

# Preparatory Committee for the 2026 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

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**First session**

Vienna, 31 July–11 August 2023

## Working paper submitted by the Chair of the working group on further strengthening the review process of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

### Recommendations to the Preparatory Committee that would improve the effectiveness, efficiency, transparency, accountability, coordination and continuity of the review process of the Treaty

1. The present working paper is presented following the conclusion of the working group established by [NPT/CONF.2020/DEC.2](#), which met from 24 to 28 July 2023. It is presented under the Chair's own authority and is not intended to represent or imply agreement by States parties on possible draft recommendations for the Preparatory Committee for the 2026 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.
2. The Chair welcomed the substantial, interactive and in-depth dialogue undertaken by States parties throughout the working group discussions, especially those related to transparency and accountability. The draft recommendations contained in the present paper are intended as a contribution to further discussion on these issues.
3. The Chair presented the below recommendations to the working group established as a means of improving the effectiveness, efficiency, transparency, accountability, coordination and continuity of the review process of the Treaty, without prejudice to previously agreed outcomes of Review Conferences in line with the established rules of procedure.

#### Recommendation 1

Strict time limits may be imposed by the chairs of the Preparatory Committee and the President of the Review Conference on statements in the general debate to allow more time for substantive discussions.

#### Recommendation 2

During each substantive cluster of the Preparatory Committee, one plenary meeting should be dedicated to structured discussion on specific topics related to the substance of that cluster. Topics will be decided following consultations among States parties.



**Recommendation 3**

The Main Committees of the Review Conference should be structured such that each State party is given the opportunity to deliver one formal statement, before the Committee moves to an interactive format without a formal list of speakers.

**Recommendation 4**

In accordance with decision 1 of the 1995 Review and Extension Conference, on strengthening the review process for the Treaty, the Main Committees of the Review Conference should devote their meetings to reviewing the implementation of the Treaty over the past review cycle and to addressing priorities for implementation of the Treaty over the next review cycle.

**Recommendation 5**

Main Committee I of the Review Conference should focus on the following: review of the operation of the Treaty, as provided for in its article VIII, paragraph 3, taking into account the decisions and the resolution adopted at the 1995 Review and Extension Conference, as well as commitments undertaken by States parties in the final outcomes of Review Conferences (e.g. the Final Document of the 2000 Review Conference, and the conclusions and recommendations for follow-up actions of the 2010 Review Conference), specifically article VI and preambular paragraphs 8 to 12; security assurances and effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons; nuclear weapon-free zones; and disarmament education.

**Recommendation 6**

Main Committee II of the Review Conference should focus on the following: review of the operation of the Treaty, as provided for in its article VIII, paragraph 3, taking into account the decisions and the resolution adopted at the 1995 Review and Extension Conference, as well as commitments undertaken by States parties in the final outcomes of Review Conferences (e.g. the Final Document of the 2000 Review Conference, and the conclusions and recommendations for follow-up actions of the 2010 Review Conference), specifically article III and preambular paragraphs 4 and 5, especially in their relationship to article IV and preambular paragraphs 6 and 7; articles I and II and preambular paragraphs 1 to 3 in their relationship to articles III and IV; and regional matters, including the implementation of the resolution on the Middle East adopted at the 1995 Review and Extension Conference.

**Recommendation 7**

Main Committee III of the Review Conference should focus on the following: review of the operation of the Treaty, as provided for in its article VIII, paragraph 3, taking into account the decisions and the resolution adopted at the 1995 Review and Extension Conference, as well as commitments undertaken by States parties in the final outcomes of Review Conferences (e.g. the Final Document of the 2000 Review Conference, and the conclusions and recommendations for follow-up actions of the 2010 Review Conference), specifically article IV, the inalienable right of all parties to the Treaty to develop research, production and use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes without discrimination and in conformity with articles I and II; article III, paragraph 3; preambular paragraphs 6 and 7, especially in their relationship to article III, paragraphs 1, 2 and 4 and preambular paragraphs 4 and 5; article V; and other provisions of the Treaty, including article X and universality.

**Recommendation 8**

In order to provide States parties with time to properly consider and discuss the final outcome, the President of the Review Conference should circulate a draft final outcome document at the end of the second week of the Review Conference.

**Recommendation 9**

Subsidiary bodies should conduct their work in an interactive format and focus on specific issues related to Main Committee work that require further in-depth discussion.

**Recommendation 10**

The third session of the Preparatory Committee should establish the subsidiary bodies for the Review Conference and decide on the topics to be discussed. The chairs of the subsidiary bodies should be nominated at the third session of the Preparatory Committee.

**Recommendation 11**

The secretariat should compile proposals from working papers submitted by States parties into thematic omnibus documents for the consideration of States parties two weeks prior to the meetings of the Preparatory Committee and the Review Conference to facilitate focused discussions.

