

**Preparatory Committee for the 2010
Review Conference of the Parties to
the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation
of Nuclear Weapons**

NPT/CONF.2010/PC.II/11
8 May 2008

Original: English

Second session
Geneva, 28 April-9 May 2008

TREATY ON THE NON-PROLIFERATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS

Report submitted by New Zealand

Article I

1. New Zealand views the commitment of nuclear weapon States not to contribute to the proliferation of nuclear weapons or explosive devices under this article as a core component of broader nuclear non-proliferation efforts. This commitment is also applicable in the context of the threat of the acquisition of such items by non-State actors.

Article II

2. New Zealand is in full compliance with its commitments contained in this article. New Zealand's obligations under the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons are legislated in the New Zealand Nuclear Free Zone, Disarmament and Arms Control Act 1987. New Zealand's concerns about compliance by other non-nuclear weapon State parties to the Treaty have been expressed in various forums, including at the International Atomic Energy Agency, and in bilateral contacts.

Article III

3. New Zealand has a Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement and Additional Protocol in force with the International Atomic Energy Agency. In 2001, the International Atomic Energy Agency assessed New Zealand to be in full compliance with all its safeguards commitments. With no nuclear weapons, no nuclear energy generation, no nuclear reactors and no production of uranium or other relevant material, New Zealand has only very minor activities subject to safeguards. New Zealand, as a State with a Small Quantities Protocol, is supportive of the International Atomic Energy Agency's decision and its efforts to modify the Small Quantities Protocol to address weaknesses in the safeguards system identified by the International Atomic Energy Agency.

4. New Zealand applies export controls to materials and dual-use goods, which can be used in a nuclear weapons programme. It co-ordinates these measures with other members of the Nuclear Suppliers Group, which New Zealand joined in 1994.

Article IV

5. New Zealand reaffirms the inalienable right of States parties to peaceful nuclear technology, as long as it is exercised in conformity with articles I, II and III of the Treaty.

6. New Zealand has rejected nuclear power generation for itself. New Zealand does not consider nuclear power to be compatible with the concept of sustainable development, given the long-term costs, both financial and ecological, of nuclear waste and the risk of nuclear proliferation. It is New Zealand's view that there are other, more sustainable energy sources that could be developed, and that any responsible discussion about nuclear power should be balanced, and include consideration of the serious risks and costs as well as any benefits.

7. New Zealand has been active, at such forums as the International Atomic Energy Agency General Conference, in promoting close attention to the safe transport of radioactive materials and radioactive waste. New Zealand is concerned that there be the highest possible safety

standards and that they be applied fully, that coastal and other interested States receive notification in advance of shipments, and that adequate liability arrangements be in place.

Article V

8. New Zealand is actively engaged in efforts to promote the entry into force of the CTBT. As one of the 13 practical steps agreed at the 2000 outcome, entry into force of the CTBT would constitute a significant step towards a nuclear weapon free world. At the United Nations in 2007, New Zealand, with Australia and Mexico, was a lead sponsor of resolution 62/59 (Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty) which urged all States that have not yet done so to ratify the Treaty without delay. This resolution continues to receive solid support.

Article VI

9. With its partners in the New Agenda Coalition, New Zealand has worked hard to promote negotiations in good faith relating to the cessation of the nuclear arms race and to nuclear disarmament. At the United Nations in 2007, New Zealand, with the New Agenda Coalition, was a lead sponsor of resolution 62/25 (Towards a nuclear weapon free world: accelerating the implementation of nuclear disarmament commitments), which highlighted limited progress on many issues relating to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and called upon States to abide fully by their commitments.

10. New Zealand was also pleased to promote a new resolution at the United Nations in 2007 with Chile, Nigeria, Sweden and Switzerland calling for action to lower the operational readiness of nuclear weapons systems. Resolution 62/36 (Decreasing the operational readiness of nuclear weapons systems) attracted a strong level of support. New Zealand will now work to build on this solid foundation to achieve tangible progress on this vital issue.

