

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

29 November 2021

Original: Chinese and English

New York, 4–28 January 2022

Peaceful uses of nuclear energy

Working paper submitted by China

1. The peaceful use of nuclear energy is an inalienable right of the States parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. Promoting relevant international cooperation is conducive to the full attainment of the objectives of the Treaty, as well as advancing the nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation process.
2. Nuclear power is widely used in the areas of energy, economy, society and people's livelihood. The peaceful uses of nuclear energy play a unique and important role in coping with climate change and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. The States parties to the Non-Proliferation Treaty are entitled to continuous benefits of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, and international cooperation in this field should become a new highlight in the Non-Proliferation Treaty implementation.
3. The developed countries and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) should strengthen assistance to developing countries in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy based on their actual needs. Member States should actively support IAEA technical cooperation activities to ensure adequate and predictable resources for technical cooperation.
4. Chinese President Xi Jinping proposed the Global Development Initiative at the general debate of the seventy-sixth session of the United Nations General Assembly, calling for staying committed to delivering benefits for all and realizing harmony between man and nature. He also called for accelerating the transition to a green and low-carbon economy and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in order to build a global community of development with a shared future. To implement the initiative, China will continue to attach great importance to international nuclear energy cooperation. China is willing to share its nuclear technology and experiences as well as resources and platforms so that nuclear energy will promote the well-being of mankind and sustainable development of the globe.
5. The peaceful uses of nuclear energy and nuclear non-proliferation are complementary with each other. They are of equal importance and should be treated on an equal footing. Efforts to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons should not undermine the legitimate rights of States parties, particularly developing countries, to the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. All parties should refrain from politicizing the peaceful uses of nuclear energy issues, so as not to disrupt or hinder regular international cooperation. In November 2021, the resolution entitled



“Promoting international cooperation on peaceful uses in the context of international security” proposed by 26 countries with China included, was adopted in the First Committee of the seventy-sixth session of the United Nations General Assembly. The resolution stressed the importance of peaceful uses for the development of all countries, in particular developing countries, and effectively defended the right of developing countries to conduct international cooperation on peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

6. Nuclear security is the lifeline of nuclear energy development and nuclear technology application, which bears on the economic development and social stability of the concerned countries, and may bring about serious regional and global implications. States should strictly fulfil the national responsibilities of nuclear security, actively carry out international cooperation on nuclear security, enhance the nuclear security level of all countries, and ensure the safe development of nuclear energy.

7. China attaches great importance to nuclear safety and security, upholds a rational, coordinated and progressive concept of nuclear safety, continuously enhances nuclear security capacity, strengthens its national responsibilities and political inputs, and steps up international cooperation, so as to build a global nuclear security architecture featuring fairness and win-win cooperation. China supports the leading role of IAEA in international nuclear security cooperation, and will continue to make full use of the existing platforms, including the Centre of Excellence on Nuclear Security, the Nuclear and Radiation Safety Centre, and the Custom Training Centre for Radiation Detection, to facilitate nuclear security cooperation. China welcomes the participation of other countries.

8. Peaceful uses of nuclear energy should contribute to fostering a community of life for man and nature, rather than harming the natural environment and human health. The disposal of nuclear-contaminated water from the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant accident bears on the global marine environment and people’s health in other countries. In April 2021, the Japanese Government unilaterally decided to discharge the nuclear-contaminated water from the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant into the sea, causing serious concerns and oppositions from many countries on the Pacific Rim. Japan should seriously respond to the concerns of neighbouring countries and the international community and revoke the wrong decision of discharging the nuclear-contaminated water into the sea. Japan must not recklessly start the discharge unless it has reached agreements with the stakeholders and relevant international agencies through full consultations.