

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

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Chair's working paper: Main Committee III

Review of the operation of the Treaty, as provided for in its article VIII (3), taking into account the decisions and the resolutions adopted by the 1995 Review and Extension Conference, the Final Document of the 2000 Review Conference and the conclusions and recommendations for follow-on actions adopted by the 2010 Review Conference

Article IV Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy

1. The Conference reaffirms that nothing in the Treaty shall be interpreted as affecting the inalienable right of all the parties to the Treaty to develop research, production and use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes without discrimination and in conformity with articles I, II, III and IV of the Treaty.
2. The Conference reaffirms that all States parties to the Treaty undertake to facilitate, and have the right to participate in, the fullest possible exchange of equipment, materials and scientific and technological information for the peaceful uses of nuclear energy in conformity with all the provisions of the Treaty. States parties to the Treaty in a position to do so should also cooperate in contributing with other States parties or international organizations, such as the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), to the further development of the applications of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, in particular in the territories of non-nuclear-weapon States parties to the Treaty, with due consideration for the needs of the developing areas of the world.
3. The Conference recognizes that the realization of the rights in article IV, without discrimination and in conformity with articles I, II and III, without any undue constraints inconsistent with the Treaty constitutes one of the fundamental objectives of the Treaty, which provides the essential framework for international cooperation in the field of peaceful uses of nuclear energy, including with regard to future developments in this area.
4. The Conference emphasizes the important role of the Treaty for peace and development in the twenty-first century. The Conference recognizes the achievements of the Treaty in facilitating cooperation on nuclear science, technology and applications for peaceful purposes. The Conference acknowledges in this regard the



significant contribution that peaceful uses of nuclear energy can make to meeting the social and economic needs of States parties and to helping overcome the technological and economic disparities between developed and developing countries. The Conference also acknowledges that access by all States parties to the peaceful uses of nuclear science, technology and applications, in particular among developing countries and the least developed countries, should be further facilitated.

5. The Conference underlines the essential role of IAEA, including through its Technical Cooperation Programme, in assisting States parties upon request in building human and institutional capacities, including regulatory capabilities, for the safe, secure and peaceful applications of nuclear science and technology, under the motto “Atoms for Peace and Development” and in accordance with the IAEA statute and guiding principles, as well as relevant directives of the IAEA General Conference and the Board of Governors.

(Related actions)

6. The Conference calls upon all States parties:

(a) Pursuant to the objectives of the Treaty, to observe the legitimate right of all States parties, in particular developing States, to full access to nuclear material, equipment and technological information for peaceful purposes, without discrimination and in conformity with the Treaty;

(b) To respect each country’s sovereign choices and decisions relating to the peaceful uses of nuclear energy in line with international obligations, in particular in conformity with articles I, II, III and IV of the Treaty, without jeopardizing its policies or international cooperation agreements and arrangements for peaceful uses of nuclear energy policies and its nuclear fuel cycle policies;

(c) To facilitate transfers of nuclear technology and international cooperation among States parties in conformity with articles I, II, III and IV of the Treaty, and eliminate in this regard any undue constraints inconsistent with the Treaty;

(d) In all activities designed to promote the peaceful uses of nuclear science, technology and applications, to give preferential treatment to the non-nuclear-weapon States parties to the Treaty, in particular taking into account the needs of developing countries and least developed countries;

(e) To support efforts to ensure the full, equal and meaningful participation of women and to promote an inclusive workforce in the areas of peaceful uses of nuclear energy, including by supporting initiatives such as the IAEA Marie Skłodowska-Curie Fellowship Programme aimed at increasing the number of women in the nuclear field.

Nuclear science, technology and development

7. The Conference notes that peaceful uses of nuclear energy are being increasingly acknowledged as delivering an important contribution to meeting global challenges and socioeconomic development needs. The Conference emphasizes the important role of nuclear science and technology in the implementation of national development strategies and in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and the climate goals in the context of the 2015 Paris Agreement and in “building back better from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) while advancing the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”. The Conference considers that nuclear technologies can contribute to addressing climate change, mitigating and adapting to its consequences and monitoring its impact. The Conference welcomes the role of IAEA at the twenty-sixth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in Glasgow, United

Kingdom in 2021; the twenty-seventh session of the Conference of the Parties in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, in 2022; and the twenty-eighth session of the Conference of the Parties in the United Arab Emirates in 2023.