11. At the Conference on Disarmament, New Zealand remains supportive of proposals for a programme of work, including on nuclear disarmament, fissile materials, negative security assurances and outer space. Commencement of negotiations in the Conference on Disarmament

on a Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty (FMCT) without pre-conditions would make a significant contribution to nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation.

Article VII

12. New Zealand is a staunch advocate of the role of nuclear weapon free zones in contributing to nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. New Zealand is a full party to the South Pacific Nuclear Free Zone Treaty 1985 (the Treaty of Rarotonga, also enacted in the New Zealand Nuclear Free Zone, Disarmament and Arms Control Act 1987).

13. The establishment of a Southern Hemisphere Nuclear Weapon Free Zone remains a key objective for New Zealand and New Zealand works with Brazil in the United Nations General Assembly to progress this initiative. We welcome the recent ratifications by Rwanda, Gabon and Mozambique of the Treaty of Pelindaba, the entry into force of which is essential to the realisation of this initiative. New Zealand also welcomes progress made on ratifications for the Central Asian Nuclear Weapon Free Zone, with Turkmenistan acceding most recently.

Article VIII

14. New Zealand supports the text of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons as it stands. New Zealand will participate fully in the eighth Review Conference of the Treaty and its Preparatory Committees.

Article IX

15. New Zealand continues to emphasise the importance of universalisation of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. We continue to call on India, Israel and Pakistan to accede to the Treaty as non-nuclear weapon States in accordance with article IX as a matter of priority.

16. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea's announced withdrawal from the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons remains of concern to New Zealand. New Zealand

strongly supports the Six Party Talks and hopes that this process will eventually lead to the DPRK returning to active membership of the Treaty, meeting its NPT obligations and resuming co-operation with the International Atomic Energy Agency.

Article X

17. New Zealand joined the consensus decision in 1995 that the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons be extended indefinitely. The 1995 Review Conference on the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons adopted a package of decisions in 1995. All these elements remain extant. In New Zealand's view, the extension of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons was not a permit for the indefinite possession of nuclear weapons.

Thirteen Steps

18. New Zealand ratified the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty in March 1999, having taken an active part in its negotiation. At the United Nations General Assembly in 2007, New Zealand was a core sponsor of resolution on the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty, which reiterated calls for universal ratification of that Treaty. New Zealand was pleased to serve as a vice chair of the Article XIV conference in 2007 which renewed state signatories' commitments to working for the universal ratification of the Treaty and its early entry into force.

19. New Zealand has worked with Pacific countries to put in place the South Pacific Nuclear Free Zone Treaty, which bans nuclear testing. Twenty years ago New Zealand also established a New Zealand nuclear free zone with the passage of the New Zealand Nuclear Free Zone, Disarmament and Arms Control Act 1987.

20. New Zealand has actively supported moves to overcome the inability of the Conference on Disarmament to agree a programme of work. We support the current efforts in the Conference on Disarmament to agree a programme of work that would see a negotiation commencing on fissile material cut-off treaty and substantive discussions on nuclear disarmament, negative security assurances and outer space.

21. New Zealand has argued, in partnership with the New Agenda Coalition, that irreversibility in nuclear disarmament, nuclear reductions and other related nuclear arms control measures is imperative. The New Agenda Coalition resolution to the United Nations General Assembly in 2007 (62/25) reaffirmed that nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation are mutually reinforcing processes requiring urgent irreversible progress on both fronts.

22. New Zealand, in partnership with the New Agenda Coalition, urges States to live up to the unequivocal undertaking jointly agreed at the 2000 Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons Review Conference, for the total elimination of nuclear arsenals. This undertaking remains extant. New Zealand has reminded States of their obligations through various statements in the context of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. The unequivocal undertaking on the part of all Treaty signatory States is a foundation on which the New Agenda Coalition continues to build.

23. New Zealand welcomes the widespread support demonstrated in 2007 for the taking of further practical steps to decrease the operational readiness of nuclear weapons systems, with a view to ensuring that all nuclear weapons are removed from high alert status. Reductions in deployments and the lowering of nuclear weapon systems operational status contribute to nuclear disarmament through the enhancement of confidence building and transparency measures and reinforce a diminishing role for nuclear weapons in security policies.