**Recommendation 12**

The chairs of the Preparatory Committee sessions should be nominated before the first session of the Committee, and the President of the Review Conference should be nominated at the third session of the Committee. The President-designate of the Review Conference should commence their work upon the conclusion of the third session of the Committee. The President and chairs should function as a “President’s bureau” under the authority of the President and engage in joint consultations and outreach as appropriate. Should a member of the bureau no longer be able to discharge their duties, the relevant regional group will nominate a replacement, taking into account the principle of continuity. The work of the President’s bureau will not supersede or overlap with the work of the General Committee and will not take decisions on matters of substance and procedure.

**Recommendation 13**

The chair of the first session of the Preparatory Committee should, under their own authority, prepare a report to be sent to the second session of the Committee, identifying areas of convergence and recommending areas of focused discussion by States parties at the second session. The chair of the second session of the Committee should, under their own authority, prepare a report to be sent to the third session of the Committee further identifying areas of convergence and recommending areas of focused discussion by States parties at the third session. The chair of the third session of the Committee should prepare a set of recommendations, taking into account discussions at the third session and the reports of chairs of the first and second sessions on specific issues for consideration by the Review Conference and topics for subsidiary bodies.

**Recommendation 14**

Prior to the commencement of a new review cycle, the secretariat should arrange a handover between the incoming Preparatory Committee chairs and the outgoing “President’s bureau” to ensure institutional knowledge transfer.

**Recommendation 15**

The United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs should be recognized as the permanent secretariat for the review process of the Non-Proliferation Treaty. The International Atomic Energy Agency should continue supporting the Treaty review process on issues related to non-proliferation and peaceful uses of nuclear technology.

**Recommendation 16**

Consistent with action 20 and action 21 of the 2010 Action Plan, nuclear-weapon States should report using a standard template that should build on the disarmament elements of the 2013 common reporting framework and include reporting on, without prejudice to national security: plans related to the modernization of nuclear weapons, and related changes to their nuclear capabilities; the number, type (strategic or non-strategic) and status (deployed or non-deployed) of nuclear warheads; the number and type of delivery vehicles; the measures taken to reduce the role and significance of nuclear weapons in military and security concepts, doctrines and policies; the measures taken to reduce the risk of unintended, unauthorized or accidental use of nuclear weapons; the measures taken to de-alert or reduce the operational readiness of nuclear weapons systems; the number and type of weapons and delivery systems dismantled and reduced as part of nuclear disarmament efforts; and the amount of fissile material for military purposes.

**Recommendation 17**

In implementing action 20 of the 2010 Action Plan, non-nuclear weapon States should develop a standard reporting template to use for national reporting.

**Recommendation 18**

Two plenary meetings of the second session of the Preparatory Committee and one plenary meeting of Main Committee I of the Review Conference should be dedicated to open and focused discussions on national reports by all nuclear-weapon States on the implementation of article VI and the relevant commitments undertaken in final outcomes from Review Conferences, notably decision 2 of the 1995 Review and Extension Conference, on principles and objectives for nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament, the 13 practical steps agreed at the 2000 Review Conference and the 2010 Action Plan. This is without prejudice to voluntary reporting on other aspects of the implementation of the Treaty.

**Recommendation 19**

Discussion of reports should take place in an interactive format that enables questions to be raised and clarification sought and made on the content of national reports. To enable the interactive process, national reports should be submitted three months in advance of the relevant meeting. Questions to nuclear-weapon States should be submitted one month in advance of the relevant meeting. This does not preclude the opportunity to raise questions during the relevant meetings.

**Recommendation 20**

States parties should engage during the current review cycle in dialogue on clearly defined, mutually understood and agreed-upon criteria or benchmarks for reviewing the implementation of the Treaty, particularly as related to article VI.

**Recommendation 21**

In addition to the established practice of conducting consultations with the established Treaty groups, the chairs of the Preparatory Committee sessions and the President of the Review Conference should undertake consultations with States parties in different geographical regions.

**Recommendation 22**

States parties should establish a form of needs-based financial assistance to facilitate the participation of States parties in Preparatory Committee sessions and Review Conferences.

**Recommendation 23**

Preparatory Committee chairs and the President of the Review Conference should facilitate informal intersessional consultations between States parties and non-governmental organizations, taking into account balanced geographical representation.

**Recommendation 24**

Preparatory Committee chairs should be granted discretion to invite experts to provide introductory presentations for substantive discussions by States parties.

**Recommendation 25**

Each Main Committee of the Review Conference should allocate time for presentations by non-governmental organizations, taking into account balanced geographical representation.

**Recommendation 26**

The Review Conference should allocate one plenary meeting to discuss issues of inclusivity.

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