8. The Conference underlines that IAEA activities in the field of technical cooperation and nuclear applications contribute in an important way to meeting energy needs, improving human and animal health, combating poverty, protecting the environment, developing agriculture, managing the use of water resources, optimizing industrial processes and preserving cultural heritage, thus helping to improve the quality of life and the well-being of the peoples of the world. The Conference also underlines that those activities, as well as bilateral and other multilateral cooperation, contribute to achieving objectives set forth in the Treaty.

9. The Conference welcomes in this regard, the flagship initiatives of the IAEA Director General cutting across different areas of nuclear science and technology, including on cancer control (Rays of Hope), strengthening preparedness and capability for outbreaks of zoonotic diseases (ZODIAC) and addressing plastic marine pollution (NUTEC Plastics). The Conference welcomes the IAEA support provided to Member States in response to natural disasters and outbreaks as well as emergency situations, such as the COVID-19 pandemic as well as Zika and Ebola outbreaks.

10. The Conference underlines the importance of the IAEA Nuclear Applications Laboratories in Seibersdorf, at IAEA headquarters in Vienna and in Monaco in developing and refining relevant nuclear techniques and in delivering them to Member States and welcomes in particular the progress made in the Renovation of the Nuclear Applications Laboratories (ReNuAL) project.

11. The Conference reiterates that each State party has the right to define its own energy policy. The Conference acknowledges the growing need for affordable energy security and respects the right of States parties to decide on their energy mix and choose the most appropriate technologies for achieving their climate targets. The Conference recognizes that while not all States parties wish to pursue nuclear power, for those that do nuclear technologies and innovations, including advanced reactors and small and medium-sized or modular reactors (SMRs), as well as large capacity power reactors and fast neutron reactors, can play an important role in facilitating energy security, decarbonization and transitioning to a low carbon energy economy.

12. The Conference recognizes the important issue of managing spent fuel and radioactive waste in a safe manner, while also recognizing the continuing international efforts to address those issues, including issues related to deep geological disposal and closed nuclear fuel cycles.

(Related actions)

13. The Conference encourages States parties to:

(a) Further support the activities of IAEA in expanding the role of nuclear science and technology and its contribution to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and to share knowledge and technology in the field of peaceful uses of nuclear energy;

(b) Further engage in education and public communication efforts to raise awareness among the general public on the importance of nuclear science and technology and its diverse applications;

(c) Enhance opportunities for the promotion of and access to nuclear science, technology and applications in order to meet socioeconomic needs;

(d) Support IAEA efforts to assist its Member States in building their capacity to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and emphasizes the importance of providing adequate, financial and human resources;

(e) Support nuclear fuel suppliers in working with and assisting recipient States, upon request, in the safe and secure management of spent fuel.

Fostering international cooperation

14. The Conference reaffirms that the Treaty fosters the development of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy by providing a framework of confidence and cooperation within which those uses can take place. Moreover, the Conference emphasizes that cooperation to accelerate and enlarge the contribution of atomic energy to peace, health and prosperity throughout the world is one of the core objectives enshrined in the IAEA statute.

15. The Conference recognizes the need to ensure that IAEA has adequate necessary support to enable it to provide, upon request, the support needed by Member States. The Conference welcomes the contributions of States parties and groups of States parties in support of IAEA activities.

16. The Conference emphasizes the importance of the technical cooperation activities of IAEA and stresses the importance of nuclear knowledge-sharing and the transfer of nuclear technology to developing countries and least developed countries for the sustainment and further enhancement of their scientific and technological capabilities. The Conference stresses that the IAEA Technical Cooperation Programme, as the major vehicle for the transfer of nuclear technology for peaceful purposes, is formulated in accordance with the IAEA statute and guiding principles and in accordance with relevant directives of the General Conference and the Board of Governors. The Conference recognizes the importance of ensuring that IAEA resources for technical cooperation activities are sufficient, assured and predictable with respect to meeting the objectives mandated in article II of the IAEA statute. The Conference also recognizes the critical contributions made by IAEA to the research and development of peaceful nuclear technologies that can be deployed through its Technical Cooperation Programme.

