Working Paper submitted to the Working Group on further strengthening the review process of the NPT

Transparency and Improved Monitoring of the Implementation of Article VI

Ireland, New Zealand, Switzerland

States Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) have long recognised the need to strengthen accountability through improved transparency, especially concerning the implementation of disarmament obligations and commitments. In recent years this need has become acute.

The adoption of Decision 1 of the 1995 NPT Review and Extension Conference on Strengthening the Review Process for the Treaty established the current review process structure with a view to evaluating the results of the period of review, including the implementation of undertakings of the States parties under the Treaty, and identifying the areas in which, and the means through which, further progress should be sought in the future. However, a lack of clear guidance accompanying the Decision meant subsequent review cycles have not pursued a systematic approach to reviewing and discussing the implementation of obligations and commitments, including with respect to the national reports of State Parties. In practice this means, as one recent study put it, that national reporting is “irregular and uneven” on implementation of disarmament obligations and commitments:

“Reporting in a more formalized manner, particularly by the Nuclear-Weapon States, with regard to their nuclear weapon capabilities and the implementation of Article VI obligations and nuclear disarmament commitments, would enable progress on implementation to be regularly monitored and reviewed and build mutual confidence, in line with Actions 5 and 21 of the 2010 Action Plan.”

Achieving progress in the area of transparency and reporting was an important area of focus at the 2022 Review Conference, with a view to the inclusion of decisions in this respect in the final outcome document.

While the 2022 Review Conference did not adopt a Final document, significant, constructive work was conducted on the issue and should be taken forward by the Working Group on Further Strengthening the Review Process and throughout the Preparatory Committee Meetings of the Eleventh Review Cycle. The elements below on possible measures towards improved transparency and monitoring of the implementation of Article VI are grounded in informal proposals and consultations at the Tenth Review Conference, and represents a starting point for discussions and further development in the course of the current review cycle. The text is also consistent with

proposals made by a range of States Parties and experts before, during, and subsequent to, the 2022 NPT Review Conference.

**Measures for improved transparency and Monitoring of the Implementation of Article VI**

The Conference recognises the necessity of strengthening accountability through enhanced transparency and measurability of the implementation of Article VI obligations and nuclear disarmament-related commitments.

The Conference calls upon all NPT State parties, particularly the nuclear-weapon States, to implement their Article VI obligations and nuclear disarmament-related commitments, in a manner that enables the progress on implementation to be regularly monitored and reviewed.

The Conference urges all NPT States parties, particularly the Nuclear-Weapon States to fully implement Actions 20 and 21 of the 2010 NPT Action Plan, including with regard to a standard reporting form. Such measures would further enhance transparency and increase mutual confidence, as noted in Action 5 of the 2010 NPT Action Plan, and help ensure and facilitate the evidence-based evaluation of progress toward the full implementation of Article VI. In this regard, the Conference encourages the Nuclear-Weapon States to report at least twice during the Review Conference cycle at appropriate intervals.

The Conference decides to commence a process to improve the monitoring and implementation of Article VI obligations and nuclear disarmament-related commitments, building on national reporting, in particular by nuclear-weapon States. To that end, the Conference endorses the following practical steps:

- The Chairs of each Preparatory Committee Meeting will conduct consultations with all States Parties on this issue in advance of each Preparatory Committee Meeting;
- The Chairs of each Preparatory Committee Meeting will allocate time under cluster 1 for a structured discussion on this issue, including with respect to the national reports of States Parties, in particular those of the nuclear-weapon States. As part of this structured discussion, the Nuclear-Weapon States will,
jointly or individually, present information about the implementation of their Article VI obligations and nuclear disarmament related commitments.

- The nuclear-weapon States are encouraged to include the following items: (i) plans related to the modernization of nuclear weapons, and related changes to their nuclear capabilities. (ii) the number, type (strategic or non-strategic) and status (deployed or non-deployed) of nuclear warheads; (iii) the number and the type of delivery vehicles; (iv) the measures taken to reducing the role and significance of nuclear weapons in military and security concepts, doctrines and policies; (v) the measures taken to reduce the risk of unintended, unauthorized or accidental use of nuclear weapons; (vi) the measures taken to de-alert or reduce the operational readiness of nuclear weapon systems; (vii) the number and type of weapons and delivery systems dismantled and reduced as part of nuclear disarmament efforts; (viii) the amount of fissile material for military purposes.

- The Chairs of the Preparatory Committee meetings will provide a joint-report to each Review Conference, including, inter alia, specific recommendations, such as targets and indicators, to improve the monitoring of and reporting on implementation of Article VI obligations and disarmament related commitments.

- Each Review Conference will allocate time in Main Committee I for a structured dialogue, drawing upon national reporting and the joint-report of the Preparatory Committee Chairs, with a view to strengthening implementation of Article VI obligations and disarmament related commitments.