

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

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Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

National report submitted by New Zealand

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to action 20 of the action plan in the Final Document of the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.¹ Since 2010, the importance of increased transparency and effective verification has been recognized as an important confidence-building measure by States parties to the Treaty. The nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime depends upon a strong foundation of openness and cooperation among States.
2. Transparency is a principle that all States should be in a position to support, for it reinforces State compliance with Treaty obligations. The more that is known about how States implement their Treaty commitments, the greater the level of international trust there is in the regime. In this spirit, New Zealand has consistently lodged transparency reports since the 2000 Review Conference. We call upon all States to adhere to their transparency commitments under the Treaty and report on their implementation of all obligations and commitments under the Treaty.
3. Progress on nuclear disarmament is one of the foremost foreign policy objectives of the Government of New Zealand and one that we pursue in a range of disarmament-related forums. The Government's decision to appoint a Minister for Disarmament and Arms Control reflects this priority. New Zealand is a strong supporter of the Non-Proliferation Treaty. We are dedicated to achieving a world free of nuclear weapons and continue to encourage national, regional and global efforts to realize this goal.
4. New Zealand was an early adopter² of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons and is a proud member of the Treaty's core group of supporters. We see the Treaty as complementary to the Non-Proliferation Treaty, and as strengthening the obligations contained therein, as a practical and effective contribution towards full

¹ Action 20 stipulates that States parties should submit regular reports on their implementation of the 2010 Action Plan, as well as of article VI, paragraph 4 (c) of the 1995 decision entitled "Principles and objectives for nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament", and the 13 practical steps agreed to at the 2000 Review Conference, and recalling the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice of 8 July 1996.

² New Zealand signed the Treaty on the day it opened for signature, 20 September 2017, and ratified it on 31 July 2018, becoming the fourteenth State to do so.



implementation of article VI. New Zealand has been active regionally, and globally, to progress the universalization of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. New Zealand hosted a Pacific conference on the Treaty in Auckland in December 2018 and a virtual Pacific round table on the Treaty in December 2021. New Zealand's Minister for Disarmament and Arms Control led the country's delegation to the first Meeting of States Parties to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, held in Vienna, and New Zealand was a strong supporter of the Meeting's outcomes, namely the Vienna Declaration and Action Plan. New Zealand has funded research by the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) on nuclear disarmament verification under the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, which was published in 2022.

5. New Zealand has been a strong supporter of efforts undertaken to increase awareness of the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons and is a co-sponsor of the annual resolution in the General Assembly on the humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons (see resolution [76/30](#)). The fourth Conference on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons, held in Vienna in June 2022, helped to further advance our shared understanding around the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons, including through updated scientific modelling and an updated assessment of the grave risks associated with nuclear weapon use. New Zealand continues to believe that the only way to guarantee that nuclear weapons are never used again is through their total elimination and the full implementation of the Non-Proliferation Treaty. As we sought to ensure that any outcome from the 2015 Review Conference would adequately reflect the humanitarian consequences initiative, we will be working closely with States parties to the Treaty to ensure that it is given prominence in the outcomes for 2022. New Zealand welcomes the contribution of Austria to its working paper on the humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons ([NPT/CONF.2020/WP.62](#)).

6. New Zealand is an active member of the New Agenda Coalition³ to advance nuclear disarmament. Brazil has submitted a working paper on behalf of the Coalition ([NPT/CONF.2020/WP.5](#)). In the paper, the Coalition succinctly sets out its recommendations for a successful review conference that would – in our view – contribute to the full implementation of Treaty obligations, in particular those relating to disarmament. The paper calls upon nuclear-weapon States to move forward with urgency in implementing their article VI obligations and commitments in order to maintain the good standing of the Non-Proliferation Treaty and its review process. New Zealand was the Coalition coordinator in advance of the meeting of the preparatory committee for the Non-Proliferation Treaty in 2018 and again in the first half of 2021.

