

ELEMENTS FOR A DRAFT DECLARATION OF THE NUCLEAR-WEAPONS-FREE ZONES

States Parties of the Tlatelolco Treaty

1. The State Parties and Signatories to the Treaties of (Mexico) Tlatelolco (1967), Rarotonga (1985), Bangkok (1995), Pelindaba (1996) and on a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Central Asia (2009) – which have established Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones (NWFZ) – and Mongolia are convinced that the mere existence of nuclear weapons constitutes a threat to the survival of mankind and their use would bear catastrophic consequences to life on Earth. It is, therefore, fundamental to achieve the main goal of nuclear disarmament leading to the total elimination and prohibition of nuclear weapons.
2. We reaffirm the need to advance towards the priority goal of nuclear disarmament and the achievement of the elimination and prohibition of nuclear weapons. In this context, we reiterate our conviction that the achievement of this goal requires firm political will on the part of all States, and particularly those possessing nuclear weapons.
3. We reaffirm that the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons is a violation of international law and of the Charter of the United Nations and a crime against humanity as stated in many United Nations General Assembly resolutions.
4. While noting some positive political signals coming from Nuclear Weapons States (NWS) of their renewed commitment with bilateral and multilateral nuclear disarmament we expect them to be turned into concrete actions in the near future.
5. We recognize multilateralism as the core principle of disarmament negotiations and nuclear non-proliferation efforts aimed at maintaining, strengthening and enlarging the scope of universal nuclear disarmament norms, as well as the complementary nature of irreversible and verifiable unilateral and bilateral measures in this area.
6. We acknowledge that there have been some unilateral and bilateral cut-offs in nuclear arsenals, however, the lack of progress towards the total elimination of nuclear weapons remains a matter of serious concern. It is equally worrisome the fact that there are thousands of

such weapons unaccounted for due to the lack of transparency in nuclear weapons programs.

7. We stress that all nuclear disarmament initiatives should be irreversible, transparent and verifiable.
8. The establishment of internationally recognized NWFZ is based on agreements freely undertaken by interested states. Those agreements strengthen international and regional peace and security as well as the non-proliferation regime and contribute to achieving nuclear disarmament. The establishment of such NWFZ and the full compliance with these agreements ensure that considerable parts of the world become free from nuclear weapons. Therefore, the respect by NWS to the denuclearized status of these zones constitutes an important measure towards nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation.
9. We reiterate the validity of the Declaration— adopted at the first Conference of the State Parties of and Signatories to the Treaties that establish NWFZ that took place in Mexico City in April 2005 – as a contribution to the process of disarmament and non-proliferation. We reaffirm our commitment to the full implementation of the aforementioned Declaration.
10. We urge the NWS and any other State mentioned in the relevant Protocols of the Treaties that established NWFZ that have neither signed nor ratified such Protocols to do so as a matter of priority.
11. We also urge the Nuclear Weapons States that, having signed or ratified any of the pertinent Protocols to Treaties that established NWFZ with reservations and unilateral interpretative declarations, which affect the process of denuclearization of any Zone, to modify or withdraw such reservations and/or declarations.
12. We welcome the establishment of the NWFZs created by the Treaties of Tlatelolco, Rarotonga, Bangkok and Pelindaba as positive steps towards achieving the objective of global nuclear disarmament. We also welcome the efforts undertaken to conclude the process of ratification of the Pelindaba Treaty, signed on 12 April 1996, through which a NWFZ was established in Africa. We urge States in the region to ratify it, paving the way for its entry into force.
13. We welcome the entry into force of the Treaty on a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Central Asia on 2 March 2009, which established a NWFZ in Central Asia and urge all Nuclear Weapon States to sign and ratify its Protocol in order to enable its full implementation.

