

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

29 November 2021

Original: Chinese and English

New York, 4–28 January 2022

## Nuclear-weapon-free zones and nuclear issues in the Middle East

### Working paper submitted by China

1. The establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones, as a key step towards a world without nuclear weapons, is of great significance to achieving the goals of nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation, as well as promoting global and regional peace and security.
2. The international community should continue to support the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones in accordance with article VII of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, as well as the principles and guidelines for the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone recommended by the Disarmament Commission in its report of 1999.
3. The nuclear-weapon States should undertake unconditionally not to use or threaten to use nuclear weapons against non-nuclear-weapon States or nuclear-weapon-free zones, and conclude an international legal instrument to this end.
4. The nuclear-weapon States should respect the legal status of nuclear-weapon-free zones, sign and ratify protocols to treaties on nuclear-weapon-free zones, and take concrete measures to implement the security assurances stipulated in relevant protocols. In this regard, support should be given to the resumption of consultation between the P5 and the member States of the Treaty on the Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone, with a view to signing the Protocol to this Treaty at an early date on the basis of the existing consensus.
5. The trilateral cooperation on nuclear-powered submarines among the United States, the United Kingdom and Australia will be the first time for nuclear-weapon States to transfer a naval nuclear propulsion reactor and the associated nuclear-weapon-grade highly enriched uranium to a non-nuclear-weapon State. It poses serious risks of nuclear proliferation in contravention of the object and purpose of the Non-Proliferation Treaty, undermines the efforts of Association of Southeast Asian Nations countries to establish a nuclear-weapon-free zone, and does harm to the South Pacific Nuclear Free Zone Treaty. The international community should firmly oppose it.
6. The establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East is conducive to preventing the proliferation of nuclear weapons and easing tensions in



the Middle East, as well as promoting global and regional peace and security. While promoting reconciliation and cooperation among countries in the Middle East and advancing the peace process of the Middle East, the international community should continue to support the establishment of a Middle East Zone Free of Nuclear Weapons and Other Weapons of Mass Destruction. Relevant resolutions and decisions of successive sessions of the General Assembly, the resolution on the Middle East adopted by the 1995 Review Conference, as well as relevant provisions of the Final Documents adopted by the 2000 and the 2010 Review Conferences should be earnestly implemented. Efforts should also be made to facilitate the convening of the Conference on the Establishment of a Middle East Zone Free of Nuclear Weapons and Other Weapons of Mass Destruction, in accordance with the decision of the seventy-third session of the General Assembly (73/546). All countries of the region and relevant nuclear-weapon States should be encouraged to participate in the second conference to be held in November 2021 on the basis of the first conference held in November 2019.

7. Israel should accede to the Non-Proliferation Treaty as a non-nuclear-weapon State as soon as possible. States concerned in the Middle East should sign and ratify the comprehensive safeguards agreement with IAEA as early as possible. The international community should continue to encourage States concerned in the Middle East to sign and ratify the additional protocols to the comprehensive safeguards agreements with IAEA.

8. The Chinese Government has consistently supported the establishment of a Middle East Zone Free of Nuclear Weapons and Other Weapons of Mass Destruction, and took a constructive part in the first Conference on the Establishment of a Middle East Zone Free of Nuclear Weapons and Other Weapons of Mass Destruction, held in November 2019. Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi put forward a five-point initiative to achieve security and stability in the Middle East in March 2021, calling on the international community to support the efforts of countries in the region to establish a Middle East Zone Free of Nuclear Weapons and Other Weapons of Mass Destruction.

---