7. New Zealand – together with the New Agenda Coalition – sponsors an annual General Assembly resolution entitled “Towards a nuclear-weapon-free world: accelerating the implementation of nuclear disarmament commitments” (see resolution [76/49](#)). The resolution highlights the central role of the Non-Proliferation Treaty and its binding nature at all times and in all circumstances. It urges all States parties to the Non-Proliferation Treaty to fully implement without delay their Treaty obligations and commitments as agreed at the 1995, 2000 and 2010 Review Conferences. It also calls upon States parties to the Treaty to continue to support efforts to identify, elaborate, negotiate and implement effective legally binding measures for nuclear disarmament.

8. New Zealand has been an active participant in the Stockholm Initiative on Nuclear Disarmament, co-led by Sweden and Germany, since its inception in June 2019. New Zealand participates in the Initiative alongside a diverse grouping of

³ Brazil, Egypt, Ireland, Mexico, New Zealand and South Africa.

States.⁴ A political declaration was issued by 15 participating ministers in February 2020, and a working paper has been submitted to the Review Conference on behalf of the Initiative ([NPT/CONF.2020/WP.6](#)). The working paper includes a set of recommendations that the Group wishes to bring to the attention of the Conference. The purpose of these “stepping stones” is to provide a set of realistic and ambitious actions that could be taken in the near term and would further support the implementation of nuclear disarmament, consistent with the article VI obligations of States. We invite all States parties to consider them and engage with us on the implementation of the stepping stones. New Zealand is a strong supporter of the Initiative’s working paper on risk reduction ([NPT/CONF.2020/WP.9](#)), and we urge all States parties to support the recommendations therein.

9. New Zealand has worked with Chile, Malaysia, Nigeria, Sweden and Switzerland, as members of the De-Alerting Group, to promote the lowering of the operational readiness of nuclear weapons systems. New Zealand led the development of the 2018 resolution at the First Committee of the General Assembly (resolution [73/60](#)), which looked forward to this issue being further addressed during the current Non-Proliferation Treaty review cycle. The De-Alerting Group calls for further practical steps to be taken to decrease the operational readiness of nuclear weapon systems with a view to ensuring that all nuclear weapons are removed from high-alert status.

10. New Zealand remains a strong proponent of the entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty and participates actively in the work of the Preparatory Commission in Vienna. New Zealand is a core sponsor, along with Australia and Mexico, of an annual General Assembly resolution on the Treaty, in which the Assembly has recognized the Treaty as a fundamental instrument in the field of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation (see Assembly resolution [76/66](#)).

11. Pending the entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, New Zealand urges all States to acknowledge the norm against nuclear testing, to maintain the moratorium on explosive nuclear tests and to refrain from testing nuclear devices or from undertaking activities that would undermine the object and purpose of the Treaty. New Zealand has publicly condemned all nuclear tests conducted by the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea.

12. New Zealand has been a strong supporter of the monitoring and verification activities of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in Iran under the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, including through the provision of financial contributions to IAEA to assist with this undertaking. We have spoken repeatedly in support of the Plan of Action and urged all parties to return to compliance with it.

13. New Zealand is deeply disappointed that sustained attempts to determine a programme of work in the Conference on Disarmament have not been successful and that the Conference is failing to fulfil its role in progressing nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation.

14. New Zealand is a strong advocate of nuclear-weapon-free zones and the role that they play in advancing nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, as envisaged in article VII of the Non-Proliferation Treaty. As a party to the South Pacific Nuclear Free Zone Treaty of 1985 (the Treaty of Rarotonga), New Zealand works to promote deeper engagement between States that belong to nuclear-weapon-free zones. New Zealand’s Minister for Disarmament and Arms Control participated in the Treaty’s first meeting of parties in December 2020 and delivered opening remarks to the

⁴ Argentina, Canada, Ethiopia, Finland, Germany, Indonesia, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, the Netherlands, Norway, the Republic of Korea, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland.

Treaty's Consultative Committee in December 2021. New Zealand has also supported outcomes relating to the Treaty of Rarotonga at meetings of the Pacific Islands Forum.

15. In 2019, New Zealand led the biennial General Assembly resolution on the nuclear-weapon-free southern hemisphere and adjacent areas (see resolution [74/48](#)). The resolution, which also ran in 2021 under Brazil's leadership, (see resolution [76/44](#)), is sponsored by a core group comprising Brazil, Indonesia, New Zealand and South Africa. Its key purpose is to recognize the contribution that nuclear-weapon-free zones make to the achievement of a nuclear-weapon-free world, and it welcomes the fact that all nuclear-weapon-free zones in the southern hemisphere are now in force. It also calls upon the nuclear-weapon States to withdraw any reservations or interpretive declarations contrary to the object and purpose of treaties establishing nuclear-weapon-free zones.

