



**CHAIR OF
THE COORDINATING BUREAU
OF THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT**



**Statement by
the Republic of Azerbaijan**

**On behalf of the Group of the Non-Aligned States Parties to the Treaty
on the
Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons
At the 10th Review Conference of the
Treaty on the Non-Proliferation on Nuclear Weapons**

**General Debate
New York, 1 August 2022**

Mr. President,

1. On behalf of the Group of Member States of the Non-Aligned Movement Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, I congratulate you on your election as the President of this 10th Review Conference. Despite the delay due to COVID-19 pandemic, we are hopeful under your able leadership the Conference will come with a successful outcome.

Mr. President,

2. In the Final Document of the 18th Summit of Heads of State and Government held in Baku, Azerbaijan (2019), the Non-Aligned States Parties to the Treaty emphasized that progress in nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation in all its aspects is essential to strengthening international peace and security. The realization of the objectives of the Treaty, and thereby its long-term success and credibility, implementation of the obligations under the Treaty, and the agreements of its Review Conferences, is imperative. In this context, the Group reiterates that the



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full, non-discriminatory and balanced implementation of the three pillars of the NPT is crucial for maintaining its credibility, realizing its objectives, and promoting international peace and security.

3. The Review Conference is an opportunity for us to evaluate the implementation of undertakings of the States Parties under the Treaty, and identify the areas in which, and the means through which, further progress should be sought in the future to ensure the full, effective, and balanced implementation of the Treaty and to achieve its universality.

Mr. President,

4. The Group of Non-Aligned States Parties reaffirms once again its principled positions on nuclear disarmament, which is its highest priority, and remain extremely concerned at the threat to humanity posed by the continued existence of nuclear weapons and of their possible use or threat of use.

5. The Group reaffirms its principled positions on non-proliferation of nuclear weapons in all its aspects. Non-proliferation derives its legitimacy from the larger objective of nuclear disarmament. The Group emphasizes that proliferation concerns are best addressed through multilaterally negotiated, universal, comprehensive and non-discriminatory agreements.

6. The Group welcomes the multilateral efforts towards nuclear disarmament and the total elimination of nuclear weapons. We take note of the adoption of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons on 7 July 2017, its entry into force on 22 January 2021 and the successful convening of its First Meeting of States Parties on June 21-23, 2022. It is hoped that the Treaty would contribute to furthering the objective of the total elimination of nuclear weapons.



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7. The Group stresses the urgent necessity of negotiating and bringing to a conclusion, a comprehensive convention on nuclear weapons, containing also a phased program for the complete elimination of nuclear weapons within a specified time frame.

8. The Group reiterates its deep concern over the greatest threat to peace and security posed by the continued existence of nuclear weapons and those military doctrines, on modernization of their nuclear forces, and developing more effective and newer, including low-yield nuclear warheads. These include the latest United States' Nuclear Posture Review, and the United Kingdom's Integrated Review. The Group strongly calls for putting an immediate end to this trend that in fact is a new nuclear-arms race and thus a clear violation of Article VI of the Treaty.

9. Indefinite extension of the Treaty does not imply the indefinite possession of nuclear arsenals. The Group strongly calls for the implementation of article VI of the Treaty. This is an explicit legal obligation of all the Parties and its implementation is neither optional nor conditional.

10. Pending the total elimination of nuclear weapons, the Group calls for the early commencement of negotiations on effective, universal, unconditional, non-discriminatory, irrevocable and legally binding security assurances to all Non-Nuclear Weapon States by all the Nuclear Weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons under all circumstances as a matter of high priority.

Mr. President,

11. The Group continues to reaffirm the inalienable right of each State to develop research, production and use of nuclear energy, including the sovereign right to develop full national nuclear fuel cycle, for peaceful



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purposes without discrimination, and to participate in the fullest possible exchange of equipment, material and scientific and technological information for the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

12. The Group recognizes that the IAEA is the sole competent authority for verification of compliance with the obligations under the respective safeguard agreements of the Member States, and that the IAEA has a statutory mandate in the area of the establishment of safeguarded worldwide disarmament.

13. We express our full confidence in the impartiality and professionalism of the IAEA and strongly reject any politically motivated attempts by any State to politicize the work of the IAEA.

14. We underline the importance of universalization of the Treaty and call upon all nonparties to the Treaty to accede to the Treaty, without any condition and further delay as non-nuclear-weapon States, and place all their nuclear facilities and activities under IAEA full-scope safeguards.

15. Strict observance of and adherence to IAEA comprehensive safeguards and to the Treaty are conditions for any cooperation in the nuclear area with States not parties to the Treaty. All States parties to the Treaty shall refrain from the transfer of nuclear technology and materials to States not party to the Treaty unless these conditions are met.

Mr. President,

16. We regret the failure of the 9th NPT Review Conference to reach consensus on a final outcome document, despite the efforts made by NAM delegations. Given the crucial role of the NPT in international security, all



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efforts must be made to ensure the convening of the Conference in a manner that contributes to a successful outcome.

17. The tenth Review Conference must reaffirm the importance and continued validity of the commitments made at the 1995, 2000 and 2010 Review Conferences of the Treaty, on nuclear disarmament, nuclear nonproliferation and peaceful uses of nuclear energy and should also call for their complete fulfillment.

18. The Group reaffirms the important role of the nuclear-weapon-free zones in fulfilling the objectives of the Treaty and supports the full operation of treaties establishing such zones, including through ratification of their relevant protocols and removal of all reservations and interpretative declarations incompatible with their object and purpose.

19. The Group once again expresses its longstanding strong support for the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East. The Group further underlines the prime importance of the 1995 Resolution on the Middle East, which is an integral and essential part of the package of decisions reached without a vote that enabled the indefinite extension of the NPT in 1995. Pending its establishment, The Group demands that Israel, the only non-party to the NPT in the region renounce any possession of nuclear weapons, accede to the NPT without precondition and further delay, place promptly all its nuclear facilities under IAEA full-scope safeguards.

20. The Group expresses its disappointment that, as the result of opposition by the US, UK and Canada in the 2015 NPT Review Conference, consensus on new measures regarding the implementation of the 1995 resolution was not achieved.



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21. In this regard, the Group welcomes United Nations General Assembly Decision 73/546, and the convening of First and Second Sessions of the Conference on the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction. The Group, stresses that the 1995 resolution and other decisions on the subject adopted within the context of the NPT Review Conferences remain valid until the objectives are achieved, and the implementation of Decision 73/546 is without prejudice to their validity and shall not also be construed as their replacement.

Mr. President,

22. The Group has submitted 9 Working Papers to this RevCon, which represent our detailed positions on the various related issues.

23. Allow me to conclude by underscores the importance of renewed political will by all States parties to achieve a successful conclusion of this RevCon. The Group stands ready to engage constructively towards this objective and attain a peaceful and secure world for present and future generations.

Thank you.