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

4 May 2000

Original: English

New York, 24 April-19 May 2000

Proposals to improve the effectiveness of the strengthened review process of the Non-Proliferation Treaty, including a programme of action

Working paper submitted by the Netherlands and Norway

I. Background

The present proposal builds on Decision 1 on “Strengthening the Review Process for the Treaty”, adopted by the 1995 Review and Extension Conference. Improved working procedures should be created in order to revitalize the review process of the Non-Proliferation Treaty. For this purpose a programme of action should be developed for dealing with decisions made by the parties to the Treaty. Under such a programme, the parties would commit themselves to carrying out the decisions made by the Review Conference in the period between two Review Conferences. To make this possible, each of the sessions of the Preparatory Committee should be devoted to a limited number of specific thematic issues. In addition, they should include one part dealing with new initiatives and measures, and one part reviewing the operation of the Treaty, regional issues, compliance and universalization as well as procedural issues relating to the Review Conference.

II. Proposal

1. The States Parties affirm the need to continue to move with determination towards the full realization and effective implementation of the provisions of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and Principles and Objectives for Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament. For this purpose the States Parties adopt a Programme of Action to reinforce the strengthened review process of the Treaty.
2. The States Parties agree that the Programme of Action should include the following elements to be considered for the period up to the 2005 Review Conference:

- Entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty;
- Negotiations on a treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons and other explosive devices;
- Transparency measures with regard to strategic and non-strategic nuclear arsenals and exchange of information and views on nuclear arms reductions;
- Options for dealing with weapons-usable fissile material;
- Peaceful uses of nuclear energy;
- Adherence to the comprehensive safeguards agreements of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the Agency's new Additional Protocol on full-scope safeguards;
- Multilateral export control arrangements with a view to increasing transparency in nuclear-related export controls;
- Security assurances;
- Nuclear-weapon-free zones.

3. The States Parties agree that each session of the Preparatory Committee should consist of three components: one part focusing on specific issues in the Programme of Action, one part dealing with new initiatives and measures of relevance for the Non-Proliferation Treaty, and one part reviewing the operation of the Treaty, regional issues, compliance and universalization as well as procedural issues relating to the Review Conference.

4. The States Parties further agree that the Preparatory Committee should hold four sessions prior to each of the Review Conferences. The fourth session should be held as early as possible in that calendar year.

5. The States Parties consider that a distribution of items from the Programme of Action along the following line would be highly desirable:

First session:

- Entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty;
- Negotiations on a treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons and other explosive devices;

Second session:

- Transparency with regard to strategic and non-strategic nuclear arsenals and exchange of information and views on nuclear arms reductions;
- Options for dealing with weapons-usable fissile material;
- Peaceful uses of nuclear energy;

Third session:

- Accession to the IAEA comprehensive safeguards agreements and the Agency's new Additional Protocol on full-scope safeguards;
- Multilateral export control arrangements with a view to increasing transparency in nuclear-related export controls;

Fourth session:

- Security assurances;
- Nuclear-weapon-free zones.

6. Procedural preparations required for the following Review Conference should be made at the fourth session.
