

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

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Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty for the Tenth Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

Working paper submitted by the European Union

I. Introduction

1. The European Union firmly believes that effective multilateralism and a rules-based international system are vital for global peace and security. We consider the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty an essential pillar of the global disarmament and non-proliferation regime and a strong confidence- and security-building measure internationally and regionally.

2. The Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty's ban on nuclear testing is a unique tool in preventing the development and qualitative improvement of nuclear weapons and achieving nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. In this regard, we recall that the entry into force of the Treaty is one of the agreed disarmament commitments included in the Final Document of the 2000 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, as well as in the action plan of the 2010 Review Conference.

3. Support for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty within the European Union is strong and universal; all European Union member States have signed and ratified the Treaty. The European Union actively promotes its entry into force and universalization in line with the 2003 European Union Strategy against Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction. The Treaty's strong legitimacy and vital importance for our collective security is reflected in the annual United Nations General Assembly resolutions on the Treaty, which the European Union supports unanimously. We regularly submit reports on joint European Union actions to the United Nations Secretary-General on the efforts of States towards the universalization of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, complementing individual national reports of European Union member States.

4. The European Union contributed actively to both the 2010 and the 2015 Review Conferences, including with working papers on the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty. Together with the Provisional Technical Secretariat of the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization, the



European Union also organized two side events during the first (2017) and second (2018) sessions of the Preparatory Committee for the current Review Conference. These events provided an opportunity to take a fresh look at the many benefits and added value of the Treaty and the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization and to exchange ideas on further support to it. The present working paper builds on these contributions.

II. Adherence to and current status of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty

5. Although the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty has yet to enter into force, a moratorium on nuclear testing is already universally and voluntarily accepted and observed by all except one country. These measures do not have the same permanent and legally binding effect to end nuclear weapons testing and all other nuclear explosions, which can only be achieved with the entry into force of the Treaty. We must therefore strengthen our efforts towards the Treaty's universalization.

6. Since its opening for signature in 1996, the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty has been signed by 185 States and ratified by 170 States. Nevertheless, 44 specific nuclear-technology-holder countries, called the Annex 2 States, must sign and ratify the Treaty before it can enter into force.

7. The European Union continues to urge all States that have not yet done so and, in particular, the eight remaining Annex 2 States, to sign and ratify the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty without precondition or delay. We invite all partners that have already ratified the Treaty to join these efforts and encourage the remaining States to accede to the Treaty.

III. European Union efforts to support the entry into force since the 2015 Review Conference

8. The European Union has become the biggest supporter of the United Nations Secretary-General's Agenda for Disarmament, lending its support to a total of 10 actions, including on promoting the entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty.

9. The European Union also contributes to the article XIV process by participating at a high political level in the Conferences on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty and supports the joint ministerial statements of these biennial meetings. The European Union welcomes the work of the Friends of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty and supports their declarations.

10. The European Union continues to address the signature and ratification of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty in our political dialogues with the remaining Annex 2 and non-Annex 2 States alike. The European Union believes that every single signature and ratification matters. Each State can lead by example and help to universalize the Treaty.

IV. Contribution of the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization

11. The Treaty has proven itself to be an effective instrument underpinned by a robust verification and monitoring mechanism built in a collective effort by many States parties to the Non-Proliferation Treaty. While three nuclear-weapon States have

already ratified the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, we acknowledge that some of the eight remaining Annex 2 countries have signed the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty and support the Treaty and the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization, i.e. with important financial contributions, while the International Monitoring System of the Preparatory Commission benefits from the information provided by their certified monitoring stations.

12. The International Monitoring System has facilitated a rich international exchange of data and expertise to support transparency and confidence-building measures towards the commitments of all States signatories to implement the comprehensive nuclear test ban and boosted technological advancements pertaining to infrasound and noble gas monitoring. Additionally, the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization has an active programme of engagement with the international scientific community, which can benefit from the wealth of data generated by the International Monitoring System, while developments in civil and scientific applications are booming.

13. The Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization has a proven track record as a reliable contributor to early warning and disaster prevention. Its global alarm system, which collects information from seismic and hydroacoustic stations, can also detect earthquakes that can cause tsunamis. Such information is provided by some Preparatory Commission stations in near real time to a number of tsunami-warning centres, in particular those covering the Pacific and Indian Oceans, to assist countries of the region to issue more timely and precise warnings. At present, tsunami-warning centres in 14 countries with a high tsunami risk receive data from around 100 Preparatory Commission stations. The International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) has engaged in a fruitful dialogue with the Provisional Technical Secretariat of the Preparatory Commission so that its member States may also benefit from such information that can help them warn citizens, aircrafts and possibly maritime ships. In the field of scientific research, Preparatory Commission monitoring data benefit the earth sciences through the study of climate change, meteor impacts in the atmosphere and even marine mammals, thus making an important contribution to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

V. European Union financial support to the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization

14. In parallel with our support to the entry into force and universalization of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, the European Union and its member States continue to invest significant funds to support the strengthening of the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization's monitoring and verification activities, including through capacity-building programmes in third countries.