16. New Zealand welcomed the convening of two sessions of the Conference on the Establishment of a Middle East Zone Free of Nuclear Weapons and Other Weapons of Mass Destruction, in November 2019 and November/December 2021. This was a significant step towards meeting the commitments agreed to by States parties to the Non-Proliferation Treaty in the resolution on the Middle East at the 1995 Review Conference. The resolution called upon all States parties to the Non-Proliferation Treaty – and in particular nuclear-weapon States – to do their utmost to ensure that a Middle East zone free of nuclear and all other weapons of mass destruction was established. This commitment was reaffirmed at the 2010 Review Conference. It is regrettable that the full implementation of the 1995 resolution is yet to be realized.

17. New Zealand fully complies with its commitments under article II of the Non-Proliferation Treaty. New Zealand's Treaty obligations are legislated in the New Zealand Nuclear Free Zone, Disarmament and Arms Control Act 1987.

18. Pursuant to article III of the Non-Proliferation Treaty, New Zealand has a comprehensive safeguards agreement, an additional protocol and a small quantities protocol in force with IAEA. With no nuclear weapons, no nuclear energy generation, no nuclear reactors and no production of uranium or other relevant material, New Zealand conducts only very minor activities subject to safeguards. IAEA continues to assess New Zealand as being in full compliance with all of its safeguards commitments.

19. New Zealand strongly supports a system of strengthened IAEA safeguards as an essential component of the global non-proliferation regime. New Zealand believes that universal application of the integrated safeguards system, including the additional protocol, would promote collective security, and calls upon all States that have not yet done so to conclude such agreements at the earliest possible date. New Zealand continues to seek opportunities to strengthen the application of nuclear safeguards and supports efforts by IAEA to apply a State-level approach as a means of increasing the efficiency and effectiveness of the safeguards system.

20. New Zealand's Radiation Safety Act 2016 enables New Zealand to more effectively meet its international obligations relating to radiation protection, safety, security and nuclear non-proliferation. In addition, New Zealand has ratified the Amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material and the International Convention on the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism.

21. New Zealand applies export controls to materials and dual-use goods that could be used in any weapons of mass destruction programme, including a nuclear weapons programme. The Government has strong cooperation and information exchanges among relevant government agencies involved in export controls and continues both domestic and international outreach in this area. We work actively to strengthen and

coordinate international measures with other members of the Nuclear Suppliers Group and with the Zangger Committee.

22. Further to article IV of the Non-Proliferation Treaty, New Zealand reaffirms the inalienable right of States parties to peaceful nuclear technology, in conformity with articles I, II and III of the Treaty, and continues to support the IAEA Peaceful Uses Initiative. It is an active participant in the IAEA Regional Cooperative Agreement for the Asia-Pacific region and has provided funding for international projects for peaceful uses. New Zealand's view is that safeguards, safety, security and waste management should be integral parts of the development of peaceful uses of nuclear energy. New Zealand is keen to ensure that the highest possible safety standards are adopted and applied by those transporting radioactive material, that coastal and other interested States receive notification in advance of shipments, and that adequate liability arrangements are in place. New Zealand remains actively engaged in international efforts to strengthen nuclear safety and security, including through the Vienna-based dialogue between coastal and shipping States, IAEA conferences on nuclear safety and security, and through our regular contributions to the IAEA Nuclear Security Fund.

23. New Zealand is an active member of the Vienna Group of Ten,⁵ which produces working papers for the Non-Proliferation Treaty review cycle on Vienna-based non-proliferation issues including the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, compliance and verification, export controls, cooperation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, nuclear safety, nuclear security, and discouraging withdrawal from the Non-Proliferation Treaty. We co-sponsored the paper and recommendations put forward by the Vienna Group of Ten to the Review Conference, entitled "Addressing 'Vienna issues': the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty; compliance and verification; export controls; cooperation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy; nuclear safety; nuclear security; and discouraging withdrawal from the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons" ([NPT/CONF.2020/WP.3](#)).

