
**Preparatory Committee for the 2015 Review
Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the
Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons**

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**Priority issues for discussion and progress with regard to the
implementation of the conclusions and recommendations for
follow-up actions of the 2010 Review Conference
(2010 action plan)****Working paper submitted by the European Union**

1. The European Union will engage in the second session of the Preparatory Committee with a view to upholding and strengthening the international nuclear non-proliferation regime, bearing in mind current major proliferation challenges, by promoting a comprehensive implementation of the substantive and balanced outcomes of the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, and by reporting on its own activities, in order to achieve tangible and realistic progress towards the goals enshrined in the Treaty.

2. To attain this goal, the European Union will work with all States parties at the meeting, on the basis of the decision adopted by its Council on 29 March 2010 (2010/212/CFSP), and bearing in mind the working papers submitted to the 2010 Review Conference and the 2012 Preparatory Committee (NPT/CONF.2010/PC.III/WP.26, NPT/CONF.2015/PC.I/WP.45 and NPT/CONF.2015/PC.I/WP.46) updated through this paper.

3. The European Union will work to ensure that States parties to the Treaty address and report on progress at the second session of the Preparatory Committee, and join it in particular on the following undertakings:

(a) To reaffirm their commitment to comply with their obligations and to fulfil the goals of the Treaty and towards universal accession to the Treaty, emphasizing the call upon all States non-parties to the Treaty to become States parties without delay as non-nuclear-weapon States parties and, pending their accession to the Treaty, to adhere to its terms and pledge commitments to non-proliferation and disarmament.

- The European Union, in line with action 1, continues to actively contribute to the global efforts to seek a safer world for all and to create the conditions for a world without nuclear weapons in accordance with the goals of the Treaty, in a



way that promotes international stability, and based on the principle of undiminished security for all. The European Union welcomes and encourages the five nuclear weapon States to continue their series of meetings held in Paris in 2011, in Washington in 2012 and in Geneva on 16 and 17 April 2013 to implement the commitments they made at the 2010 Conference, including on confidence-building, transparency and verification. The European Union also takes note with appreciation of all initiatives aimed at promoting the implementation of the action plan in the field of non-proliferation and disarmament, including, inter alia, the “Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Initiative” group, which has met a number of times at the ministerial level since 2012.

(b) To reaffirm the commitment to and to stress the need for concrete progress in nuclear arms control and disarmament processes, especially through an overall reduction in the global stockpile of nuclear weapons, in accordance with article VI of the Treaty, welcoming the considerable reductions made so far and taking into account the special responsibility of the States that possess the largest arsenals.

- The European Union, with regard to actions 3-5, welcomed the increased transparency shown by some nuclear-weapon States, in particular the two European Union Member States, on the nuclear weapons they possess, and encouraged continued efforts by all nuclear-weapon States in this respect.
- The European Union furthermore welcomed the entry into force of the New START Treaty between the United States of America and the Russian Federation, and continues to encourage the United States and the Russian Federation to implement the treaty and to actively strive for further reductions in their nuclear arsenals, including with regard to non-strategic weapons.
- The European Union encourages the United States and the Russian Federation to continue negotiations in order to achieve greater reductions in their nuclear arsenals, including non-strategic weapons. We call on them and on all States possessing non-strategic nuclear weapons to include them in their general arms control and disarmament processes, with a view to their reduction and elimination, while agreeing on the importance of further transparency and confidence-building measures in order to advance the nuclear disarmament process.

(c) To reaffirm the commitment to treaty-based nuclear arms control and disarmament by underlining the need to renew multilateral efforts and revitalize multilateral instruments, in particular the Conference on Disarmament.

- The European Union, in this respect, remains deeply concerned by the ongoing stalemate in the Conference on Disarmament, including the persistent failure to agree on a programme of work for the Conference. It is therefore committed to engage, in order to make progress on actions 6, 7 and 15, in substantive discussions on all the core issues on the Conference agenda. The European Union has also continuously called upon the Conference to consider the question of the enlargement of its membership.

(d) To promote, with regard to the Conference on Disarmament, the immediate commencement and early conclusion of negotiations on a treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive

devices, or fissile material cut-off treaty, as indispensable steps towards fulfilment of the obligations and final objective enshrined in article VI of the Treaty.

- The European Union has repeatedly called for the immediate commencement and early conclusion of the negotiation in the Conference on Disarmament on a fissile material cut-off treaty, which remains a clear priority. This is urgent and important as an essential step to seek a safer world for all and to create the conditions for a world without nuclear weapons, in accordance with the goals of the Treaty. National security concerns, while legitimate, can and should be addressed as part of the negotiation process rather than as a prerequisite. Confidence-building measures can be taken immediately, without the need to wait for the commencement of formal negotiations. In this regard, pending negotiations and the entry into force of a fissile material cut-off treaty, the European Union calls on all States concerned to declare and uphold an immediate moratorium on the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices.
- All European Union Member States supported General Assembly resolution 67/53 on a treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices. The mechanism established by this resolution represents a useful contribution to helping the Conference on Disarmament without undermining its authority and primary role in multilateral disarmament negotiations. The European Union is therefore committed to engaging, in order to make progress on actions 6, 7 and 15, in substantive discussions on all the core issues on the agenda of the Conference.

