

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

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Taking forward nuclear disarmament

Working paper submitted by Brazil on behalf of the New Agenda Coalition (Brazil, Egypt, Ireland, Mexico, New Zealand and South Africa)

1. The New Agenda Coalition was formed in 1998 as a reaction to the continued threat to humanity posed by the prospect of the indefinite possession of nuclear weapons by the nuclear-weapon States, and the belief that the only complete defence against this threat is the total elimination of nuclear weapons and assurance that they will never be produced again.
2. The New Agenda Coalition rejects any attempt to assert an entitlement to indefinite possession of nuclear weapons by the nuclear-weapon States or to justify the continued retention of nuclear weapons on security grounds.
3. The 2015 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons failed to achieve consensus on an outcome document. It is imperative that an ambitious and forward-looking outcome document emerge from this Review Conference to guide us to the full implementation of article VI.
4. In 2022, as States parties meet for this Review Conference, the New Agenda Coalition takes note that the Doomsday Clock¹ is now positioned at 100 seconds to midnight, the closest that it has ever been in its history. All States parties have a responsibility to work urgently towards nuclear disarmament and turning back the clock.

Recommendations

5. In the pursuit of the full and effective implementation of the agreements reached at the 1995 Review and Extension Conference and the 2000 and 2010 Review Conferences, the New Agenda Coalition reaffirms its positions and recommendations contained in documents [NPT/CONF.2020/PC.I/WP.9](#), [NPT/CONF.2020/PC.I/WP.13](#), [NPT/CONF.2020/PC.II/WP.13](#) and [NPT/CONF.2020/PC.III/WP.35](#) to the tenth Review Conference.

¹ The Doomsday Clock was developed by the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists, an independent, non-governmental organization.



6. The New Agenda Coalition requests States parties to reflect on these papers and makes the following recommendations for inclusion in an additional set of measures that build on existing commitments in order to contribute to the full implementation of the obligations under the Non-Proliferation Treaty, particularly those related to nuclear disarmament:

(a) The Conference should reiterate the continuing validity of all commitments and undertakings entered into at the 1995, 2000 and 2010 Review Conferences, including the unequivocal undertaking by the nuclear-weapon States to accomplish the total elimination of their nuclear arsenals, leading to nuclear disarmament to which all States parties are committed under article VI;

(b) The Conference should reiterate the deep concern at the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of any use of nuclear weapons and reaffirm the need for all States at all times to comply with applicable international law, including international humanitarian law;

(c) The Conference should reiterate the mutually reinforcing nuclear disarmament principles of irreversibility, verifiability and transparency and call for their adequate application, including through the development of technical approaches, supplemented by appropriate legally binding measures, in the context of the implementation by the nuclear-weapon States of agreements concerning nuclear weapon reductions;

(d) The Conference should agree on measures to strengthen accountability through enhanced transparency and measurability of the implementation of nuclear disarmament obligations and commitments;

(e) The Conference should urge, in this regard, the nuclear-weapon States to voluntarily present, jointly or individually, implementation plans for the commitments and undertakings agreed to under the review processes, with the inclusion of time frames and benchmarks for progress;

(f) The Conference should urge nuclear-weapon States to remove all operational nuclear weapons from high alert status and to put in place, as a matter of urgency, appropriate legal and procedural safeguards aimed at reducing the risk of a nuclear detonation by accident, miscalculation or design;

(g) The Conference should reiterate the urgent need to fully implement the 1995 resolution on the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction and urge all States, particularly the nuclear-weapon States, to actively support this goal and relevant efforts to meet it; and acknowledge decision 73/546 of the General Assembly, which led to the convening in 2019 and 2021, by the Secretary-General of the United Nations, of sessions of a conference to elaborate a treaty on the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction, on the basis of arrangements freely arrived at by the States of the region;

(h) The Conference should affirm that “a nuclear war cannot be won and must never be fought”;

(i) The Conference should call on States that are part of military alliances that include nuclear-weapon States to report, as a significant transparency and confidence-building measure, on steps taken, or future steps planned, to reduce and eliminate the role of nuclear weapons in national and collective security doctrines; the Conference should also urge nuclear-weapon States to refrain from pursuing military doctrines that emphasize the importance of nuclear weapons or that lower the threshold for their use;

(j) The Conference should call upon all States parties to spare no effort to achieve the universality of the Non-Proliferation Treaty and, in that regard, urge India, Israel and Pakistan, which are not yet parties to the Treaty, to accede to it as non-nuclear-weapon States promptly and without any conditions and, pending their accession, to adhere to its terms;

(k) The Conference should urge the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to abandon all nuclear weapons and existing nuclear programmes, to return at an early date to the Non-Proliferation Treaty and to adhere to its International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards agreement with a view to achieving the complete, verifiable and irreversible denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula in a peaceful manner;

(l) The Conference should urge all States concerned to take all measures necessary to bring about the entry into force of the relevant protocols to treaties establishing nuclear-weapon-free zones and withdraw any related reservations or unilateral interpretative declarations that are incompatible with the object and purpose of such treaties;

(m) The Conference should encourage the establishment of further nuclear-weapon-free zones, especially in the Middle East, on the basis of arrangements freely arrived at among States of the region concerned, in order to contribute to the implementation of the Non-Proliferation Treaty;

(n) The Conference should acknowledge that a vast majority of States parties adopted the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, which entered into force on 22 January 2021, as an effective measure of nuclear disarmament contributing to the implementation of article VI of the Non-Proliferation Treaty, and note the full compatibility and consistency of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons with the provisions of the Non-Proliferation Treaty;

(o) The Conference should recognize the disproportionate impact of ionizing radiation on women and girls;

(p) The Conference should highlight the importance of increasing public awareness of the risks and the catastrophic impact of any nuclear detonation, including through disarmament education and the work of civil society organizations;

(q) The Conference should acknowledge the Agenda for Disarmament, an initiative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, in support of States in their efforts towards the elimination of nuclear weapons.