24. New Zealand participates in annual exercises hosted by participants in the Proliferation Security Initiative in the Asia-Pacific region. The Initiative aims to strengthen national, regional and international efforts to counter the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and related materials.

25. New Zealand remains committed to efforts to promote disarmament and non-proliferation education. The Government of New Zealand has established two funds to support a wide range of disarmament and peace education activities. The Disarmament Education UN Implementation Fund helps to fund citizen groups to implement the recommendations of the 2002 United Nations study on disarmament and non-proliferation education. The Peace and Disarmament Education Trust provides postgraduate scholarships and grants for projects with charitable purposes that support the promotion of international peace, arms control and disarmament through education. Other partially funded projects under these funds include the creation of peace cities; museum exhibitions; relevant internships; peace libraries; the production of educational material for schools, journalists and university students; and visits by leading disarmament experts.

26. The New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade has a close working relationship with numerous civil society organizations and academic institutions across disarmament disciplines in the country, and globally. We provide regular briefings to non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and make our best endeavours to include NGO participants in relevant United Nations disarmament meetings. New

⁵ Australia, Austria, Canada, Denmark, Finland, Hungary, Ireland, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway and Sweden.

Zealand has an important tradition of including a representative from civil society in its official delegation to Review Conferences, a convention which we have consistently upheld since the 1980s. For this review cycle, Dr. Anna Hood from the University of Auckland was selected to advise the New Zealand delegation to the Conference.

27. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade provides the secretariat for the Public Advisory Committee on Disarmament and Arms Control, which is tasked with advising the Government of the day on disarmament matters and making recommendations for granting funds to projects that promote the public understanding of disarmament and arms control. The Committee has hosted a range of engagements with New Zealand civil society, including a full-day nuclear disarmament symposium at the New Zealand Parliament in 2019, with the visiting guest of the Government of New Zealand, Ms. Izumi Nakamitsu, United Nations High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, providing the keynote address.

28. Alongside participation in the parliamentary symposium, High Representative Nakamitsu, at the invitation of the Government of New Zealand and hosted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, engaged a wide range of disarmament stakeholders across a three-day programme. This included public lectures and meetings with members of parliament to foster public awareness and address the challenges on the international disarmament agenda.

29. New Zealand institutions and organizations have been looking for opportunities to strengthen disarmament education. An undergraduate programme on contemporary issues in disarmament law was launched at the University of Auckland in 2017. The course has consistently had high enrolments of at least 100 students. Having now been run in 2017, 2018 and 2020, it endeavours to provide students with the legal and humanitarian frameworks related to arms control and disarmament, including in the context of nuclear weapons. At more senior levels, the University has attracted postgraduate and doctoral students who have written theses on a range of disarmament topics. Funding has also been provided for an internship at UNIDIR in Geneva. There are other disarmament education opportunities taught on an ad hoc basis across New Zealand, such as a course at Victoria University of Wellington entitled “The politics of nuclear weapons: disarmament, arms control and non-proliferation”, offered in the second semester of 2022.

30. The University of Auckland has also focused on community education, running a range of educational seminars, public lectures and conferences to inform those interested in disarmament issues. In 2017, New Zealand peace organizations coordinated to organize a series of commemorative events in New Zealand to celebrate the thirtieth anniversary of New Zealand’s nuclear-free legislation, which was successful in generating public interest. Likewise, for the entry into force of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in January 2021, events were held across the country.

31. New Zealand has a vibrant community of NGOs and academia that play a pivotal role in community education on disarmament matters. Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-proliferation and Disarmament assists New Zealand parliamentarians in staying abreast of international nuclear disarmament issues and initiatives through its regular updates and events at the Inter-Parliamentary Union Assemblies.

32. Peace Movement Aotearoa is the national networking peace organization. It has extensive national networks, a comprehensive website and social media. It publishes educational resources and updates, hosts New Zealand’s disarmament statements and coordinates the national campaigns of five global humanitarian disarmament campaigns, including the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons Aotearoa New Zealand; the campaigns on autonomous weapons systems, military

spending and explosive weapons in populated areas; and the national Women, Peace and Security Network. Peace Movement Aotearoa promotes activities to mark key anniversary dates, including the Nuclear Free and Independent Pacific Day, the Global Day of Action on Military Spending, International Women's Day for Disarmament, Human Rights Day, the International Day of Peace and the Hiroshima and Nagasaki Days. It regularly reports to United Nations human rights bodies, raising disarmament issues with them as part of its work to strengthen the links between disarmament and human rights.

