
**Preparatory Committee for the 2010 Review
Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the
Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons**

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**Article V, article VI and preambular paragraphs 8 to 12 of
the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty**

**Working paper by Australia, Austria, Canada, Denmark, Finland,
Hungary, Ireland, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway and
Sweden (“the Vienna Group of Ten”)**

Draft recommendations

The Vienna Group of Ten proposes that the Preparatory Committee agree on the following draft recommendations to the Review Conference:

That the Review Conference:

1. *Call upon* the remaining nine States whose ratification is necessary for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty to enter into force to make all necessary efforts to sign and ratify the Treaty as soon as possible;
2. *Call upon* all States signatories to support the Provisional Technical Secretariat in its efforts to prepare for entry into force of the Treaty by providing it with adequate financial, human and technological resources;
3. *Underline* the importance of identifying possible scenarios and remaining tasks to be completed in order to ensure that the verification system is fully credible, operational and ready at the entry into force of the Treaty.



Working paper: Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty

1. The Vienna Group of Ten (hereafter “the Vienna Group”) reaffirms that the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) constitutes an effective measure of nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation in all its aspects and is vital to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. CTBT was an integral part of the indefinite extension of the Treaty of the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. The group therefore stresses that the CTBT’s entry into force is of the utmost urgency and importance and reiterates the agreement reached at the 2000 Review Conference, in which the CTBT’s early entry into force was identified as the first of 13 practical nuclear disarmament steps. The Group reaffirms that the provisions of article V of the Treaty of the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons are to be interpreted in the light of CTBT.

2. Reiterating that CTBT constrains the development of nuclear weapons and their qualitative improvement, the Vienna Group reaffirms that CTBT combats both horizontal and vertical nuclear proliferation. The Group is concerned that any development of new types of nuclear weapons may result in the resumption of tests and a lowering of the nuclear threshold. The Group calls on all States to refrain from any action which would defeat the object and purpose of CTBT, pending its entry into force. The Democratic People’s Republic of Korea nuclear test of 9 October 2006 further underlined the need for a universal and effective international monitoring and verification system for detecting nuclear explosions.

3. The Vienna Group underlines that existing moratoriums on nuclear weapon test explosions and any other nuclear test explosions must be maintained, pending the CTBT’s entry into force. The Group stresses, however, that such moratoriums cannot serve as a substitute for ratifying CTBT and that only CTBT offers the global community the prospect of a permanent and legally binding commitment to end nuclear testing.

4. The Vienna Group notes with concern that 13 years after it was opened for signature CTBT is yet to enter into force. However, it warmly welcomes the fact that a growing number of countries have ratified the Treaty since 2005, including two countries — as listed in annex II of the Treaty — whose ratifications are a prerequisite for the entry into force of the Treaty. Reducing the number of those annex II countries gives a strong signal on the norm against testing of nuclear weapons and reinforces the international community’s expectations that the nine remaining States will follow suit. CTBT has been signed by 180 States, of which 148 have ratified the Treaty, including 35 whose ratification is necessary for entry into force. The Group renews its call upon all States yet to do so to sign and/or ratify the Treaty without delay, in particular the nine remaining annex II countries, and to recognize the value of CTBT for their national and for international security. The reliable performance of the international monitoring system and the practical development of other aspects of the verification regime, as well as the example of a still growing number of ratifiers, should help them make a positive decision.

5. The Vienna Group welcomes the increasing political support for the Treaty, as was demonstrated by the fact that, in the fourth joint ministerial statement on CTBT in 2008, 96 countries endorsed a strong appeal for the nine remaining annex II countries to ratify the Treaty and allow it to enter into force. The group expresses its

hope that the next article XIV conference in 2009 will improve prospects for the CTBT's entry into force.

6. The Vienna Group is also encouraged by recent political developments that indicate that the overall political context has become more favourable with regard to CTBT. Ratification of CTBT by all nuclear-weapon States, in particular, could not only generate new momentum towards entry into force of CTBT, it could also have a very positive effect on the current review process of the Treaty of the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and the outlook for the 2010 Review Conference. Progress on entry into force of CTBT in advance of the 2010 Review Conference would provide strong momentum for progress on other measures that are necessary for the strengthening of the international disarmament and non-proliferation regime.

7. The Vienna Group welcomes the ideas and initiatives aimed at further enhancing the involvement of individual Governments, scientists and national scientific institutions that are being pursued as a useful way to create broader national support for the benefits of the Treaty and to maintain levels of expertise and investment.

8. The Group welcomes initiatives taken to perform a comprehensive evaluation of the verification regime of CTBT, to demonstrate the level of inspection readiness and to assess how it can be improved.

9. In order to enable the Provisional Technical Secretariat of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO) to complete the Preparatory Commission's mandate, the Vienna Group calls on State signatories to support the work of the Organization by providing adequate resources, as well as relevant expertise and make every effort to ensure that the technical aspects of the CTBTO's work continue to move ahead at an appropriate pace and do not impede political progress toward entry into force. All major components of the verification system must be ready to operate by the time of entry into force.

10. The Vienna Group welcomes the progress made by the CTBTO Preparatory Commission to build the system to verify compliance with CTBT at its entry into force. The goal of this work should be an effective, reliable, participatory and non-discriminatory verification system with global reach. Ultimately, however, this verification system can only show its full worth once CTBT has entered into force.

11. Finally, the Vienna Group stresses that the 2010 Review Conference should reach consensus on a recommendation underlining the essential role of CTBT for the nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime, calling on all States that have not yet done so, in particular those listed in annex II, to sign and ratify CTBT without conditions, reiterating the call on all States to abide by a moratorium and to refrain from any actions contrary to the obligations and provisions of the treaty and highlighting and supporting the important work of the CTBT Preparatory Commission.