17. The Conference notes that developing countries and least developed countries should be given priority in the allocation of the IAEA Technical Cooperation Fund (TCF). The Conference also notes that recipient States should have full ownership of technical cooperation programmes.

18. The Conference recognizes the role of the IAEA Peaceful Uses Initiative (PUI) in mobilizing extrabudgetary contributions to support technical cooperation and projects aimed at promoting broad development goals in States parties and welcomes the extrabudgetary contributions received through PUI.

19. The Conference notes the development and promotion of advanced nuclear technologies nationally and through cooperation in all relevant international initiatives such as the International Project on Innovative Nuclear Reactors and Fuel Cycles (INPRO), the International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor (ITER) and the Generation IV International Forum.

20. The Conference recognizes that regional and cooperative agreements under the auspices of IAEA for the promotion of the peaceful use of nuclear energy can be an effective means of facilitating technical and technology transfers. The programmes under these agreements address key priorities from different regions, focusing on pressing needs related to nuclear solutions for food security, human health, water and environment, industry, and radiation and nuclear safety, among others. It notes the

contributions of the African Regional Cooperative Agreement for Research, Development and Training related to Nuclear Science and Technology, the Regional Cooperative Agreement for the Advancement of Nuclear Science and Technology in Latin America and the Caribbean, the Regional Cooperative Agreement for Research, Development and Training Related to Nuclear Science and Technology for Asia and the Pacific, and the Cooperative Agreement for Arab States in Asia for Research, Development and Training related to Nuclear Science and Technology, as well as the strategy for the IAEA regional technical cooperation programme in Europe and Central Asia.

21. The Conference underlines the importance of continuing to discuss, in a non-discriminatory and transparent manner under the auspices of IAEA or regional forums, the development of multilateral approaches to the nuclear fuel cycle, including the possibilities for creating mechanisms for assurance of nuclear fuel supply, as well as possible schemes dealing with the back end of the fuel cycle, without affecting rights under the Treaty and without prejudice to national fuel cycle policies, while tackling the technical, legal and economic complexities surrounding these issues, including in this regard the requirement of IAEA full-scope safeguards.

22. The Conference welcomes the establishment of an IAEA-owned and -operated Low Enriched Uranium (LEU) Bank located in Kazakhstan and its full operationalization in 2019 and the voluntary contributions from Member States in this regard. The Conference notes other established mechanisms for ensuring access to nuclear fuel, such as the guaranteed reserve of low enriched uranium (fuel bank) at the International Uranium Enrichment Centre in Angarsk, Russian Federation, and the United Kingdom nuclear fuel assurance proposal, as well as national efforts such as the American Assured Fuel Supply.

23. The Conference acknowledges the role of intergovernmental agreements between States with mature nuclear industries and newcomer States, which can facilitate further cooperation through project-specific agreements, for instance, between regulatory authorities, operators and entities in charge of waste management, training and research and development, noting the existence of model agreements in this context.

24. The Conference recognizes the existence of challenges and obstacles to the further expansion of the role of nuclear science, technology and applications in meeting States parties' socioeconomic needs, in particular in developing countries. The Conference acknowledges that such challenges and obstacles are caused by, inter alia, national and international development agencies' lack of awareness of the benefits of nuclear science and technology; practical difficulties in accessing the peaceful uses of nuclear science, technology and applications in developing countries; a lack of availability of sufficient resources and adequately trained experts; and the need to improve communication between and within relevant international and multilateral agencies and organizations.

25. Furthermore, the Conference emphasizes that efforts related to the peaceful uses of nuclear energy would benefit from the involvement of a wider variety of stakeholders, including government and international development agencies, non-governmental organizations, medical and research communities, universities and nuclear regulators and operators. The Conference also notes the important role that the nuclear industry can play in promoting peaceful uses of nuclear energy and technologies. The Conference welcomes efforts of States parties to attain full, equal and meaningful participation of women in this regard.

