

Preparatory Committee for the 2020 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

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Nuclear-weapon-free zones and nuclear issues in the Middle East

Working paper submitted by China

1. The establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones, as a key step toward a nuclear-weapon-free world, is of great significance in achieving goals of nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation, as well as promoting global and regional peace and security.
2. The international community should continue to support the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones in accordance with Article VII of the NPT, as well as the principles and guidelines for the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone recommended by the UN Disarmament Commission in its report dated April 30, 1999.
3. The nuclear-weapon States should undertake unconditionally not to use or threaten to use nuclear weapons against non-nuclear-weapon States or nuclear-weapon-free zones, and conclude an international legal instrument to this end.
4. The nuclear-weapon States should respect the legal status of nuclear-weapon-free zones, sign and ratify protocols to treaties on nuclear-weapon-free zones, and take concrete measures to implement the security assurances stipulated in relevant protocols. In this regard, restarting negotiation progress between the P5 and the ASEAN member countries with a view to signing the Protocol at an early date, on the basis of adhering to the established consensus, should be supported.
5. While promoting reconciliation and cooperation among Middle East countries and advancing the peace process of the Middle East, the international community should continue to support the establishment of a Middle East Zone Free of Nuclear Weapons and Other Weapons of Mass Destruction. Relevant resolutions and decision of successive sessions of the UN General Assembly, the Resolution on Middle East adopted by the 1995 NPT Review Conference, as well as relevant provisions of the Final Documents adopted by the 2000 NPT Review Conference and the 2010 NPT Review Conference should be earnestly implemented. Efforts should also be made to facilitate the convening of the Conference on the Establishment of a Middle East Zone Free of Nuclear Weapons and Other Weapons of Mass Destruction, in accordance with the Decision of the 73th Session of the UN General Assembly.



6. Israel should accede to the NPT as non-nuclear-weapon State as soon as possible. States concerned in the Middle East are called upon to sign and ratify Comprehensive Safeguards Agreements with the IAEA. The international community should continue to encourage states concerned in the Middle East to sign and ratify the Additional Protocols to the Comprehensive Safeguards Agreements with the IAEA.
