

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

18 April 2019

Original: English

Third session

New York, 29 April–10 May 2019

Integrating gender perspectives in the implementation of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

**Working paper submitted by Australia, Canada, Ireland, Namibia,
Sweden and the United Nations Institute for
Disarmament Research**

Summary

The need for gender equality and gender perspectives in the review process of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons has been considered in working papers, statements and Chairs' reports at the two previous Preparatory Committees to the 2020 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. The present working paper encourages States parties to consider practical ways to improve gender equality in their delegations and, through a sample framework, to apply a gender analysis (or "gender lens") to issues covered under all three pillars of the Non-Proliferation Treaty.

Gender: key concepts

1. Gender refers to the roles, relationships, attributes and opportunities that a given society at a given time considers appropriate for men and women. Gender affects the relations between women and men and girls and boys, and the relations among women and among men. These attributes, opportunities and relationships are socially constructed and are learned through socialization processes. They are context- and time-specific, and changeable. Gender determines what is expected, allowed and valued in a woman or a man in a given context.¹
2. A gender analysis examines the relationships between women, men, girls and boys, including their access to and control of resources and the constraints they face relative to each other. Gender analysis can be integrated into policy development, implementation and review to ensure that gender-based inequalities are not exacerbated, and that greater equality and justice in gender relations are promoted.²

¹ United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) Training Centre, Gender Equality Glossary (trainingcentre.unwomen.org/mod/glossary/view.php?id=36).

² Ibid.



3. It should be noted that these objectives are in line with Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on women and peace and security. The Secretary-General's Agenda for Disarmament (2018) similarly calls for gender parity and for "the full and equal participation of women in all decision-making processes related to disarmament and international security".³

4. Considering gender equality as a key instrument of peace and security, the present paper recognizes the importance of linking nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation and the peaceful uses of nuclear energy with the wider context of international peace and security.

Gender and the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

5. Taking into consideration the three pillars of the Treaty, a gender analysis can be usefully applied to understand how being a woman or man affects issues such as: exposure to nuclear risk; the impact of ionizing radiation resulting from nuclear weapons use; the ability to benefit from the peaceful uses of nuclear energy; and access to education and training in nuclear science and engineering.

6. Gender has been recognized as a cross-cutting issue of direct relevance to the strengthening of the Treaty review process. In 2017 and 2018, the Chairs' factual summaries outlined that States parties endorsed the fundamental importance of promoting the equal, full and effective participation and leadership of both women and men in nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation and the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.⁴ The summaries also highlighted that some States parties had noted that the disproportionate impact of ionizing radiation on women and girls should be factored into discussions during the Treaty review cycle for the 2020 Review Conference. These topics have been further considered in Treaty discussions through working papers, research, statements and side events.⁵

7. Recent research shows that women are frequently underrepresented in international forums concerned with arms control, non-proliferation and disarmament – especially in leadership positions – and that targeted actions to improve women's participation are required.⁶ The present working paper on improving gender diversity in the Treaty review process, submitted by Australia, Canada, Ireland, Namibia, Sweden and the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) to the 2019 Preparatory Committee, usefully recommends practical ways to improve gender equality in participation in the Treaty review process.

³ United Nations, Office for Disarmament Affairs, *Securing Our Common Future: An Agenda for Disarmament*, 2018 (front.un-arm.org/documents/SG+disarmament+agenda_1.pdf).

⁴ See [NPT/CONF.2020/PC.II/WP.41](#), Chair's factual summary (working paper), 16 May 2018, and [NPT/CONF.2020/PC.I/WP.40](#), Chair's factual summary (working paper), 25 May 2017.

⁵ See, for instance, [NPT/CONF.2020/PC.II/WP.38](#), "Impact and empowerment: the role of gender in the Non-Proliferation Treaty", working paper submitted by Ireland to the 2018 Preparatory Committee for the 2020 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, 24 April 2018; [NPT/CONF.2020/PC.I/WP.38](#), "Gender, development and nuclear weapons", working paper submitted by Ireland to the 2017 Preparatory Committee for the 2020 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, 10 May 2017; and J. Borrie et al., "Gender, development and nuclear weapons: shared goals, shared concerns", International Law and Policy Institute/United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR), 2016.