26. The Conference acknowledges the importance of providing assistance, in particular to developing countries and least developed countries, in order to enhance their access to nuclear science and technology, through capacity-building, provision

of equipment, strengthening of regional networking and regional cooperation frameworks and North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation.

27. The Conference welcomes new initiatives aimed at expanding access to the benefits of peaceful uses of nuclear energy for developing countries and aimed at taking concrete action consistent with article IV of the Treaty, through, for example, the Sustained Dialogue on Peaceful Uses.

(Related actions)

28. The Conference:

(a) Encourages the strengthening of international cooperation in the field of peaceful uses of nuclear science, technology and applications;

(b) Calls upon States parties to support IAEA and its technical cooperation programme and to continue efforts, within IAEA, to increase the effectiveness and efficiency of the technical cooperation programme;

(c) Calls upon States parties to make every effort and take practical steps to ensure that IAEA resources for technical cooperation activities are sufficient, assured and predictable in order to meet the objectives mandated in article II of the IAEA statute;

(d) Encourages States parties in a position to do so to continue and to increase their extrabudgetary voluntary contributions for technical cooperation activities devoted to peaceful uses of nuclear energy, including through contributions to the Peaceful Uses Initiative;

(e) Encourages States parties to support IAEA efforts in strengthening partnerships with interested parties, other organizations of the United Nations system, multilateral financial institutions, regional development bodies and national development agencies and to take into account the important contribution of nuclear science, technology and applications when developing their respective national development plans;

(f) Encourages States parties to engage in bilateral, regional, multilateral and South-South and triangular cooperation towards peaceful uses of nuclear science, technology and applications and to support technical cooperation at the regional level, thereby ensuring their long-term benefits;

(g) Encourages States parties to engage collaboratively with global industry partners to promote the wide variety of uses of nuclear energy and technologies.

Nuclear safety and related issues

29. The Conference stresses the importance of nuclear safety and nuclear security for the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. The Conference recognizes that the responsibility for safety and security rests with individual States and reaffirms the central role of IAEA in the development of safety standards and nuclear security guidance and relevant conventions based on best practice in strengthening and coordinating international cooperation on nuclear safety and security.

30. The Conference reaffirms that the use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes must be accompanied by commitments to and ongoing implementation of safeguards, as well as appropriate and effective levels of safety and security consistent with IAEA standards and guidance and consistent with States' national legislation and respective international obligations.

31. The Conference emphasizes that measures and initiatives aimed at strengthening nuclear safety and security should be in full conformity with relevant articles under the Treaty, including the inalienable right of States parties to develop research, production and use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes.
32. The Conference notes that although safety is a national responsibility, international cooperation on all safety-related matters is important. The Conference encourages the efforts of IAEA as well as of other relevant forums in the promotion of safety in all its aspects and encourages all States parties to take the appropriate national, regional and international steps to enhance and foster a safety culture. The Conference welcomes and underlines the intensification of national measures and international cooperation in order to strengthen nuclear safety, radiation protection, safe transport of radioactive materials and radioactive waste management, including activities conducted in this area by IAEA. In this regard, the Conference recalls that special efforts should be made and sustained to increase awareness in these fields through participation of States parties, particularly those from developing countries, in training, workshops, seminars and capacity-building in a non-discriminatory manner.
33. The Conference stresses the need for facilitating a high level of safety and security in the deployment of nuclear technologies globally. It notes that the development of advanced reactors as well as small and medium-sized or modular reactors (SMRs), for those who may wish to use them, should be carried out in a safe, secure and safeguarded manner and underlines the important role of IAEA in this field and notes the Nuclear Harmonization and Standardization Initiative of the Director General of IAEA and the cross-IAEA Platform on Small Modular Reactors (SMRs) and their Applications.
34. The Conference recalls the importance of the international legal framework in the field of nuclear safety and security, including the Convention on Nuclear Safety, the Convention on Early Notification of a Nuclear Accident, the Convention on Assistance in the Case of a Nuclear Accident or Radiological Emergency, the Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management, the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material and the 2005 Amendment thereto, and the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism. The Conference recognizes the role of IAEA in promoting the conventions concluded under the auspices of the Agency, as well as its assistance to Member States, upon request, with respect to adherence, participation and implementation of those treaties.
35. The Conference welcomes efforts to use non-highly enriched uranium technologies for the production of radioisotopes, taking into account the need for an assured and reliable supply of medical isotopes. The Conference welcomes the voluntary efforts by State parties, when technologically and economically feasible, to minimize the use of highly enriched uranium (HEU) in civilian stocks and use, share experiences on HEU minimization, take stock of status and provide updates on progress made in this regard.
36. The Conference recalls the Paris Convention on Third Party Liability in the Field of Nuclear Energy, the Vienna Convention on Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage, the Brussels Convention Supplementary to the Paris Convention on Third Party Liability in the Field of Nuclear Energy, the Joint Protocol Relating to the Application of the Vienna Convention and the Paris Convention, the protocols amending these conventions, and the Convention on Supplementary Compensation for Nuclear Damage and notes that those instruments can provide the basis for establishing a global nuclear liability regime based on the principles of nuclear liability.

