

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

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

Working paper submitted by China

The establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones is an important step towards a nuclear-weapon-free world and an important component of global nuclear governance. China's position on nuclear-weapon-free zones and nuclear issues in the Middle East is as follows:

1. Efforts by relevant countries to establish nuclear-weapon-free zones based on article VII of the Non-Proliferation Treaty and the guidelines on establishing nuclear-weapon-free zones adopted by the United Nations Disarmament Commission in 1999 should be actively supported. All 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 should 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 of the relevant treaties on nuclear-weapon-free zones. Concrete measures should be taken to implement relevant security assurances.
2. While facilitating reconciliation and cooperation among the Middle East countries and promoting the Middle East peace process, the international community should continue to attach importance to and support relevant proposals and efforts to establish a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction. Relevant General Assembly resolutions, the Resolution on the Middle East adopted at the 1995 Review and Extension Conference, and relevant provisions of the final documents of the 2000 and 2010 Review Conferences should be effectively implemented. Efforts to promote the early convening of the international conference on the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction should continue.
3. Israel should accede to the Non-Proliferation Treaty as a non-nuclear-weapon State and fulfil its obligations. The States concerned in this region should sign and ratify comprehensive safeguards agreements with the International Atomic Energy Agency and should be encouraged to sign and ratify the additional protocol.



4. The Iranian nuclear issue has a direct bearing on the international nuclear non-proliferation regime and on peace and stability in the Middle East. The achievement of a comprehensive, long-term and appropriate solution to the Iranian nuclear issue through dialogue and negotiations will inject new energy into enhancing comprehensive nuclear governance in the Middle East. Diplomatic efforts should be intensified and concerns should be addressed with a view to promoting dialogue in a practical manner and achieving an agreement at an early date.

5. The international community should fully endorse the signing of the Protocol to the Treaty on a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Central Asia and support the States parties to the Treaty on the Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone and nuclear-weapon States in reaching agreement on the remaining issues of the Protocol and promoting its early signing and entry into force.
