
Preparatory Committee for the 2015 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

18 April 2013
English
Original: Chinese

Second session

Geneva, 22 April-3 May 2013

Nuclear-weapon-free zones and nuclear issues in the Middle East

Working paper submitted by China

1. The establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones, based on article VII of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and the guidelines on establishing nuclear-weapon-free zones adopted by the United Nations Disarmament Commission in 1999, is of great significance in promoting nuclear disarmament, preventing the proliferation of nuclear weapons and enhancing regional and global peace and security. It also constitutes an important step towards the attainment of a nuclear-weapon-free world.
2. The international community should actively support the countries concerned in their endeavour to establish a nuclear-weapon-free zone on the basis of consultations among themselves and voluntary agreements in the light of the actual situation in their region.
3. Regional security and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, including nuclear weapons, are closely interrelated. All parties concerned should make further efforts to promote the peace process in the Middle East in a spirit of reconciliation and cooperation, in order to enhance the security and stability in the region.
4. Relevant proposals and efforts to establish a zone free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East should continue to be valued and supported. Concrete efforts should be made to promote the establishment of such a zone in accordance with relevant General Assembly resolutions, the resolution on the Middle East adopted at the 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, and relevant provisions of the Final Documents of the 2000 and 2010 Review Conferences. In particular, the practical steps on implementing the 1995 resolution endorsed by all States parties at the 2010 Review Conference should be carried out earnestly. All States parties should work together to convene an international conference on the establishment of a zone free of weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East in 2013 as soon as possible.



5. Israel should accede to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons as a non-nuclear-weapon State and place all its nuclear facilities under the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) safeguards. The States concerned in this region should sign and ratify comprehensive safeguards agreements with IAEA and be encouraged to sign and ratify the Additional Protocol. All these measures are of great importance for strengthening the international non-proliferation regime and promoting the establishment of a zone free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East.

6. All the parties concerned should pursue a peaceful solution to the Iranian nuclear issue through diplomatic negotiations. Political and diplomatic efforts should be intensified to achieve early progress and seek a comprehensive, long-term and appropriate solution in a step-by-step manner.

7. The States parties to the South-East Asia Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty and nuclear-weapon States have reached agreement on the remaining issues regarding the Protocol to that Treaty, which is conducive to the early signing and entry into force of the Protocol and is of great significance for promoting peace and security in South-East Asia.

8. The nuclear-weapon States should undertake unconditionally not to use or threaten to use nuclear weapons against non-nuclear-weapon States or nuclear-weapon-free zones and conclude an international legal instrument in this regard. They should respect the legal status of nuclear-weapon-free zones and sign and ratify the protocols to relevant treaties on nuclear-weapon-free zones. Concrete measures should be taken to implement the security assurances stipulated in all nuclear-weapon-free-zone treaties and relevant protocols.