37. The Conference recognizes that, historically, the safety record of civilian transport, including maritime transport, of radioactive materials has been excellent and stresses the importance of international cooperation to maintain and enhance the safety of international transport. The Conference reaffirms maritime and air navigation rights and freedoms, as provided for in international law and as reflected in relevant international instruments.

38. The Conference stresses the importance of international cooperation to maintain and enhance the safety and security of international transport of radioactive materials. The Conference endorses the IAEA standards for the safe transport of radioactive material and affirms that it is in the interest of all States parties that the transportation of radioactive materials continue to be conducted consistent with international safety, security and environmental protection standards and guidelines.

39. The Conference takes note of the concerns of all coastal States including small island developing States with regard to the transportation of radioactive materials by sea and, in this regard, welcomes efforts to improve communication between shipping and coastal States for the purpose of addressing concerns regarding transport safety, security and emergency preparedness. The Conference notes efforts by shipping States in this regard.

40. The Conference notes the efforts to apply best practices and principles, as promoted by IAEA, in mining and processing, including those related to environmental management of uranium mining.

41. The Conference reminds all States parties of the importance of nuclear safety and security with regard to peaceful nuclear facilities and materials in all circumstances, including in armed conflict zones, and of the Seven Indispensable Pillars of Nuclear Safety and Security of the Director General of IAEA derived from IAEA safety standards and nuclear security guidance.

42. The Conference expresses grave concern with respect to the safety and security of nuclear facilities and materials of Ukraine, in particular the Zaporizhzhya nuclear power plant, and expresses appreciation for the efforts of IAEA and the Director General of IAEA to address this concern.

43. The Conference expresses grave concern at attacks or threats of attack on nuclear facilities devoted to peaceful purposes, which jeopardize nuclear safety and nuclear security. The Conference considers that attacks or threats of attack on nuclear facilities devoted to peaceful purposes have dangerous political, economic, human health and environmental implications and raise serious concerns regarding the application of international law, which could warrant appropriate action in accordance with the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations.

(Related actions)

44. The Conference:

(a) Encourages all States parties to become party to and adhere to conventions and instruments in the field of nuclear safety and security;

(b) Encourages States parties that have not yet done so to consider becoming party to and implementing international legal instruments on civil liability for nuclear damage and adopting suitable national legislation in that regard;

(c) Encourages States parties developing their capacities in the field of advanced reactors and SMRs to work with IAEA in support of their safe and secure deployment;

(d) Encourages States parties to transport radioactive materials consistent with relevant international standards of safety, security and environmental protection and to continue communication between shipping and coastal States for the purpose of confidence-building and addressing concerns regarding transport safety, security and emergency preparedness;

(e) Encourages States parties concerned, on a voluntary basis and where technically and economically feasible, to further minimize highly enriched uranium in civilian stocks and use;