(e) To uphold the Treaty, bearing in mind current major proliferation challenges, in particular in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Syrian Arab Republic, through developing a common understanding of States parties on how to respond resolutely and effectively, including through the Security Council, to cases of non-compliance.

- The European Union, in line with action 26, has actively dealt with the major proliferation and non-compliance challenges. The European Union supported a resolution adopted by the Board of Governors of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in June 2011, to report Syrian non-compliance with its safeguards agreement to the Security Council, as well as the resolution adopted by the IAEA Board of Governors on 13 September 2012 urging the Islamic Republic of Iran to cooperate with IAEA on clarifying the outstanding issues with regard to the possible military dimensions of the nuclear programme of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and the resolution adopted by the IAEA General Conference on 21 September 2012 on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.
- The European Union engaged, in particular in the case of the Islamic Republic of Iran, in renewed efforts aimed at finding a negotiated solution. The objective of the European Union remains to reach a comprehensive long-term settlement, which would restore international confidence in the exclusively peaceful nature of the nuclear programme of the Islamic Republic of Iran, ensuring that the Islamic Republic of Iran is in compliance with all its obligations under the Treaty, as well as relevant Security Council resolutions and resolutions of the IAEA Board of Governors, while fully respecting its right to the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. The most recent meetings of

representatives from China, France, Germany, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States, led by the High Representative of the European Union, with the Islamic Republic of Iran are a clear example of the determination of the European Union to work towards achieving a diplomatic solution. The European Union urges the Islamic Republic of Iran to constructively engage on the basis of the confidence-building proposal presented by the aforementioned States, or “EU 3+3”, and to take the concrete steps that would pave the way for comprehensive negotiations. The European Union calls on all States Members of the United Nations to support these efforts by fully implementing relevant Security Council resolutions.

- The European Union also strongly condemned the launches conducted by the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea on 13 April and 12 December 2012 as well as the nuclear test conducted on 12 February 2013, in blatant violation of Security Council resolutions 1695 (2008), 1718 (2008) and 1874 (2009), reconfirmed in resolutions 2087 (2013) and 2094 (2013). The European Union strongly urged the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea to abandon all its existing nuclear and ballistic missile programmes in a complete, verifiable and irreversible manner. The European Union furthermore called on the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea to refrain from any further provocations and to return to full compliance with the Treaty and IAEA safeguards obligations.

(f) To make progress in implementing the action plan adopted at the 2010 Review Conference, including in implementing the 1995 resolution on the Middle East and the decision taken in that respect at the 2010 Review Conference.

(g) To stress the importance of nuclear-weapon-free zones for peace and security, on the basis of arrangements freely entered into between the States of the region concerned and in line with the principles set out by the Disarmament Commission in 1999.

(h) In this spirit, to call in particular upon all States in the region of the Middle East to make progress towards the establishment in that region of a zone free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems, to refrain from taking measures that preclude the achievement of this objective, and to reach an agreement on concrete practical steps, as part of a process, towards the establishment of such a zone, as agreed at the 2010 Review Conference.

- The European Union, in line with part IV of the action plan, strongly supports the mechanism for implementing the 1995 resolution on the Middle East, as agreed in 2010. The European Union noted with regret the postponement of the Conference on the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction, which, in accordance with the decision of the 2010 Review Conference, was scheduled to take place in 2012. The European Union remains fully committed to the objective of establishing such a zone and hopes the Conference will be convened as soon as possible. It supports the facilitator’s proposal to conduct informal multilateral consultations to secure arrangements for the Helsinki Conference to be freely arrived at by the States of the region. The European Union will, in the run-up to the Helsinki Conference and beyond, continue working closely together

with the facilitator and all concerned and interested parties. It has contributed to the process through two European Union-sponsored seminars on a zone free of weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East, one in July 2011 and another one in November 2012, and stands ready for possible follow-up initiatives in close coordination with facilitator Laajava.

(i) To promote a rapid entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty through diplomatic and financial engagement and pending the entry into force of the Treaty, to call on all States, and in particular on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, to abide by a moratorium on nuclear test explosions, and to refrain from any action contrary to the provisions, object and purpose of the Treaty.

- The Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty is of crucial importance to nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, and is a top priority for the European Union. The European Union, with regard to actions 10 to 12, has repeatedly called on all States that have not yet done so, in particular the remaining Annex 2 States, to ratify the Treaty at an early date. The European Union welcomes the most recent signature by Niue and ratifications by Iraq, Brunei Darussalam and Chad which brought the number of ratifications to nearly 160. In line with actions 13 and 14, the European Union has continued to provide significant support for the Provisional Technical Secretariat of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization to strengthen the verification system (more than €15 million since 2006). The latest Council Decision (2012/699/CFSP), adopted on 13 November 2012, provides for new financial support of €5.2 million. Furthermore, the European Union in 2012 engaged in diplomatic démarches in all States that had not yet signed or ratified the treaty.

