

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

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Reflections of the Chair of the 2019 session of the Preparatory Committee

The points below are the reflections of the Chair on the discussions and proceedings at the 2019 session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2020 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. There remain many more points of convergence in the views of States parties than there are divergences. As the third session of the Preparatory Committee has particular mandates and responsibilities on substance and procedure, it is the hope of the Chair that these points will assist in the discussions and considerations at the Review Conference.

1. States parties maintain the conviction that the Non-Proliferation Treaty is the cornerstone of the nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime. Continued geopolitical challenges underline the need to maintain and strengthen this conviction.
2. The fiftieth anniversary of the Treaty's entry into force and the twenty-fifth anniversary of its indefinite extension in 2020 require a demonstrable commitment to the Treaty by States parties. Looking beyond 2020 also requires reaffirming and implementing past commitments, and this is needed to maintain the integrity of the Treaty following the commemorations.
3. The positive contributions of the Treaty to strategic stability are well understood and well respected. In the discussions on security and stability, all States are stakeholders.
4. A balance between the three pillars of disarmament, non-proliferation and the peaceful uses of nuclear energy is desired. The important accomplishments and contributions under the non-proliferation and peaceful uses pillars are recognized and applauded. There remain differing views on the implementation of the disarmament pillar, and these views need to be reconciled for there to be considered a balance as a whole.
5. A number of initiatives have been brought forward during the 2020 review cycle thus far. All these initiatives are genuine in their desire to improve the disarmament and non-proliferation regime, and States need to move away from entrenched positions in considering them. Keeping an open mind to new ideas and initiatives is needed to move away from any potential deadlock, and such openness needs to be reciprocated by all.



6. The importance of open, inclusive and transparent dialogue has been emphasized throughout the review cycle. This has been maintained and needs to continue into the 2020 Review Conference and beyond. Civility and diplomacy have also been emphasized. These, too, need to be maintained.

7. States parties remain committed to the substantive work needed to ensure a successful review cycle and did not allow procedural issues to hinder this work. This presents an opportunity for the Review Conference to ensure that it can begin promptly with a focus on its substantive work.

8. Coordination and support among the Bureau are important. As the review cycle moves out of the formal Preparatory Committee phase, the work undertaken and the coordination needed prior to and during the Review Conference can assist in ensuring success.