(f) Reiterates the appeal of previous Review Conferences to all Governments and international organizations that have expertise in the field of clean-up and disposal of radioactive contaminants to consider giving appropriate assistance, as may be requested, for remedial purposes in affected areas, noting the efforts that have been made to date in this regard;

(g) Calls upon all States parties, pursuant to action 64 of the Action Plan adopted by the 2010 Review Conference, to abide by the decision of the IAEA General Conference of 18 September 2009 entitled “Prohibition of armed attack or threat of attack against nuclear installations, during operation or under construction” (GC(53)/DEC/13);

(h) Encourages States parties to support the efforts of the Director General of IAEA to restore the safety and security of the nuclear facilities and materials of Ukraine, within its internationally recognized borders.

Subsidiary Body 3

Article IV

45. The Conference recognizes that nuclear science and technology contribute to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular through IAEA support to member States, with a more direct contribution to Goal 2 (zero hunger), Goal 3 (good health and well-being), Goal 6 (clean water and sanitation), Goal 7 (affordable and clean energy), Goal 9 (industry, innovation and infrastructure), Goal 13 (climate action), Goal 14 (life below water), Goal 15 (life on land) and Goal 17 (partnerships for the Goals). The Conference also recognizes the contribution of nuclear applications in “building back better from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) while advancing the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”.

46. The Conference encourages States parties, as part of their efforts to attain these goals, to support the following:

- Bilateral, regional and international, North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation, as well as the development of more robust cooperation with non-traditional partners, including academic and research institutions, industry, the private sector, multilateral financial institutions, regional development bodies and development agencies
- Flagship initiatives of the Director General of IAEA including Renovation of the Nuclear Applications Laboratories (ReNuAL), Zoonotic Disease Integrated Action (ZODIAC) project, Rays of Hope: cancer care for all, Nuclear Technology for Controlling Plastic Pollution (NUTEC Plastics) and the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Fellowship Programme (MSCFP) through political, financial or in-kind support
- Participation of IAEA in relevant high-level meetings related to global challenges and development such as the high-level political forum on sustainable development and climate change conferences, including the twenty-sixth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in the United Kingdom, the twenty-seventh session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention in Egypt and the twenty-eighth session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention in the United Arab Emirates
- Participation in the upcoming IAEA International Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Power in the Twenty-first Century and a planned upcoming international ministerial conference on nuclear science, technology and applications and the Technical Cooperation Programme
- Convening of a high-level event organized by the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Director General of IAEA aimed at fostering dialogue on peaceful uses of nuclear energy for sustainable development, including with United Nations development agencies
- New initiatives on expanding access to the benefits of peaceful uses such as the Sustained Dialogue on Peaceful Uses; Atoms for Heritage; the Capacity Building International Initiative to promote the peaceful uses of nuclear energy (CB2I); and the Framework for Peaceful Nuclear Cooperation
- Enhanced efforts by States parties to raise awareness of national development agencies and the general public on how nuclear science and technology can help meet national socioeconomic needs

- Enhanced efforts by States parties in education and training, including through inclusion in school curricula, to introduce the benefits and potential of nuclear science and technology to the youth and to support workforce development

Article V

47. The Conference affirms that the provisions of article V of the Treaty with regard to the peaceful applications of any nuclear explosions are to be interpreted in the light of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty.

Article VIII

48. The Conference reaffirms the purpose of the review process as set out in article VIII of the Treaty and elaborated in the relevant decision of the 1995 Review and Extension Conference and the Final Document of the 2000 Review Conference and notes the relevant discussions undertaken in the 2010 and 2015 Review Conferences, as well as during the current review cycle.

49. The Conference acknowledges that the review process for the Treaty has generally served States parties well and recognizes that there is scope to improve the overall effectiveness, transparency, inclusivity, efficiency and responsiveness of the review process. The Conference acknowledges that the Tenth Review Conference was postponed exceptionally from April 2020 to August 2022 owing to the restrictions arising from the COVID-19 pandemic.

50. The Conference emphasizes that actions to strengthen the review process are no substitute for making progress on substantive outcomes and that the goal of reviewing Treaty working methods should be to facilitate substantive, transparent and inclusive dialogue, thereby contributing to efficient work within review conferences and ultimately the effective implementation of the Treaty.