(j) To strengthen the effectiveness and comprehensiveness of the non-proliferation regime. The European Union considers that the conclusion with IAEA of a comprehensive safeguards agreement together with the additional protocol represents the verification standard under article III of the Treaty. The European Union also encourages the evolution of safeguards to a State-level concept applicable to all States that is more objectives-based and that considers all safeguards-relevant information about a State. This approach will enable IAEA to focus its efforts where the risks of proliferation are greatest.

- With regard to the implementation of action 33, the European Union's Regional System for Accountancy and Control, EURATOM Safeguards, together with IAEA, have continued to develop their partnership arrangements in order to promote transparency and mutual confidence. The European Union continued to support actively the Agency's safeguards system through, inter alia, the European Commission's Safeguards Support Programme, with an average of €3.3 million per year. The European Union furthermore contributed €5 million towards modernizing the IAEA Safeguards Analytical Laboratory in 2011 and a further €5 million in 2012. Via the IAEA member State support programmes, the European Union also provided the Agency with technology and expertise from the European Commission Joint Research Centre and its institutes at Ispra, Italy, Geel, Belgium, and Karlsruhe, Germany, in many technical areas related to the effective implementation of safeguard verification measures.

(k) To recognize the importance of appropriate effective export controls, in compliance with Security Council resolutions 1540 (2004), 1887 (2009) and 1977 (2011) and in accordance with paragraph 2 of article III of the Treaty.

- The European Union fully supports the activities of the international export control regimes, mainly the Nuclear Suppliers Group, the Zangger Committee, the Australia Group, the Wassenaar Arrangement and the Missile Technology Control Regime. The Zangger Committee and the Nuclear Suppliers Group continue to be important forums to share experience and work effectively towards efficient export controls, thus contributing concretely to fighting proliferation. All States should draw on their work when drafting and implementing their respective export control legislation. The European Union has committed around €5 million to assist third countries with improving their legal framework and institutional capacities for the establishment and enforcement of effective export controls in 2010-2013 and will continue its assistance activities.

(l) To strengthen the Treaty by working on a common understanding of States parties on how to respond effectively to a State party's withdrawal from the Treaty, including by drawing attention to the potential implications for international peace and security of withdrawal from the Treaty. Also to strengthen the Treaty by stressing the requirement for the Security Council to act promptly and address without delay any State party's notice of its withdrawal from the Treaty, and by promoting the adoption of measures in this regard, including arrangements for maintaining adequate IAEA safeguards on all nuclear materials, equipment, technologies and facilities developed for peaceful purposes.

(m) To broaden acceptance and support for the concept of responsible development of peaceful uses of nuclear energy in the best safety, security and non-proliferation conditions, including through support for the activities of the IAEA technical cooperation programme and of multilateral approaches to the nuclear fuel cycle, while stressing the need for compliance with obligations under Security Council resolutions 1540 (2004) and 1887 (2009).

- The European Union remains committed to the objectives contained in actions 38 to 46, in order to ensure the best safety, security and non-proliferation conditions by countries wishing to develop in a responsible way their capacities in the field of peaceful uses of nuclear energy. The European Union fully supports the key role played by IAEA in the field of nuclear safety and the importance of the action plan on nuclear safety adopted at the IAEA General Conference in 2011. In the light of the Fukushima accident, the European Union undertook, as a matter of priority, a review of the safety of all European Union nuclear power plants on the basis of a comprehensive and transparent risk and safety assessment ("stress tests"). Neighbouring and other countries had been invited to participate in these tests. The stress tests were overseen by independent national regulatory authorities and reports on outcomes and subsequent measures were made public.
- The European Union joined the international call for strengthening nuclear security, including at two nuclear security summits in 2010 and 2012. It welcomes the invitation by IAEA to a ministerial conference on Nuclear Security for July 2013. It has supported nuclear security through five

consecutive Council decisions and other financial instruments since 2004 with more than €34.5 million.

4. To achieve the objectives outlined above, the European Union will engage constructively with all States parties, and where appropriate with States not parties to the Treaty, through statements during the 2013 Preparatory Committee, the submission of proposals on issues for consideration by States parties that may form the basis for decisions of the 2015 Review Conference and by actively encouraging the contribution of civil society in promoting the principles and objectives of the Treaty, including through its own non-proliferation consortium established in 2010.¹

5. The European Union will work in particular towards strengthening the effectiveness and comprehensiveness of the non-proliferation regime, and towards arriving at a common understanding of States parties on how to respond effectively to a State party's withdrawal from the Treaty. Furthermore, the European Union will reiterate the priority of upholding the Treaty, bearing in mind the current major proliferation challenges, in particular in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Islamic Republic of Iran, through a common understanding of States parties on how to respond resolutely and effectively to cases of non-compliance.

¹ Council Decision 2010/430/CFSP of 26 July 2010.