⁶ R. Hessmann Dalaqua, K. Egeland and T. Graff Hugo, "Still behind the curve: gender balance in arms control, non-proliferation and disarmament diplomacy", UNIDIR, 2019.

Sample framework for conducting a gender analysis in policymaking related to nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation and the peaceful uses of nuclear energy

8. A variety of tools can be used to design and implement policies in a gender-responsive way, making sure that both women and men benefit from policy development and are equitably involved in the development, implementation and review of policymaking.

9. The present paper herewith presents a sample framework for conducting gender analysis in policymaking related to nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation and the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

10. This framework can assist States parties in applying a “gender lens”, looking at the manner in which proposed policies can reduce gender inequalities and effectively address the differential needs of women and men. It can also help States parties to improve gender equality in their delegations and promote the full, meaningful and equal participation of women and men in decision-making processes related to the Non-Proliferation Treaty.

Questions for consideration

Policy development stage

- What are the differential needs and priorities of women and men in the context of the proposed policy?
- What resources (economic, financial, physical, natural, other assets) do women and men have access to?
- Are there existing gender inequalities that may be exacerbated by the proposed policy?
- Have sufficient time, resources and expertise been allocated to address gender considerations in the proposed policy?
- Have the needs of specific subgroups been taken into account (for example, children, persons with disabilities, the elderly)?
- Does the language employed reflect equality between women and men?
- Do women have equal access to and influence over policy development and decision-making?
- Is there a visible commitment to gender balance across work functions, from support to leadership?
- Have efforts been taken to ensure that meeting arrangements promote inclusion?

Questions for consideration

- Are systems in place to collect, track and publish relevant sex-disaggregated data and statistics?
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Questions for consideration

Policy implementation stage

- Are the services and technologies provided by the policy available and accessible to both women and men?
 - Do women have equal access to education and/or technical and military training?
 - What roles do women and men perform in the context of the policy?
 - Are there opportunities to promote the leadership of women? If not, what are some of the constraints that hinder women from assuming leadership roles and how can they be addressed?
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Questions for consideration

Policy review stage

- Were men and women able to actively participate in the development and implementation of the policy?
 - Has the policy effectively addressed the differential needs and priorities of women and men and developed specific response strategies for each group?
 - Did women and men benefit from the services and technologies provided by the policy?
 - Has the policy identified opportunities to challenge gender stereotypes and increase positive gender relations through equitable actions? If so, what are these opportunities and actions?
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Conclusion and recommendations

11. Greater participation alone will not overcome gender inequality unless: (a) women can meaningfully influence decision-making; and (b) there is a general appreciation among multilateral practitioners of the ways in which the substantive issues they deal with are often gendered.

12. The present working paper provides States parties with a sample framework for conducting gender analysis in policymaking related to nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament and the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. It is hoped that such a

framework can serve as a tool to design and implement policies in a gender-responsive way, making sure both women and men benefit from policy development and are equitably involved at all stages of policymaking.

13. The Chair of the 2019 Preparatory Committee should include gender considerations in his summary and recommendations to the 2020 Review Conference, including:

(a) A call for the International Gender Champions Disarmament Impact Group⁷ to develop a toolkit that supports States parties in integrating gender perspectives in nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation and the peaceful uses of nuclear energy;

(b) A call for States parties to ensure the full and equal participation of women in all decision-making processes related to the Treaty review process;

(c) A call for States parties to integrate gender analysis as a means to ensure that the differential needs of women, men, girls and boys are addressed in the Treaty review process;

(d) A call for the President of the 2020 Review Conference to consolidate and build on the discussions and conclusions on gender from the three Preparatory Committee meetings for the 2020 Review Conference.

⁷ The International Gender Champions Disarmament Impact Group, established in September 2018, is co-chaired by Canada, Ireland, Namibia and UNIDIR. The Disarmament Impact Group seeks to promote dialogue, shared knowledge and the pursuit of concrete opportunities to advance gender-responsive action within multilateral disarmament processes.