly known as the article XIV conference.

12. Algeria participates regularly in the Ministerial Meeting in Support of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, which is held in New York every two years,

and in the ministerial meeting of the Friends of the Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, which it sponsors.

13. Algeria urges all States that have not yet done so, especially those listed in annex 2 to the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty that have a special responsibility concerning its entry into force, to ratify it without delay.

14. Algeria is convinced that the entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, which is one of the actions in the 2010 action plan, one of the practical steps adopted at the 2000 Review Conference and one of the measures identified at the 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, would bring about the cessation of the qualitative improvement and development of new nuclear-weapon systems and thereby prevent their vertical proliferation.

Article VI

15. Algeria notes with satisfaction the progress made in the implementation of article VI of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons through the adoption and entry into force of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

16. The existence of thousands of nuclear weapons stockpiled or deployed by nuclear-weapon States and the persistence of deterrence theories that assert the usefulness of such weapons for safeguarding the security of those States and preserving stability give grounds for concern and run counter to the spirit of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and to commitments made towards the elimination of nuclear weapons. This could be seen as an erosion of the credibility of the nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime.

17. Algeria continues to call for negotiations to be pursued in good faith with the aim of giving full effect to article VI of the Treaty, including the unequivocal undertaking of the nuclear-weapon States to accomplish the total elimination of their nuclear arsenals. In that connection, Algeria considers that it is not enough just to reaffirm the validity of the commitments undertaken at the 1995, 2000 and 2010 Review Conferences. States should use the tenth Review Conference to agree on specific, remediable and measurable steps and specified timelines for eliminating nuclear weapons.

18. Algeria has supported all relevant General Assembly resolutions calling for nuclear disarmament. Accordingly, it participated actively in the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on nuclear disarmament. It supported resolution 68/32 of 5 December 2013 on the follow-up to that meeting, in which the Assembly decided to convene a high-level international conference on nuclear disarmament and declared 26 September as the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons.

19. Algeria participated actively in the three international conferences on the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons, held in Oslo in 2013 and in Nayarit, Mexico, and Vienna in 2014. It believes that the conferences provided a real opportunity to revitalize nuclear disarmament and challenge the status quo by promoting an approach aimed at closing legal gaps and establishing a norm prohibiting nuclear weapons.

20. Algeria welcomed the adoption in 2017, under the Algerian chairpersonship of the First Committee of the General Assembly, of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. In its view, the Treaty, which entered into force on 22 January 2021, is an important milestone in the achievement of the objectives of nuclear disarmament and strengthens the international nuclear disarmament and

non-proliferation regime by filling the legal vacuum with respect to the prohibition of nuclear weapons.

21. In the Conference on Disarmament, Algeria continues to support all efforts aimed at reaching consensus on a comprehensive and balanced programme of work to enable the resumption of negotiations on nuclear disarmament.

22. The Conference on Disarmament, whose last programme of work was adopted in 2009 under the presidency of Algeria, was able to come much closer to achieving consensus through a package of draft decisions submitted by Algeria, in its capacity as the first President of the 2020 session of the Conference; the draft decisions also formed the basis for the work of the 2021 session.

Article VII

23. Algeria believes that the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones, on the basis of voluntary agreements, is an effective way of consolidating regional peace and security and contributes to strengthening the nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament regime.

24. Algeria, as a party to the African Nuclear-Weapon-Free-Zone Treaty, welcomed the entry into force in July 2009 of that Treaty, which is an important contribution to global nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation efforts. Algeria continues to encourage and promote close links between that Treaty and relevant international and regional treaties.

25. Algeria also continues to advocate the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East as a confidence-building measure and means of promoting peace in the region, in accordance with the resolution on the Middle East adopted at the 1995 Review and Extension Conference.

26. The establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East is of particular importance for both regional and international stability. Despite the fact that every State in the region has acceded to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, the Middle East has yet to achieve the status of a nuclear-weapon-free zone because of the refusal of Israel to accede to the Treaty.

27. It was not possible to implement the mandate of the 2010 Review Conference to convene a conference in 2012 on the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction, despite the constructive position taken by every country in the region, with the exception of Israel, during the consultations held by the facilitator, Jaakko Laajava. Israel remains the only obstacle to the holding of that conference and to the establishment of such a zone in the Middle East.

Article VIII

28. Algeria considers that the indefinite extension of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons in 1995 did not amount to recognition of an “indefinite” status for nuclear-weapon States. Algeria takes the opportunity of the tenth Review Conference to emphasize once again the responsibility of nuclear-weapon States in the area of nuclear disarmament and the total elimination of nuclear arsenals.

Article IX

29. Algeria believes that universality is necessary for the Treaty's credibility and effectiveness as the cornerstone of the nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament regime. In that regard, Algeria urges the States that are not parties to the Treaty to accede to it and to submit their nuclear installations to the IAEA safeguards regime.

30. Algeria emphasizes the importance of making the necessary efforts to achieve the universality of the Treaty and avoiding taking steps that would undermine that objective.

Article X

31. Algeria is firmly committed to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons as an essential element for international peace and stability. However, withdrawal from the instrument, as provided for in article X, is a sovereign right that must be exercised in accordance with the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties.

32. Algeria emphasizes that the indefinite extension of the Treaty does not amount to indefinite recognition of the status as nuclear Powers of the nuclear-weapon States. It must be recalled that the decision to extend the Treaty indefinitely was taken as part of a package that included a decision on strengthening the review process for the Treaty, a decision on principles and objectives for nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament, a decision on the indefinite extension of the Treaty and a resolution on the establishment of a zone free of weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East. Those decisions, the practical steps agreed on at the 2000 Review Conference, and the action plan agreed on in 2010 concerning the application of article VI of the Treaty and paragraphs 3 and 4 (c) of the 1995 decision entitled "Principles and objectives for nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament" are closely linked and remain valid.
