

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

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Security assurances against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons

Working paper submitted by China

1. In order to free the world from the threat of nuclear weapons and the risk of nuclear war, all nuclear weapons should be subjected to complete prohibition and thorough destruction. Pending the realization of this goal, all nuclear-weapon States should undertake unequivocally not to be the first to use nuclear weapons at any time or under any circumstance, and undertake unconditionally not to use or threaten to use nuclear weapons against non-nuclear-weapon States or nuclear-weapon-free zones.
2. Legally binding security assurances by nuclear-weapon States to non-nuclear-weapon States are conducive to strengthening the international nuclear non-proliferation regime. A universal, unconditional and legally binding international legal instrument on this issue should be concluded as soon as possible.
3. All nuclear-weapon States should diminish the role played by nuclear weapons in their national security policies, abandon the nuclear deterrence policy based on first use of nuclear weapons and refrain from listing any country as target of nuclear strikes or targeting the nuclear weapons under their control at any country.
4. Nuclear-weapon States should support the efforts of non-nuclear-weapon States to establish nuclear-weapon-free-zones and undertake corresponding obligations in a legally binding manner.
5. The Conference on Disarmament in Geneva should start substantive work on concluding an international legally binding instrument on security assurances to non-nuclear-weapon States at an early date.