15. Regular contributions from European Union member States to the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization comprise roughly 40 per cent of the Organization's total annual budget. The European Union is one of the largest providers of voluntary funds to the Preparatory Commission. Since 2006, the Council of the European Union has adopted eight decisions in support of the Preparatory Commission: three joint actions in 2006, 2007 and 2008, and five Council decisions in 2010, 2012, 2015, 2018 and 2020, contributing €29.5 million.

16. We understand that acceding to a new Treaty can pose institutional, legal, financial and human resources challenges. European Union expertise and funds can help countries that lack resources to deal with implementing the provisions of the Treaty. We continue our financial support for the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization on a wide range of tasks, including capacity-building, facilities maintenance and technical cooperation. In this regard, the European Union provides financial support to the Preparatory Commission for training and education work aimed at building up and maintaining the necessary capacity in the technical, scientific, legal and policy aspects of the Treaty and its verification regime. States that require such capacity-building can benefit from this assistance. In that field, the European Union is also a strong supporter of multilingualism to reach the broader adhesion and participation of States and their experts.

17. The European Union also supports specific complex Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization activities, such as: certified auxiliary seismic stations that are part of the International Monitoring System; the development of noble gas sampling systems through the study of materials for improved adsorption of xenon; continuing the radio-xenon background measurement campaigns in different regions of the world; the Ensemble Prediction System to quantify uncertainties and confidence levels in atmospheric transport modelling simulations; the scientific evaluation of the increase in resolution for atmospheric transport modelling tools; the development of new software; enhancing the on-site inspection of noble gas processing and detection; enhancing the automatic processing and integration capabilities in a seismic, hydroacoustic and infrasound national data centre-in-a-box; capacity-building for on-site inspection technologies; and integrated outreach and capacity-building targeting States signatories and non-signatories.

VI. Importance of maintaining the existing moratorium

18. It is crucial that all States fully observe the moratorium on nuclear test explosions. Pending the entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, the European Union calls on all States to abide by the moratorium on nuclear-weapon test explosions or any other nuclear explosion, and to refrain from any action contrary to the object and purpose of the Treaty.

VII. Monitoring and verification

19. The Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization has evolved from a mere blueprint to the custodian of the world's largest and most sophisticated multilateral verification system. Over 300 stations in 89 countries have been built to monitor for signs of nuclear explosions around the globe and round the clock.

20. In the case of the six nuclear tests by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization's verification regime impressively demonstrated its capability to swiftly and accurately identify signs of nuclear explosions, which were shared with its States signatories and for the benefit of the entire international community in a timely manner. Thus, even before the Treaty's entry into force, the Preparatory Commission's verification regime provides confidence that nuclear explosions will be detected anywhere on the planet. In doing so, it reinforces the global moratorium.

21. The International Monitoring System and the International Data Centre have proven their unique ability to provide States signatories with independent and reliable means to detect nuclear tests. In this context, full transparency about the compliance of nuclear-weapon States with the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty's zero-yield standard is important.

22. The Provisional Technical Secretariat has also worked hard to assure the uninterrupted service during the times of pandemic-related restrictions. We encourage all States to support the highly sophisticated Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty verification system, including the further development of on-site inspection operational capabilities to prepare for the post-entry into force activities and related capacity-building activities. Such support is an investment in a predictable and peaceful future.

VIII. Condemnation of nuclear tests by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea

23. Nuclear weapon test explosions or any other nuclear explosions represent a serious threat to international and regional peace and security. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea is the only State that has defied the international moratorium in the twenty-first century and tested nuclear explosive devices on six occasions, between 2006 and 2017. The European Union has condemned those tests.

24. The European Union strongly underlines that the actions taken by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea cannot confer the status of a nuclear-weapon State in accordance with the Non-Proliferation Treaty or any special status whatsoever. The European Union urges the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to take concrete steps towards complete, verifiable and irreversible denuclearization as required by the United Nations Security Council resolutions.

25. The European Union urges the Democratic People's Republic of Korea:

- To continue refraining from testing nuclear weapons and to implement a full moratorium on all types of ballistic missile launches
- To return to full compliance with its obligations under the Non-Proliferation Treaty as a non-nuclear-weapon State and its comprehensive safeguards agreement with the International Atomic Energy Agency and to bring into force an additional protocol to that agreement
- To sign and ratify the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty; accession would be an important confidence- and security-building measure in the region and beyond
- To abandon its nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction and delivery systems

IX. European Union proposals on the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty for the tenth Review Conference

- Recall the commitments made at the 2000 Review Conference as well as in the action plan of the 2010 Review Conference
- Highlight the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty as a vital element of the nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime
- Stress the urgency of its entry into force

- **Urge States to sign and/or ratify the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty without delay, in particular Annex 2 States**
 - **Stress the importance of a moratorium in the meantime**
 - **Support the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization's monitoring and verification system, including the further development of on-site inspection capabilities**
 - **Promote adherence to the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty**
 - **Support the Provisional Technical Secretariat, the International Monitoring System and the International Data Centre**
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