

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

Distr.: General
10 December 2021

Original: English

New York, 4–28 January 2022

Implementation of the action plan of the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

Report submitted by Finland

Introduction

1. The Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons is the cornerstone of the global nuclear non-proliferation regime and an essential element of international security. Finland reaffirms its commitment to the implementation of the Non-Proliferation Treaty in all its aspects and the ultimate goal of eliminating all nuclear weapons.
2. Finland is strongly committed to the pursuit of nuclear disarmament, the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and peaceful uses of nuclear energy. The three pillars are of equal importance and mutually reinforcing. All States parties share a collective responsibility to maintain the Treaty's credibility by achieving its goals.
3. The universalization of the Treaty and full compliance with the Treaty's provisions are of the utmost importance.
4. Step 12 of the 13 practical steps agreed upon at the 2000 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons calls for regular reports, within the framework of the strengthened review process for the Treaty, by all States parties on the implementation of article VI of the Treaty and paragraph 4 (c) of decision 2 adopted by the 1995 Review and Extension Conference, entitled "Principles and objectives for nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament". This call was reiterated in action 20 of the action plan adopted by the 2010 Review Conference. In line with this commitment, and with a view to contributing to transparency and building confidence, Finland submits herewith the present report focusing on the national implementation of the Final Document of the 2010 Review Conference.

Nuclear disarmament

5. Finland expresses concern regarding increased tensions in the international situation and calls upon all States to work in earnest to secure the continued success and further strengthening of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.



6. Finland considers the Non-Proliferation Treaty to be the basis for work on nuclear disarmament.

7. Finland is of the view that eliminating nuclear weapons is only possible through substantive and constructive engagement with those States that possess nuclear weapons. Finland continues to urge the nuclear-weapon States to fully implement their obligations under article VI of the Treaty and to engage in negotiations on further steps towards nuclear disarmament. Finland appreciates the coordination, further transparency and confidence-building among the nuclear-weapon States parties to the Treaty and their joint efforts, for example in identifying through the Permanent Five process outlines for viable strategic risk reduction measures. This work can pave the way for further steps towards nuclear disarmament. Finland welcomes all efforts by the nuclear-weapon States to reduce their nuclear arsenals and calls upon nuclear-weapon States to negotiate and finalize further and deeper cuts in their nuclear arsenals, including tactical/non-strategic nuclear weapons, without further delay.

8. Finland considers the promotion of the entry into force and implementation of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty to be of the utmost urgency as a key non-proliferation and disarmament measure. Ratification by the Annex 2 States remains the key to the entry into force of the Treaty, and Finland calls upon the remaining eight States to sign and ratify the Treaty without further delay. Universalization among non-Annex States is equally important for strengthening the norm against nuclear testing. Pending the entry into force of the Treaty, maintaining moratoriums on nuclear testing remains crucial. As one of the Friends of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, Finland has underlined the importance of the entry into force of the Treaty by co-organizing the Ministerial Meetings in Support of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty on the margins of the General Assembly. Finland has participated actively in the work of the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization and its subsidiary working groups. The Treaty has a uniquely strong verification regime, and the long-term sustainability of the network must be guaranteed. A primary seismological station and a certified radionuclide laboratory are hosted and operated by Finland as part of the international monitoring system.

9. The stalemate in the Conference on Disarmament remains a serious concern. This historically productive and valuable body should once again begin its work and start negotiating disarmament treaties. Finland has called for a revitalization of the Conference on Disarmament by reviewing its working methods as well as by enlarging its membership while at the same time aiming for consensus-building.

10. Finland attaches great importance to the prompt launch of negotiations on a treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons purposes. Finland is pleased to have been able to provide expertise for the work of the Group of governmental experts on a treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices. This work should lay the ground for future efforts on the treaty.

11. Finland remains committed to the implementation of the resolution on the Middle East adopted at the 1995 Review Conference. Finland supports the outcome of the 2010 Review Conference on the Middle East and reaffirms its full support for the establishment of a zone free of nuclear and all other weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems in the Middle East, as agreed by States Parties to the Treaty. Finland is of the view that such zones can only be established based on arrangements freely arrived at between all States in the region concerned.

12. Finland has participated in and contributed to the work of various initiatives, such as the Stockholm Initiative for Nuclear Disarmament and Creating an Environment for Nuclear Disarmament.

13. Finland has actively supported ongoing initiatives on developing reliable and sound multilateral nuclear disarmament verification capacities, such as the International Partnership for Nuclear Disarmament Verification and efforts within the United Nations such as the group of governmental experts on verification by providing expertise and has supported the continuation of the work in a new group of governmental experts. In 2019, Finland hosted a joint working group meeting of the International Partnership.

14. With the aim of providing independent research and knowledge, as well as advancing practical actions that contribute to disarmament and issues relating to international security, Finland has funded the work of the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research in three different projects relating to nuclear disarmament. Most recently, Finland funded research on nuclear risk reduction, which identifies pathways to possible nuclear use and proposes measures to address these risks.

15. In accordance with action 22 of the 2010 action plan, Finland has implemented the recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations study on disarmament and non-proliferation education (A/57/124) by organizing and funding in a Nordic context two seminars on nuclear matters with the participation of a new generation of scholars in disarmament and non-proliferation studies.

16. As civil society should be an integral part of disarmament and non-proliferation discussions, Finland has encouraged and supported the participation of civil society in the proceedings of the First Committee of the General Assembly, the Conference on Disarmament and the Non-Proliferation Treaty.