24. New Zealand welcomes the commitment made by the United States and the Russian Federation towards the development of a legally binding post-START arrangement. New Zealand is also a longstanding supporter of the Trilateral Initiative between the United States of America, the Russian Federation and the International Atomic Energy Agency.

25. New Zealand recognises and welcomes the fact that all non-nuclear weapon States have already accepted full controls on fissile materials. These controls are verified and administered by the IAEA. New Zealand urges nuclear weapon States to adopt similar commitments in this area. New Zealand supports the early negotiation of a non-discriminatory, multilateral and internationally and effectively verifiable treaty banning the production of fissile material or other

nuclear explosive devices. New Zealand welcomes efforts currently underway in the Conference on Disarmament to secure negotiations on a Fissile Material Cut-Off Treaty.

26. New Zealand welcomes the widespread support demonstrated in 2007 for the taking of further practical steps to decrease the operational readiness of nuclear weapons systems, with a view to ensuring that all nuclear weapons are removed from high alert status. Reductions in deployments and the lowering of nuclear weapon systems operational status contribute to nuclear disarmament through the enhancement of confidence building and transparency measures and reinforce a diminishing role for nuclear weapons in security policies.

27. The New Zealand Government engages in a wide range of disarmament work relating to weapons of mass destruction and conventional weapons. Through active membership of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, Chemical Weapons Convention and Biological Weapons Convention, New Zealand campaigns for progress towards the total elimination of weapons of mass destruction. New Zealand is also playing a leading role in international efforts to better regulate the use of certain conventional weapons, particularly cluster munitions. New Zealand also belongs to four major export control regimes: the Australia Group, the Wassenaar Arrangement, the Nuclear Suppliers Group and the Missile Technology Control Regime.

28. New Zealand submitted a report to the first Preparatory Committee for the eighth review conference of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons that set out New Zealand's progress with regard to each article of the Treaty. The reporting mechanism outlined in this step is essential in promoting transparency and to build confidence about States' implementation of the Treaty.

29. New Zealand has given strong support to a system of strengthened IAEA safeguards, including in regional disarmament discussions. The IAEA safeguards system is an essential component of the global non-proliferation regime. New Zealand believes that an Additional Protocol, together with a Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement, forms the contemporary verification standard and should always feature as a condition in new supply arrangements. Universal application of the integrated safeguards system, including the Additional Protocol,

would promote collective security. New Zealand continues to call upon those states that have not yet concluded any safeguards agreement with the IAEA to do so at the earliest possible date.

Resolution on the Middle East

30. The New Zealand Government's longstanding policy has been to take a balanced and constructive approach to the Arab-Israeli conflict. New Zealand upholds Israel's right to exist within secure and recognised borders. At the same time, New Zealand considers that the Palestinians have the right to self-determination and to a viable and territorially contiguous state. New Zealand supports the negotiation of a just, enduring and comprehensive peace settlement in the Middle East, in line with relevant United Nations Security Council (UNSC) resolutions — including UNSC Resolutions 242 and 338 — and the principles derived from successive agreements between the two parties. Any change or departure from the pre-1967 borders would have to be subject to agreement by both sides.

31. New Zealand also supports wider stabilisation efforts through diplomacy, peacekeeping deployments, targeted aid assistance and diplomatic support for international negotiations.

32. New Zealand, in partnership with the New Agenda Coalition, emphasises the importance of universal accession to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. New Zealand calls upon all States that have not yet done so, including Israel, to sign and ratify the Treaty, and to bring into force comprehensive IAEA safeguards. New Zealand remains particularly concerned at the continued existence of unsafeguarded facilities in Israel, and works within the United Nations General Assembly, the review process of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, and the IAEA General Conference to address this issue.

33. New Zealand continues to urge Iran to comply with UN Security Council and International Atomic Energy Agency resolutions regarding its nuclear programme. New Zealand calls on Iran to take the steps required to build confidence its nuclear programme and to address the outstanding issues identified by the International Atomic Energy Agency.

34. New Zealand continues to support the development of all regional nuclear weapon free zones. New Zealand is supportive of any and all efforts to establish a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction.