14. We will continue promoting the establishment and consolidation of new NWFZ all around the world as a means to achieve the goal of total elimination of nuclear weapons. We therefore encourage all States to negotiate agreements that lead to the establishment of new NWFZ, for example, in the Middle East and South Asia.
15. We are fully convinced that the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) is a fundamental instrument to foster nuclear disarmament and to enhance the non-proliferation regime. Hence, it should be a priority of the international community to reach its universalization. We call, therefore, on the entire international community to make all necessary efforts to meet this objective. We also urge those States that are not parties to the Treaty to adhere to it unconditionally as a matter of priority as Non Nuclear Weapon States (NNWS).
16. We express our deepest concerns over the lack of progress in the implementation of the nuclear disarmament commitments agreed to during the 2000 NPT Review Conference.
17. We urge the NWS to fulfill their obligations under article VI of the NPT by expediting the implementation of the outcomes of the 1995 and 2000 NPT Review Conferences, which call for the total elimination of nuclear weapons by means of systematic and progressive efforts towards nuclear disarmament, in particular, the 13 Steps agreed to in the outcome document of the VI NPT Review Conference, which includes the unequivocal undertaking by the NWS to accomplish the total elimination of their nuclear arsenals, leading to nuclear disarmament which all States are committed to.
18. The 2010 NPT Review Conference should establish a subsidiary body on nuclear disarmament to address the issue of the implementation of obligations under the article VI of the NPT.
19. We believe that a phased programme to gradually eliminate all nuclear weapons should be established within a specific timeframe. The negotiations of this programme should take place at the Conference of Disarmament (CD). For this purpose, we recognize the necessity of establishing in the CD an appropriate subsidiary body with a mandate to negotiate nuclear disarmament. The CD is urged to agree on a programme of work which includes the immediate establishment of such a body.
20. We reiterate our position in respect to the total ban of all nuclear tests and we emphasize the need for reaching universal adherence to the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT), particularly by all

NWS, to contribute to the process of nuclear disarmament. We highlight the importance of implementing a moratorium on nuclear weapons tests or on any other kind of nuclear explosions until the entry into force of that treaty. We reiterate that to fully meet the goals of the Treaty, it is essential that all signatories, in particular the NWS, maintain the standing commitment to total and unconditional disarmament. We call for States who have not signed or ratified this instrument to do so as soon as possible.

21. The total elimination of nuclear weapons is the only absolute guarantee against the use or the threat of use of nuclear weapons. As a step towards a world free of nuclear weapons, we urge the NWS to provide the NNWS with effective negative security assurances that the former will not use or threaten to use nuclear weapons against the latter. In addition to the commitments undertaken in the context of UNSC Resolution 984 (1995) and by respecting the legally-binding negative security assurances contained in the pertinent Protocols of the NWFZ Treaties, we urge the NWS to take all necessary measures to negotiate and conclude a treaty on universal, unconditional and legally-binding security assurances to the NNWS. Until such a treaty comes into existence we also urge NWS to fully respect the commitments already taken in relation to negative security assurances. This issue should be addressed as a matter of priority at 2010 NTP Review Conference. We highlight the need for the establishment of a subsidiary body of the 2010 NPT Review Conference on negative security assurances.
22. We reaffirm the inalienable right of all States to develop, research, produce and use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes without any kind of discrimination. Hence, we underscore the role the IAEA plays in verifying that nuclear energy is only being used for peaceful uses.
23. We are convinced that any restriction or limitation to the use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes should be consistent with the NPT provisions and with the United Nations Charter. We underscore the importance of non-proliferation agreements to be universal, transparent and non-discriminatory. In this context, we recognize that multilateralism is the cornerstone of disarmament negotiations and non-proliferation efforts.
24. Furthermore, we are convinced of the benefit that the use of the resources devoted to nuclear weapons programs could have for humanity if they would be utilized for supporting social and economic development.

25. We recognize the importance of multilateralism and in particular the notable role played by the United Nations in the area of nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation and we reiterate our commitment to adopting measures to strengthen that role.
26. We emphasize the important role of the NWFZ as constructive bridges in disarmament negotiations and dialogue. We will continue to pursue international efforts aiming at a world free from nuclear weapons. In this regard, we intend to foster cooperation among the NWFZ to fully implement the objectives of the treaties. We express our interest in promoting initiatives aiming at strengthening national capacities and education in order to alert for the dangers posed by nuclear weapons and to promote their total elimination.
27. We renew our commitments towards strengthening cooperation and consultation mechanisms among the different NWFZ. To accomplish this purpose, we will continue to promote the exchange of information among the NWFZ and will work to coordinate our positions, as appropriate, in international fora, conferences and international organizations.
28. In order to continue contributing to nuclear disarmament efforts, We, the State Parties and Signatories to the Treaties of Tlatelolco (1967), Rarotonga (1985), Bangkok (1995), Pelindaba (1996) and on a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Central Asia (2009), and Mongolia, decide to convene the Second Meeting of the State Parties and Signatories of the NWFZ in 2010, in New York, prior to the VIII NPT Review Conference. We express our interest in making an effective contribution to the works of the III Preparatory Committee for the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the NPT that will be held from 4 to 15 May 2009 in New York.