

# Preparatory Committee for the 2026 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

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## First session

Vienna, 31 July–11 August 2023

## Summary record (partial)\* of the 5th meeting

Held at the Vienna International Centre, Vienna, on 2 August 2023, at 10 a.m.

*Chair:* Mr. Viinanen. . . . . (Finland)

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General debate on issues related to all aspects of the work of the Preparatory  
Committee (*continued*)

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\* No summary record was prepared for the rest of the meeting.

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*The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.*

*The discussion covered in the summary record began at 12.30 p.m.*

**General debate on issues related to all aspects of the work of the Preparatory Committee (continued)**

1. **Mr. Garcés Burbano** (Ecuador) said that his delegation attached particular importance to the fact that the Preparatory Committee was meeting in Vienna, the seat of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization, which were institutional pillars in the fulfilment of the objectives of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

2. Ecuador was firmly committed to non-proliferation, based on the principles and values of its foreign policy, and considered that the so-called right to use nuclear weapons could not be justified under any circumstances. As a defender and promoter of international law, multilateralism and the peaceful settlement of disputes, it was opposed to an arms race and supported all actions aimed at conflict prevention and international instruments seeking to eliminate nuclear weapons. Ecuador had categorically condemned the development of non-peaceful nuclear programmes, had promoted the conclusion of international agreements in that regard and had called for full compliance with the obligations arising from those agreements. Accordingly, and in keeping with its principled position, it strongly supported the Non-Proliferation Treaty and its framework. Implementation of the objectives of general and complete disarmament and cooperation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy should be balanced, in order to ensure the proper functioning of the Treaty system.

3. The persistent launching of ballistic missiles and the current war of aggression against Ukraine clearly demonstrated that nuclear weapons continued to pose a threat to international peace and human security. Their total elimination was the only guarantee against their use or the threat of their use. It was regrettable that multilateral commitments regarding nuclear disarmament, the elimination of weapons of mass destruction and the strengthening of transparency and confidence-building measures had not yet been met, and that recent Review Conferences of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons had remained paralyzed. It was therefore necessary to move forward towards a balanced implementation of the Treaty, by advancing the process of total disarmament, implementing the Treaty in a comprehensive and non-selective manner and enabling Member States to

use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. States parties should show greater willingness to come to a consensus in order to achieve the objective of total disarmament.

4. Ecuador supported the objectives of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, which was an integral part of the international regime on the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, and promoted its universalization. His delegation recognized the important contribution made by Latin America and the Caribbean through the creation of the first densely populated nuclear-weapon-free zone on the planet. Furthermore, Ecuador supported the work of IAEA as a specialized agency of the United Nations system with the competence to verify and ensure compliance with the safeguard agreements signed by Member States, and promoted respect for the statute of IAEA, as a tool to prevent nuclear knowledge, technologies and materials from being used for belligerent purposes. In that regard, it was imperative to prevent the provision of equipment, information, materials, resources and assistance related to science and nuclear technology for military purposes, regardless of the security reasons invoked. Ecuador continued to support the inalienable right of all States parties to the Non-Proliferation Treaty to develop research, production and use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes without discrimination.

5. The meetings of the Preparatory Committee should be conducted in a constructive and flexible spirit, with a view to the adoption of a final document at the 2026 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

6. **Mr. Tito** (Kiribati) said that his country had suffered the environmental and humanitarian impact of the nuclear weapon tests conducted on and around its Kiritimati Island between 1957 and 1962 by two nuclear-weapon States. That impact continued to plague the health and livelihood of the population and was likely to continue doing so in the future. On 28 April 1958, the most powerful thermonuclear test at the time had been conducted at Kiritimati Island, where inhabitants had received little protection and inadequate warning, leaving them with various untreatable diseases and deadly health complications in the wake of the tests. Cases of cancer and congenital abnormalities persisted among the descendants of those living on the island at the time of the tests. As a country affected by nuclear testing, Kiribati recognized its importance, in seeking assistance from the international community for populations and individuals suffering from the legacy of nuclear testing in Kiribati and elsewhere.