51. The Conference notes, in this regard, that enhanced accountability and transparency, including improving the process of reporting on the implementation of the Treaty, would further strengthen the review process.

52. The Conference endorses the fundamental importance of promoting the equal, full and effective participation and leadership of women in nuclear disarmament, non-proliferation and the peaceful use of nuclear energy and welcomes the gender balance in the bureau of the Tenth Review Conference. The Conference notes the role of civil society, including research centres and academia, in nuclear disarmament, non-proliferation and peaceful uses of nuclear energy decision-making processes and in raising public awareness.

53. Taking into account the above, the Conference:

(a) Decides to establish a working group on further strengthening the review process of the Treaty, open to all States parties, based on the following arrangements:

(i) The working group will meet as close as possible to the beginning of the first meeting of the Preparatory Committee for the Eleventh Review Conference to discuss and make recommendations to the Preparatory Committee of the Eleventh Review Conference on measures that would improve the effectiveness, efficiency, transparency, accountability, coordination and continuity of the review process of the Treaty;

(ii) The working group will operate according to the rules of procedure of the Tenth Review Conference which will be applied *mutatis mutandis*;

(iii) The Secretariat will, in consultation with States parties and the chair-designate of the first meeting of the Preparatory Committee, facilitate a decision on the venue and duration of the working group and provide States parties with an estimate of the costs of the working group, which will be covered through a one-time assessed contribution by States parties;

(b) Encourages States parties to ensure full, equal and meaningful participation of women in decision-making in the review process of the Treaty, including in the bureau, in accordance with Security Council resolution [1325 \(2000\)](#) and to actively support the participation of women in their delegations including through support for sponsorship programmes;

(c) Requests the Secretariat to collect, track and publish data disaggregated by sex and gender statistics.

Article IX

54. The Conference remains convinced that universal adherence is essential as well as an urgent and continuing priority for the full realization of the objectives of the Treaty.

55. Taking into account the above, the Conference:

(a) Calls upon India, Israel and Pakistan to accede to the Treaty without further delay and without any conditions as non-nuclear-weapon States;

(b) Encourages South Sudan to accede to the Treaty as soon as possible;

(c) Calls upon all States parties to exert all efforts to promote universal adherence to the Treaty and not to take any action that can negatively affect prospects for the universality of the Treaty.

Article X

56. The Conference reaffirms that each State party, in exercising its national sovereignty, has the right to withdrawal from the Treaty if it decides that extraordinary events related to the subject matter of the Treaty have jeopardized its supreme interests. The Conference also reaffirms, pursuant to article X, that notice of withdrawal shall be given to all other parties to the Treaty and to the Security Council three months in advance and shall include a statement of the extraordinary events that the State party regards as having jeopardized its supreme interests. The Conference also underscores that the procedures laid out in article X must be followed fully by any State party that invokes its right to withdraw from the Treaty.

57. The Conference affirms States parties' commitment not to reinterpret any provision of the Treaty.

58. The Conference emphasizes that it will not limit, restrict or undermine the rights of States parties to withdraw from the Treaty but notes the relevance of customary international law in connection with the withdrawal of States from treaties, including those rules reflected in the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties, under which States parties, in exercising their rights under article X, will remain responsible for any violation of the Treaty committed prior to withdrawal.

59. The Conference emphasizes that withdrawal does not change any other existing legal obligations or political commitments between the withdrawing State and any other party, including the obligations that apply to nuclear materials, equipment and scientific and technological information acquired by a State prior to withdrawal,

which should remain under safeguards pursuant to relevant agreements to be concluded in connection with the withdrawal from the Treaty.

60. The Conference notes that nuclear supply States parties can consider incorporating dismantling and/or return clauses or provisions for maintaining safeguards in the event of withdrawal in their arrangements or agreements concluded with other State parties.

61. Taking into account the above, the Conference:

(a) Encourages all States parties to undertake consultations and exert every diplomatic effort to persuade the withdrawing State to reconsider its decision, addressing the legitimate security needs of parties directly involved.