33. The Peace Foundation provides a range of resources and activity ideas for peace education in schools nationally and globally. It organizes an annual secondary schools peace symposium, offers presentations to schools on responding to armed conflict that include a strong nuclear disarmament component, and provides educational material for high school teachers and students. It works closely with the New Zealand Nuclear Free Peacemakers association.

34. The Disarmament and Security Centre, based in Christchurch, New Zealand, provides resources on disarmament and peace issues through its new website, its former archived website and the Voices Against War website. In November 2019, the Centre's extensive physical archive was donated to the University of Canterbury for future researchers. The Centre raises public awareness through social media networks, lectures to students and community groups, exhibitions, atomic bombing commemorations, and events to mark significant anniversaries, such as the entry into force of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, the International Court of Justice's advisory opinion and New Zealand's nuclear-free legislation. A tertiary scoping project also aims to create a disarmament course at universities. The Centre continues to train young people through internships and opportunities to attend domestic and international disarmament conferences.

35. The New Zealand Centre for Global Studies has hosted a range of eminent persons for a public lecture on a broad range of disarmament topics, including addresses on the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons and its pathway towards the total elimination of nuclear weapons. The Centre also hosts conferences and workshops on a similar range of topics, as well as on the importance of involving youth in disarmament processes and the United Nations more generally.

36. United Nations Youth New Zealand is a non-profit organization that aims to foster global citizenship and provide civics education to young people beyond a traditional classroom context. Annually, over 3,000 young New Zealanders across the country attend a United Nations Youth event, including workshops, Model United Nations events and international study tours. Their events offer youth various opportunities to engage in critical discussions on disarmament, peace and international security. Notably, their national flagship event entitled "New Zealand Model United Nations" runs annual Security Council and First Committee simulations in which participants draft resolutions on prominent global security issues. New Zealand Model United Nations 2022 ran a First Committee simulation on the question of small arms control, which explored progress towards the global non-proliferation and disarmament of small arms. New Zealand's Minister for Disarmament and Arms Control spoke at the event about the evolving international landscape for disarmament and the roles that States and NGOs play in the treaty-making process. Participants also engaged in a workshop that saw them take on the role of an NGO and work towards the pre-emptive banning of autonomous weapons.

37. The Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) Aotearoa promotes disarmament at all levels of society and supports the national campaigns on the nuclear ban movement, on reducing military spending and on the elimination of lethal autonomous weapons systems. It promotes the work of the global WILPF

network, especially Reaching Critical Will and PeaceWomen, and the development, implementation and monitoring of the women and peace and security agenda. WILPF Aotearoa organizes Hiroshima and Nagasaki commemorations every August.

38. Unfold Zero is an international campaign launched by a New Zealand peace advocate that campaigns for the advancement of a nuclear-weapon-free world, to be achieved through effective steps and measures facilitated by the United Nations. It was established by a coalition of New Zealand and international civil society. It promotes a range of initiatives through its website.

39. Abolition 2000 is an international network of civil society organizations that campaigns to achieve the global prohibition and elimination of nuclear weapons. The New Zealand Peace Foundation remains a founding member, and several prominent New Zealand peace activists serve on its global council. It provides a wide range of resources – including webinars – on contemporary disarmament topics and operates working groups that coordinate campaign events and actions. This has included activities on Korean denuclearization, youth action for peace, nuclear risk reduction, the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, the engagement of mayors and parliamentarians, the economic dimensions of the nuclear weapons industry, nuclear-weapons-free zones and the humanitarian and legal aspects of nuclear weapons.

40. New Zealand is a strong supporter of several international civil society organizations, including most prominently the International Campaign to Ban Nuclear Weapons, with which we strongly value close cooperation and advocacy, and Norwegian People's Aid for their tireless efforts to collate the Nuclear Weapons Ban Monitor, an invaluable resource in improving transparency on the issue of nuclear weapons policy. New Zealand is a proud financial contributor to each.
