
Conference on Disarmament

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Bangladesh on behalf of member States of G-21

Working paper

Nuclear disarmament

1. The Group of 21 reiterates that the Conference on Disarmament is the single multilateral negotiating body on disarmament, and in that context, the Group stresses that its highest priority on the Conference on Disarmament agenda is nuclear disarmament.
2. The Group reiterates its deep concern at the danger posed to the survival of humankind by the continued existence of nuclear weapons and of their possible use or threat of use. As long as nuclear weapons exist, the risk of their use and proliferation will remain.
3. The Group reiterates its position as conveyed in its previous statements and working papers to the Conference on Disarmament and recalls the final documents of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly - the First Special Session on Disarmament - and the 2012 Tehran Summit Declaration and the Final Document of the Non Aligned Movement. We recall, in this regard, that the very first resolution 1(1) of 1946 of the General Assembly of the United Nations, adopted unanimously, called for the elimination of nuclear weapons from national arsenals.
4. Furthermore, the International Court of Justice, in its advisory opinion of 1996, concluded that there exists an obligation to pursue in good faith and bring to a conclusion negotiations leading to nuclear disarmament in all its aspects under strict and effective international control.
5. The Millennium Declaration in 2000 also reaffirmed the commitment of Member States of the United Nations to strive for the elimination of weapons of mass destruction, in particular nuclear weapons.
6. The Group, while noting, the steps taken by nuclear-weapon States for the reduction of their arsenals, reiterates its deep concern over the slow pace of progress towards nuclear disarmament and the lack of progress by the nuclear-weapon States towards accomplishing the total elimination of their nuclear arsenals. The Group stresses the importance of effective implementation of concrete measures leading to a nuclear weapons free world. This requires renewed political will by the international community towards accelerated progress on nuclear disarmament. We hope that all States would seize all opportunities

towards this end, including the upcoming High Level Meeting on nuclear disarmament to be convened in September this year.

7. The Group, stressing its strong commitment to nuclear disarmament, underscores the urgent need to commence negotiations on this issue, in the Conference on Disarmament, without delay. In this context, the Group reaffirms its full readiness to start negotiations on a phased programme for the complete elimination of nuclear weapons, including a nuclear-weapons convention prohibiting the development, production, stockpiling and use of nuclear weapons and on their destruction, leading to the global, nondiscriminatory and verifiable elimination of nuclear weapons, with a specified framework of time.

8. In this regard, the Group emphasizes that fundamental principles of transparency, verification and irreversibility shall be applied to all nuclear disarmament measures.

9. The Group reaffirms that nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation are substantively interrelated and mutually reinforcing.

10. The Group of 21 emphasizes that progress in nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation, in all its aspects, is essential to strengthening international peace and security. The Group reaffirms that efforts towards nuclear disarmament, global and regional approaches and confidence building measures complement each other and should, wherever possible, be pursued simultaneously to promote regional and international peace and security.

11. The Group reaffirms that the total elimination of nuclear weapons is the only absolute guarantee against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons. Pending the achievement of the complete elimination of such weapons, the Group reaffirms the urgent need to reach an early agreement on a universal, unconditional and legally binding instrument to assure non-nuclear weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons.

12. The Group expresses its concerns about strategic defence doctrines of nuclear-weapon States and a group of States which set out rationales for the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons, and in this regard, there is therefore a genuine and urgent need to eliminate the role of nuclear weapons in strategic doctrines and security policies to minimize the risk that these weapons will ever be used again and to facilitate the process of their elimination. In this regard, the Group recalls its strong support of the objectives of the resolution 67/45 of the General Assembly of the United Nations of 3 December 2012 entitled "Reducing nuclear danger", as well as the resolution 67/46 of the General Assembly of the United Nations of 4 January 2013 on "Decreasing the operational readiness of nuclear weapons Systems".