7. Based on its experience and conviction that nuclear weapons were dangerous to human life, Kiribati

called on all States parties and all humankind to renew individual and collective commitments towards the achievement of the ultimate goal of the Non-Proliferation Treaty, namely, the total eradication of the existential dangers and threats of a nuclear war or catastrophe. The Treaty should not be limited to mere words on paper, but should be fully implemented. At the 2020 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, his delegation had highlighted the lack of commitment demonstrated by nuclear-weapon States with respect to their obligations under article VI of the Treaty, and their failure to fully implement the action plan contained in the Final Document of the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. It had also underscored the need for the States parties to engage with survivors, in order to understand the impact of nuclear weapons on individuals, and for young people to interact with survivors as part of disarmament and non-proliferation awareness-raising initiatives.

8. Kiribati remained fully committed to the international non-proliferation regime. The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons strengthened that regime and ensured the provision of humanitarian assistance to affected States and should therefore be considered to be complementary to the Non-Proliferation Treaty and beneficial to all.

9. His delegation once again requested that nuclear-weapon States comply with their commitments under article VI of the Non-Proliferation Treaty and also provide information to Kiribati on any tests conducted in the Pacific region that had negatively affected local communities. States parties should support his country's call for nuclear justice and recognize that the provision of financial and other resources to victims could help to address the terrible legacy of nuclear activity that had afflicted the Pacific region and human civilization as a whole.

10. **Ms. de Oliveira Dias** (Portugal) said that the Non-Proliferation Treaty was the cornerstone of the international regime on the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and that its article IV provided the framework for the peaceful use of nuclear energy. Although the Treaty had helped to reduce stockpiles and limit the proliferation of nuclear weapons, while fostering cooperation on the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, renewed efforts were needed to strengthen its implementation and render it universal. Portugal therefore called on all States that had not yet done so to accede to the Treaty, as non-nuclear-weapon States. The three pillars of the Treaty, namely nuclear non-proliferation, nuclear disarmament and the right to

peaceful use of nuclear technology, should be addressed in a balanced manner and the work of the current review cycle should be based on the action plan of the 2010 Review Conference. It was critical to strengthen the Treaty, in the light of the current security environment, which was marked by the Russian war of aggression against Ukraine and serious proliferation crises and challenges. In that context, it had become more necessary than ever before to fully implement the Treaty and uphold it as a key multilateral instrument.

11. Portugal strongly condemned the military aggression carried out by the Russian Federation against Ukraine and its people, and continued to support the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of Ukraine within its internationally recognized borders. That war of aggression and, in particular, the illegal seizure and ongoing occupation of the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant and the nuclear threats made by the Russian Federation constituted an unprecedented attack on the international rules-based order, which was of the utmost concern, including in relation to the international nuclear non-proliferation architecture. In that regard, Portugal supported IAEA and the work it had been doing to assist Ukraine in maintaining nuclear safety and security and fulfilling its safeguards obligations.

12. Portugal also supported the early entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty and called on all States that had not yet done so, in particular the remaining Annex 2 States, to sign and ratify it, without preconditions or further delay. All States should abide by the moratorium on nuclear testing and refrain from any action that was contrary to the object and purpose of the Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty.

13. With respect to the Middle East, efforts should be made to build upon the results of the most recent Conference on the Establishment of a Middle East Zone Free of Nuclear Weapons and Other Weapons of Mass Destruction. Regrettably, despite political support from the States members of the European Union and intense international diplomatic efforts to restore the full implementation of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, the Islamic Republic of Iran had not taken the required steps, but had instead continued to significantly escalate its nuclear programme. Portugal therefore urged the Islamic Republic of Iran to reverse its escalating nuclear trajectory and fulfil its legal and political nuclear non-proliferation obligations without further delay.

14. Renewed efforts should be made to urge the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to engage in meaningful discussions with all relevant parties to build a basis for sustainable peace and security in the

complete, verifiable and irreversible denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula. The continuous provocation by the regime of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, in direct violation of multiple Security Council resolutions, posed a grave threat to regional and global peace and security.

15. IAEA played a key role in achieving the goals of the Non-Proliferation Treaty, by implementing the nuclear safeguards regime and promoting the peaceful uses of nuclear energy through the establishment and upholding of international nuclear safety and security standards. For 60 years, it had been doing essential work in the interest of humanity, promoting the contribution of atomic energy to peace, health and prosperity and ensuring that its assistance was not used to further any military purpose. Those objectives remained relevant and challenging, and States parties should steadfastly support the fulfilment of the mandate given to IAEA.

*The meeting rose at 12.55 p.m.*