

**2000 Review Conference of the Parties
to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation
of Nuclear Weapons**

24 April 2000
English
Original: English/Spanish

New York, 24 April-19 May 2000

**Letter dated 24 April 2000 from the Minister for Foreign
Affairs of Mexico addressed to the Secretary-General of the
Review Conference**

I have the honour to transmit herewith the working paper entitled "Nuclear disarmament" submitted by the delegations of Brazil, Egypt, Ireland, Mexico, New Zealand, South Africa and Sweden.

I should be grateful if this working paper could be circulated as an official document of the Sixth Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

(Signed) Rosario **Green**

The delegations of Brazil, Egypt, Ireland, Mexico, New Zealand, South Africa and Sweden propose the following text as the identification of areas in which, and the means through which, further progress should be sought in the future regarding the obligation under article VI of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons to achieve nuclear disarmament:

Nuclear Disarmament

The Sixth Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons,

Reaffirming the preamble and articles of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons,

Stressing the importance of the full implementation of the decisions and the resolution adopted at the 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and their continued validity,

Bearing in mind that the overwhelming majority of States have entered into legally binding commitments not to receive, manufacture or otherwise acquire nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices, and *recalling* that these undertakings were made in the context of corresponding legally binding commitments by the nuclear-weapon States to the pursuit in good faith of nuclear disarmament,

Recalling the unanimous conclusion of the International Court of Justice in its 1996 advisory opinion 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

Reaffirming that the strict observance of the provisions of the Treaty remains central to achieving the shared objectives of preventing under any circumstances the further proliferation of nuclear weapons, and preserving the Treaty's vital contribution to peace and security,

Concerned that negotiations on nuclear arms reductions are currently stalled,

Concerned also at the continued retention of the nuclear-weapons option by those three States that operate unsafeguarded nuclear facilities and that have not acceded to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, *and* at their failure to renounce that option,

Stressing that the Treaty on the Limitation of Anti-Ballistic Missile Systems remains a cornerstone of strategic stability and underlining the responsibility of its States Parties to preserve its integrity,

Underlining the imperative, in the interim leading to the elimination of nuclear weapons, of lessening the role of these weapons in security policies in a manner that enhances strategic stability so as to facilitate the process of elimination,

Affirming that the maintenance of a nuclear-weapon-free world will require the underpinnings of a universal and multilaterally negotiated legally binding instrument or a framework encompassing a mutually reinforcing set of instruments,

Bound by the Treaty to the achievement of a nuclear-weapon-free world,

Affirms the need to move with determination to the full realization and effective implementation of the purposes and all the provisions of the Treaty, and *affirms* the accountability of the States Parties for the fulfilment of their obligations under the Treaty, and to this end:

1. The five nuclear-weapon States make an unequivocal undertaking to accomplish the total elimination of their nuclear arsenals and, in the course of the forthcoming review period 2000-2005, to engage in an accelerated process of negotiations and to take steps leading to nuclear disarmament to which all States Parties are committed under article VI of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons;

2. The United States of America and the Russian Federation undertake to fully implement the Treaty on Further Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms (START II) and commence without further delay negotiations on START III with a view to its early conclusion;

3. The nuclear-weapon States undertake to proceed to the early integration of all five nuclear-weapon States into the process leading to the total elimination of their respective nuclear weapons;

4. The five nuclear-weapon States undertake, as early and interim steps:

(a) To adapt their nuclear policies and postures so as to preclude the use of nuclear weapons;

(b) To proceed to the de-alerting, to the removal of nuclear warheads from delivery vehicles and to the withdrawal of all nuclear forces from active deployment pending their complete elimination;

(c) To reduce tactical nuclear weapons and to proceed to their elimination as an integral part of nuclear arms reduction;

(d) To demonstrate greater transparency with regard to their nuclear arsenals and fissile material inventories;

(e) To further develop the Trilateral Initiative between the United States of America, the Russian Federation and the International Atomic Energy Agency so as to include all five nuclear-weapon States in similar arrangements and to ensure the irreversible removal of fissile material from weapons programmes;

(f) To apply the principle of irreversibility in all nuclear disarmament, nuclear arms reduction, and nuclear arms control measures;

5. The States Parties agree on the importance and urgency of achieving:

(a) The signature and ratification, unconditionally and without delay, of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty and, pending the entry into force of the Treaty, the observance of moratoria on nuclear tests;

(b) A non-discriminatory, multilateral and internationally and effectively verifiable treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices, taking into consideration both nuclear non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament objectives, and pending the entry into force

of the Treaty, the observation of a moratorium on the production of fissile materials for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices;

(c) The establishment in the Conference on Disarmament of an appropriate subsidiary body with a mandate to deal with nuclear disarmament;

6. The States Parties agree on the importance and urgency of the pursuit, extension and establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones, on the basis of arrangements freely arrived at, among States of the regions concerned, especially in regions of tension, such as the Middle East and South Asia, as significant contributions to a nuclear-weapon-free world;

7. The States Parties agree on the importance of the negotiation and conclusion at an early date of an internationally legally binding instrument to effectively assure non-nuclear-weapon States parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons;

8. The States Parties call upon those States that have not yet done so to adhere unconditionally and without delay to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and to take all the necessary measures required by adherence to that instrument as non-nuclear-weapon States parties;

9. The States Parties call upon the three States that operate unsafeguarded nuclear facilities and that have not yet acceded to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and that have not renounced the nuclear-weapons option to reverse clearly and urgently the pursuit of all nuclear-weapons development or deployment and to refrain from any action that could undermine regional and international peace and security and the efforts of the international community towards nuclear disarmament and the prevention of the proliferation of nuclear weapons.