13. The Group of 21 stresses the significance of achieving universal adherence to the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, including by all nuclear-weapon States, which, inter alia, should contribute to the process of nuclear disarmament. The Group reiterates that if the objectives of the Treaty were to be fully realized the continued commitment of all States signatories, especially the nuclear-weapon States, to nuclear disarmament would be essential.

14. The Group reaffirms the absolute validity of multilateral diplomacy in the field of disarmament and non-proliferation, and expresses its determination to promote multilateralism as the core principle of negotiations in these areas. In this regard, the Group strongly supports the objectives of the resolution 66/32 of the General Assembly of the United Nations of 12 January 2012 on the "Promotion of multilateralism in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation".

15. The States Parties of the Group of 21 to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons recall the deliberations of the Second Session of the Preparatory

Committee for the 2015 NPT Review Conference that took place between 22 April and 3 May 2013 in Geneva. The States Parties of the Group of 21 to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons call for the full implementation of the recommendations for follow-on actions adopted at the 2010 NPT Review Conference on all three pillars of the Treaty, including those related to the work of the Conference on Disarmament, and the Middle East, particularly the implementation of the 1995 resolution on the Middle East. The States Parties of the Group of 21 to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons reemphasize the importance of the commitment of nuclear-weapon States to accelerate concrete progress on the steps leading to nuclear disarmament contained in the final document of the 2000 Review Conference and take note of the fact that nuclear-weapon States agreed to report on their undertakings related to nuclear disarmament to the 2014 Preparatory Committee, and that the 2015 Review Conference would take stock and consider next steps for the full implementation of article VI of the Treaty.

16. The State Parties of the Group of 21 to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons express their serious concern over the long delay in the implementation of the 1995 resolution and urge the three co-sponsors of the resolution to take all necessary measures to fully implement it without any further delay. The State Parties of the Group of 21 to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons recalls the consensus decision contained in the final document of the 2010 NPT Review Conference on convening, in 2012, of a Conference on the establishment in the Middle East of a zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction, and expresses their profound disappointment on not convening the Conference in 2012 as scheduled. They are of the view that the failure to convene the Conference in 2012 is contrary to the letter and spirit of the collective agreement contained in the final document of the 2010 NPT Review Conference aimed at the full implementation of the 1995 resolution on the Middle East. They strongly reject the alleged impediments presented by the Conveners for not convening the Conference on schedule and express their serious concern that the Conference has not been convened yet. They urge the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the United States of America, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Russian Federation, to convene the Conference without any further delay in order to avoid any negative repercussions for the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. The State Parties of the Group of 21 to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons also recall in this context the reaffirmation of the NPT 2010 Review Conference of the urgency and importance of Israel's accession to the Treaty and the placement of all its nuclear facilities under comprehensive International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards.

17. The Group reiterates its readiness to make constructive contributions to the work of the Conference, and in this regard wishes to recall the contents of documents CD/36/Rev.1; CD/116; CD/341; CD/819; CD/1388; CD/1462; CD/1570; CD/1571, CD/1923 and CD/1938, presented by the Group of 21 towards this end.

18. In view of the Group's strong commitment to nuclear disarmament and a world free of nuclear weapons, the Group of 21 reiterates the following concrete steps:

- Reaffirmation of the unequivocal commitment of the nuclear-weapon States to accomplish the complete elimination of nuclear weapons;
- Elimination of the role of nuclear weapons in the security doctrines;
- Adoption of measures by nuclear-weapon States to reduce nuclear danger, such as de-alerting of nuclear weapons and decreasing the operational readiness of nuclear weapons systems;
- Negotiation of a universal, unconditional and legally-binding instrument to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons;

- Negotiation of a convention on the complete prohibition of the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons;
 - Negotiation of a nuclear weapons convention prohibiting the development, production, stockpiling and use of nuclear weapons and on their destruction, leading to the global, non-discriminatory and verifiable elimination of nuclear weapons with a specified framework of time.
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