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

27 April 2007

Original: English

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## First session

Vienna, 30 April-11 May 2007

### Nuclear disarmament

#### Working paper presented by the members of the Group of Non-Aligned States parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

1. The Group of Non-Aligned States parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons emphasizes that the Treaty is a key instrument in the efforts to halt the vertical and horizontal proliferation of nuclear weapons and an essential foundation for the pursuit of nuclear disarmament.
2. The Group of Non-Aligned States parties to the Treaty is deeply concerned by strategic defence doctrines that set out the rationales for the use of nuclear weapons, as demonstrated by the recent policy review by one of the nuclear-weapon States to consider expanding the circumstances in which these weapons could be used.
3. The Group of Non-Aligned States parties to the Treaty reiterates its call for a full implementation of the unequivocal undertaking given by the nuclear-weapon States at the 2000 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons to accomplish the total elimination of their nuclear arsenals leading to nuclear disarmament. That undertaking should be demonstrated without delay through an accelerated process of negotiation and through the full implementation of the 13 practical steps to advance systematically and progressively towards a nuclear-weapon-free world as agreed at the 2000 Review Conference.
4. The Group of Non-Aligned States parties to the Treaty deeply regrets the continued inflexible postures of some nuclear-weapon States that have prevented the Conference on Disarmament from establishing an ad hoc committee on nuclear disarmament. The negotiation of a phased programme for the complete elimination of nuclear weapons with a specified time frame, including a nuclear weapons convention, is necessary and should commence without delay. In the regard, the Group reiterates its call to establish, as soon as possible, and as the highest priority, an ad hoc committee on nuclear disarmament.



5. The Group remains concerned by the continued inability of the Conference on Disarmament to resume its negotiation of a non-discriminatory, multilateral and internationally and effectively verifiable treaty banning the production of fissile materials for nuclear weapons and other explosive devices, taking into account the nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation objectives. In this context, the Conference on Disarmament is urged to agree on a programme of work that includes the immediate commencement of negotiations on such a treaty with a view to its conclusion within five years. The Group is also concerned by attempts to limit the scope of the negotiations on a fissile material treaty as contained in the statement of the Special Coordinator in 1995 and the mandate contained therein, which was endorsed at both the 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and the 2000 Review and Extension Conference.

6. The Group of Non-Aligned States parties to the Treaty remains deeply concerned by the lack of progress towards achieving the total elimination of nuclear weapons despite some reports of bilateral and unilateral reductions. The Group is also concerned by the existence and continued deployment of tens of thousands of such weapons, whose exact number remains unconfirmed, owing to the lack of transparency in various nuclear weapons programmes. While noting the signing of the Treaty between the United States of America and the Russian Federation on Strategic Offensive Reduction on 24 May 2002, the Group stresses that reductions in deployments and in operational status cannot take the place of irreversible reductions and the total elimination of nuclear weapons. The non-entry into force of SOTV is a setback to the 13 practical steps in the field of nuclear disarmament adopted at the 2000 Review Conference. In that regard, the Group calls for the application of the principles of irreversibility and increased transparency by the nuclear-armed States regarding nuclear disarmament and nuclear and other related arms control and reduction measures.

7. The Group of Non-Aligned States parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons believes that the abrogation of the Treaty on the Limitation of Anti-Ballistic Missile Systems has brought new challenges to strategic stability and the prevention of an arms race in outer space. The Group remains concerned that the implementation of a national missile defence system could trigger an arms race or arms races, the further development of advanced missile systems and an increase in the number of nuclear weapons. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 61/58, the Group emphasizes the urgent need for the commencement of substantive work, at the Conference on Disarmament, for the prevention of an arms race in outer space.

8. The Group of Non-Aligned States parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons also believes that the possible development of new types of nuclear weapons and new targeting options to serve aggressive counter-proliferation purposes as well as the lack of progress in diminishing the stockpiles of nuclear weapons in security policies further undermine disarmament commitments.

9. The Group of Non-Aligned States parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons underlines the unanimous conclusion of the International Court of Justice that there exists an obligation to pursue in good faith

and to bring to a conclusion negotiations leading to nuclear disarmament in all its aspects under strict and effective international control.

10. The Group of Non-Aligned States parties to the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons has called for the establishment of a subsidiary body on nuclear disarmament to focus on the issue of full and complete disarmament obligations under article VI.