Towards 2020: reflections by the Chair of the 2017 PrepCom

The following points were taken by the Chair from the discussions at the 2017 session of the Preparatory Committee in preparation for the 2020 Review Conference of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

The Chair considers that these reflect basic views on the NPT and its review cycle that appear to be shared by its States parties.

It is the hope of the Chair that these can serve as a reference point for further discussions in the current review cycle.

1. The NPT remains of central importance to its member states, which have reaffirmed their commitment to the Treaty and the implementation of its provisions.

2. The NPT is a treaty with shared, common objectives. Despite disagreements over the pace of its implementation, progress on disarmament, non-proliferation and the use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes are considered as mutually enabling, reinforcing and balanced elements.

3. The NPT is the cornerstone of the global regime for nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament. As such, it is an essential part of the modern collective security system. The current international geopolitical challenges underline the important role of the Treaty and the necessity to uphold and strengthen it.

4. The NPT helps us to ease tensions and build confidence between states and therefore contributes to a safer, more secure and more peaceful world. As its preamble reflects, the NPT aims to safeguard its member states and their peoples from the devastation of nuclear conflict.
5. The NPT is central to our legal and political efforts on non-proliferation and disarmament. These form a continuing process that is underpinned by the Treaty’s review cycle. The NPT combines a near-universal scope with a legally binding framework.

6. It is important that we maintain an open, inclusive and transparent dialogue at NPT Review Conferences and Preparatory Committee meetings at all times. We must strive to make these meetings as effective and efficient as possible, including by maximizing the continuity between them.

7. We must therefore ensure that the vitality and integrity of the Treaty remain intact, and that we continue to work towards its universalization.

8. With a view to the fiftieth anniversary of the NPT’s entry into force in 2020, this means working to identify areas where progress is possible, cooperate to move forward, and search for compromises where necessary.