Nuclear non-proliferation

17. Nuclear weapons proliferation continues to be a serious concern, and the international community should take appropriate measures in cases of non-compliance in order to preserve the integrity of the non-proliferation regime and its cornerstone, the Non-Proliferation Treaty.

18. The international safeguards system of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) is an indispensable part of the nuclear non-proliferation regime. Finland has consistently underlined that the IAEA comprehensive safeguards agreement, together with the additional protocol thereto, should be accepted universally as the international verification standard and represents the verification standard pursuant to article III, paragraph 1, of the Treaty. Finland calls upon all States that have not yet done so to sign and ratify the additional protocol without delay.

19. Finland already concluded a comprehensive safeguards agreement in 1972 and the additional protocol with IAEA in 1997. Finland considers these commitments as the de facto international standard for safeguards.

20. Finland supports further implementation of the IAEA safeguards system based on the State-level concept. Consistent and universal implementation of the State-level concept will further strengthen the efficiency and effectiveness of the IAEA safeguards system and will thus contribute to global non-proliferation efforts.

21. In Finland, new nuclear power plants and new types of nuclear facilities are under licence and construction. Finland is implementing safeguards by design, which brings in IAEA safeguards at a very early phase of nuclear facility planning and design, starts the discussions between the supplier, the State and IAEA and confirms the effective implementation of safeguards in the new facility. The new power plants and new type of facilities will meet strict safety, security and safeguards requirements, which ensures the overall safety of the facilities during their lifetime.

22. In Finland, the geological repository for spent nuclear fuel is under construction, and the operating licence application will be submitted soon. The final repository is a new type of nuclear facility, and its safeguards approach needs to be planned accordingly. For the successful implementation of safeguards, there is an urgent need to formulate the subsidiary arrangement with a facility attachment, the important elements of the comprehensive safeguards agreement and the additional protocol thereto, for a totally new type of facility. These documents will describe how the safeguards arrangements are implemented in the final repository during its lifetime.
23. Finland continues to provide extrabudgetary support to the IAEA safeguards through the national safeguards support programme. Support has been provided in the areas of IAEA inspector training, technical research, development of verification tools and development of safeguards concepts.
24. Finland contributes financially to the implementation of IAEA monitoring and verification activities in the Islamic Republic of Iran in relation to the Joint Plan of Action and continues to attach great importance to its full implementation. Finland strongly supports efforts to seek a diplomatic solution to the Iranian nuclear issue and the work of IAEA under the Framework for Cooperation.
25. Finland reiterates the importance of maintaining peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula and urges the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to fulfil its international commitments in accordance with Security Council resolutions, to come into full compliance with the Non-Proliferation Treaty and to cooperate with IAEA in the implementation of the Agency's comprehensive safeguards.
26. Finland is a member of all relevant export control regimes, including the Nuclear Suppliers Group, the Missile Technology Control Regime and the Zangger Committee, and supports the strengthening of their guidelines and understandings. Finland welcomes increasing adherence to export controls with a view to strengthening the global nuclear non-proliferation regime.
27. Finland supports Security Council resolution [1540 \(2004\)](#) and is committed to its effective implementation. In this regard, Finland is implementing European Union Regulation (EU) 2021/821 and national legislation relating to the control of exports of dual-use items. Finland has provided assistance to other States through contributions to the Group of Seven Global Partnership.
28. The first chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and explosives strategy of Finland was published in 2017. The overall aim of the strategy is to continuously improve the prevention of and preparedness for chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and explosives threats and incidents in order to safeguard society and secure the functions vital to it.
29. Finland is strongly committed to strengthening nuclear security worldwide. Finland has ratified the 2005 Amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material and encourages all States to do so and to ensure its full implementation. Finland continues to provide financial and in-kind support to IAEA nuclear security activities. Since 2010, Finland has also contributed to the IAEA Nuclear Security Fund.
30. The Nuclear Security Summit process contributed to the visibility of the issue and brought it to the highest political level. Finland actively participated in the Summit process and in other consecutive and relevant international processes, such as the International Conference on Nuclear Security.
31. Combating nuclear terrorism is a priority, and Finland has contributed to this and other work by serving as the international coordinator of the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism in 2016–2018 and by hosting an Implementation and

Assessment Group plenary in Finland in 2018. Finland has been providing financial support to enable the participation in the exercises of a priority group of countries, facilitated by the Office of Counter-Terrorism.

Peaceful uses of nuclear energy

32. Finland exercises and supports its right, under article IV of the Treaty, to develop research, production and use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes in conformity with articles I, II and III. Nuclear power is an important part of the national energy mix of Finland.

33. Finland is a strong supporter of IAEA as it is a key player in guaranteeing that countries developing their capacities through the peaceful applications of nuclear energy do so under the best safety, security and non-proliferation conditions. Finland has supported programme-driven funding for IAEA and paid its assessed contributions to the IAEA regular budget and the Technical Cooperation Fund in full and on time. In addition to regular assessed contributions, Finland has provided extrabudgetary funding and in-kind support for IAEA.

34. For Finland, nuclear safety is an issue that is global in nature, and strengthening nuclear safety deserves the commitment of all States parties to the Treaty. Finland is a State party to all international conventions in the field of nuclear safety. Finland attaches great importance to further improvement of nuclear safety and has consistently supported IAEA activities in this area.

35. Furthermore, Finland supports the rapid and complete implementation of the IAEA Action Plan on Nuclear Safety, which was adopted in September 2011. The plan contains useful tools to strengthen nuclear safety, such as conducting peer review missions on a regular basis and greater transparency on the part of national authorities in the publication of their reports. Finland has made extensive use of IAEA safety services and encourages other States to make full use of them.
