Disarmament Commission
2003 substantive session
New York, 31 March-17 April 2003
Agenda item 4

Ways and means to achieve nuclear disarmament

Working paper submitted by Pakistan

To be included in section V, “Conclusion and recommendations” of the Chairman’s working paper on “Ways and means to achieve nuclear disarmament”

First

Nuclear deterrence, so long as it serves strategic stability, should be maintained at the least possible level. The conclusion of the Moscow Treaty for the reduction of strategic nuclear weapons should serve as a prelude to achieving further drastic reductions in the present nuclear arsenals of the two major nuclear Powers. In the first instance, their nuclear weapons should be reduced — unilaterally, bilaterally or plurilaterally — to a level of parity with other nuclear-weapon States. Thereafter, further reductions in nuclear arsenals could be implemented multilaterally.

Second

Implications of theatre missile defences for stability in some of the world’s most sensitive regions need much greater attention. It is the responsibility of the major Powers to discourage the introduction of anti-ballistic missile systems in such regions.

Third

The NPT-recognized nuclear-weapon States have committed themselves to the goal of eliminating nuclear weapons. This commitment needs to be operationalized. Negotiations should also commence on nuclear disarmament at the earliest in the Conference on Disarmament.
Fourth

Pursuant to the Millennium Declaration, an international conference on reducing nuclear dangers should be convened.

Fifth

Multilateral negotiations must convene to conclude a legally binding international instrument on negative security assurances to non-nuclear-weapon States in accordance with the United Nations resolutions. Such an instrument would provide credible guarantees against the proliferation of nuclear weapons. Additionally, nuclear-weapon States should also recognize the nuclear-weapon-free zones established on the basis of arrangements freely arrived at.

Sixth

Commencement of negotiations in the Conference on Disarmament on the conclusion of a universal, non-discriminatory and verifiable fissile material treaty, which addresses both nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation aspects.

Seventh

Commitment to the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty and, pending its entry into force, continued observance of unilateral moratoria by the nuclear-weapon States.

Eighth

Commencement of negotiations on a multilateral legal instrument to prevent an arms race in outer space. Unilateral steps, whether technological or military, will invariably invite responses from other Powers which feel that their security is jeopardized by such steps.

Ninth

The threat posed by missiles should be addressed within a comprehensive and cooperative framework, responsive to the security concerns of all States. The Conference on Disarmament should consider the issue of missiles. Concurrently, the Member States may consider equitable and practical interim measures designed to reduce missile-related threats at all levels.

Tenth

Removal of undue restrictions on the transfer of nuclear technology, under International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards, to developing countries for energy, health and agriculture purposes.