

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

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## Nuclear Risk Reduction

### Working paper submitted by China

1. At present, competition among the major countries in the field of international strategic security has returned, and the international nuclear arms control system is being seriously impacted. China believes that discussions on nuclear risk reduction should be guided by the following principles:

First, upholding a common, integrated, cooperative and sustainable security concept. Jointly resisting and opposing cold war thinking, hegemonism and power politics, upholding the United Nations-centred international order based on international law, defending the international nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regimes based on the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, and commitment to durable world peace and universal security are important prerequisites for nuclear risk reduction.

Second, following the basic principles of maintaining strategic stability and undiminished security of all countries. Nuclear forces, nuclear policies and security environments vary greatly among nuclear-weapon States and there are no universally applicable nuclear risk reduction measures. All parties should respect each other's sovereignty, security and development interests and enhance strategic mutual trust, strive to maintain global strategic stability and conduct dialogue and cooperation on a voluntary basis and in accordance with the principle of consensus.

Third, insisting upon the precedence of crisis prevention over crisis control. All parties should reject the hypocritical approach of inciting confrontation and creating crises on the one hand while calling for reducing nuclear risks on the other, and give first priority to crisis prevention.

Fourth, requiring the joint efforts of the nuclear-weapon States and the non-nuclear-weapon States concerned to reduce nuclear risks. Non-nuclear-weapon States taking part in nuclear-sharing and extended-deterrence arrangements should adopt effective measures to reduce the role of nuclear weapons in their national and collective security policies.

Fifth, properly addressing the relationship between nuclear risk reduction and nuclear disarmament. Nuclear disarmament is the most effective nuclear risk reduction measure. States with the largest nuclear arsenals should earnestly fulfil their



special and primary responsibilities and continue to make significant and substantial reductions in their nuclear arsenals in a verifiable, irreversible and legally binding manner. Nuclear risk reduction measures cannot be a substitute for nuclear disarmament efforts.

2. China advocates the promotion of dialogue and cooperation in nuclear risk reduction by the international community in the following areas:

(a) Adopting responsible nuclear strategies by nuclear-weapon States, focusing on adopting “no first use of nuclear weapons” policies, issuing joint statements on mutual non-first-use of nuclear weapons, and negotiating treaties on no first use of nuclear weapons.

(b) Reducing the role of nuclear weapons in the national security policies of nuclear-weapon States. No country should be designated as a target for nuclear strikes, nuclear weapons should be placed on lower alert, no nuclear deterrence policies targeting other countries should be adopted, accidental or unauthorized nuclear weapons launches should be avoided, and the threat of nuclear weapons accidents should be eliminated.

(c) Strictly controlling the range of application of nuclear weapons by nuclear-weapon States, focusing on reducing the role of nuclear weapons in the collective security policies of some countries, ending “nuclear sharing” and extended-deterrence arrangements, refraining from conducting nuclear exercises or exchanging nuclear information with non-nuclear-weapon States, and withdrawing nuclear weapons deployed overseas.

(d) Providing credible security assurances by nuclear-weapon States to non-nuclear-weapon States, focusing on support for the early negotiation by the Conference on Disarmament of a legal instrument providing negative security assurances to non-nuclear-weapon States; establishing nuclear-weapon-free zones by regional States on the basis of voluntary consultation and voluntary agreements; and the speedy signing and ratification of protocols to relevant nuclear-weapon-free zone treaties.

(e) All-out effort by nuclear-weapon States to prevent nuclear war, focusing on their implementing the 2022 Joint Statement of the Leaders of the Five Nuclear Powers on Preventing Nuclear War, reaffirming that they will not target nuclear weapons at each other or any other country, and maintaining dialogue and exchange on strategic risk reduction and nuclear policy to avoid military confrontation and prevent an arms race.

(f) Striving to safeguard the international nuclear non-proliferation regime, focusing on the non-transfer of weapons-grade nuclear material, technology and equipment for military purposes to non-nuclear-weapon States, and supporting and promoting the settlement of regional hotspot issues via political and diplomatic processes.

(g) All-out effort to ensure the security of peaceful nuclear facilities, focusing on safeguarding the security of nuclear power plants and opposing armed attacks on nuclear power plants and other peaceful nuclear facilities; effectively complying with the Convention on Nuclear Safety and resolutely preventing man-made nuclear accidents; and supporting the active role of the International Atomic Energy Agency in promoting the safety and security of peaceful nuclear facilities.

(h) Striving to maintain global strategic stability, focusing on halting the development and deployment of global anti-ballistic missile (ABM) systems, withdrawing missile and ABM systems deployed overseas, not deploying new, strategically destabilizing weapons systems overseas, not deploying weapons in outer

space or using or threatening to use armed force against outer space objects, and supporting the commencement of negotiations on a legal instrument on outer space arms control in the Conference on Disarmament.

(i) Comprehensively assessing the security challenges posed by emerging technologies, focusing on the impact of military applications of emerging science and technology on strategic stability and international security, and supporting discussions on the development of relevant international rules on the United Nations platform.

(j) Actively undertaking nuclear disarmament verification studies, focusing on feasible measures for nuclear disarmament verification, providing technical support for the future development of the international nuclear disarmament process, and supporting the process of the United Nations Group of Governmental Experts on Nuclear Disarmament Verification.

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