Disarmament Commission
2013 substantive session
New York, 1-19 April 2013
Agenda item 4

Recommendations for achieving the objective of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation of nuclear weapons

Working paper submitted by the Chair

The Commission:

1. Urges all States to continue to commit to the promotion of international peace and security and to remain determined to achieve a world without nuclear weapons;

2. Reaffirms the role of the Conference on Disarmament as the single multilateral disarmament negotiating body, and urges the Conference to agree on and implement as soon as possible a balanced and comprehensive programme of work;

3. Encourages member States to explore options for facilitating the substantive work of the Conference on Disarmament on priority issues and for revitalizing the disarmament machinery. To this end, consultations on convening a fourth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament should be intensified, in particular on its objectives. Other measures to support such revitalization include the open-ended working group on nuclear disarmament, which will meet in 2013 to develop proposals to take forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations for the achievement and maintenance of a world without nuclear weapons; the establishment of a group of governmental experts in 2014, which will make recommendations on possible aspects that could contribute to but not negotiate a treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices on the basis of document CD/1299 and the mandate contained therein; and the high-level meeting of the General Assembly to be held on 26 September 2013, to contribute to achieving the goal of nuclear disarmament;

4. Urges member States to pursue negotiations in good faith on effective measures relating to nuclear disarmament and on a treaty on general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control;
5. Notes the relevance of the five point proposal for nuclear disarmament of the Secretary-General of the United Nations;

6. Recognizes the need to reduce the role of nuclear weapons in security policies and to commit to further reducing the operational status of their nuclear weapon systems. In addition, the Commission urges reduction of the risk of unintentional or accidental use of nuclear weapons including through their detargeting and de-alerting, where appropriate;

7. Urges all States not to carry out nuclear weapon test explosions or any other nuclear explosions and to maintain their moratoriums in this regard, also urges the early entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, and to this end further urges those that have not yet done so to sign and/or ratify the Treaty;

8. Encourages all concerned States to sign and/or ratify the nuclear-weapon-free zone treaties and their relevant protocols and to constructively consult and cooperate to bring about the entry into force of the relevant legally binding protocols of all such nuclear-weapon-free zone treaties, which include negative security assurances, and also encourages all concerned States to withdraw any related reservations or unilateral interpretative declarations that are incompatible with the object and purpose of such treaties;

9. Reaffirms that the total elimination of nuclear weapons is the only absolute guarantee against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons, and recognizes, pending the total elimination of nuclear weapons, the legitimate interest of States to receive legally binding security assurances;

10. Calls upon all States concerned, pending the conclusion of a fissile material cut-off treaty, to declare and uphold, on a voluntary basis, a moratorium on the production of fissile material for use in nuclear weapons and other nuclear explosive devices, and encourages all States concerned to exert their utmost efforts, on the basis of the comprehensive and balanced programme of work of the Conference on Disarmament, to start and conclude as soon as possible a fissile material cut-off treaty in accordance with the Shannon report (CD/1299) and the mandate contained therein;

11. Calls upon all States to commit to strengthening the role of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) as the competent authority responsible for verifying compliance with IAEA safeguards agreements;

12. Stresses the importance of all States concluding safeguards agreements with IAEA in accordance with their respective obligations;

13. Encourages that further efforts be taken to conclude the Model Protocol Additional to the agreements between State(s) and the International Atomic Energy Agency for the Application of Safeguards, approved by the Board of Governors of the Agency on 15 May 1997;

14. Recognizes the importance of preventing the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their delivery vehicles to non-State actors, and encourages States to fully implement relevant Security Council resolutions, including resolution 1540 (2004) of 28 April 2004;
15. Reaffirms the inalienable right of all States to develop research, production and use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes without discrimination and in conformity with their non-proliferation obligations, and further stresses the importance of ensuring that IAEA resources for technical cooperation activities are sufficient, assured and predictable;

16. Urges Member States to refrain from exporting nuclear-related equipment, materials and scientific and technological information to any State not party to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and without a comprehensive safeguards agreement with IAEA;

17. Recalls that the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons decided, inter alia, that “the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the co-sponsors of the 1995 resolution, in consultation with the States of the region, would convene a conference in 2012, to be attended by all States of the Middle East, on the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction, on the basis of arrangements freely arrived at by the States of the region and with the full support and engagement of the nuclear-weapon States”, and urges the Secretary-General and the co-sponsors of the 1995 resolution, in consultations with the States of the region, to continue working with the facilitator to convene the Conference without any further delay and as soon as 2013, if feasible, in order to preserve the relevance and credibility of the Non-Proliferation Treaty and to contribute to the success of its 2015 review process. [Calls upon the concerned parties to engage constructively in order to ensure the future holding of the Conference, and in this context notes the decision by one non-State party to the Treaty to abstain from participating in 2012];

18. Recognizes that the responsibilities associated with nuclear security rest with the individual States, encourages efforts towards strengthening nuclear security and reducing the threat of nuclear terrorism and securing all nuclear and radiological material as well as sensitive nuclear information, and calls upon all States to work cooperatively as an international community to advance nuclear security, while requesting and providing assistance, including in the field of capacity-building, as necessary;

19. Commends and further encourages the constructive role played by civil society in promoting nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, encourages all States to promote, in cooperation with civil society, disarmament and non-proliferation education, which, inter alia, contributes to raising public awareness about the tragic consequences of the possible use of nuclear weapons, and urges strengthening of the international efforts to promote nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation towards achieving the objective of the total elimination of nuclear weapons.