

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

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**ARTICLE V, ARTICLE VI AND PREAMBULAR PARAGRAPHS 8 TO 12:
COMPREHENSIVE NUCLEAR-TEST-BAN TREATY (CTBT)**

Working Paper submitted by Australia, Austria, Canada, Denmark, Hungary, Ireland, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, and Sweden (“the Vienna Group of Ten”)

1. The Vienna Group of Ten (hereafter “the Vienna Group”) reaffirms that the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) constitutes an effective measure of nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation in all its aspects and is vital to the NPT. The CTBT was an integral part of the indefinite extension of the NPT. The group therefore stresses that the CTBT’s early entry into force is of the utmost urgency and importance and reiterates the agreement from the 2000 NPT Review Conference where the CTBT’s early entry into force was identified as the first of thirteen practical nuclear disarmament steps. The group re-affirms that the provisions of Article V of the NPT are to be interpreted in the light of the CTBT.

2. Reiterating that the CTBT constrains the development of nuclear weapons and their qualitative improvement, the Vienna Group reaffirms that the CTBT combats both horizontal and vertical nuclear proliferation. The group is concerned that any development of new types of nuclear weapons may result in the resumption of tests and a lowering of the nuclear threshold.

The group calls on all States to refrain from any action which would defeat the object and purpose of the CTBT, pending its entry into force. In that respect, the group encourages the DPRK to fulfil its commitments as stipulated in the 3 October 2007 Six-Parties Statement and the UNSC resolutions 1695 and 1718 as soon as possible.

3. The Vienna Group underlines that existing moratoria on nuclear weapon test explosions and any other nuclear test explosions must be maintained, pending the CTBT's entry into force. The group stresses, however, that such moratoria cannot serve as a substitute for ratifying the CTBT and that only the CTBT offers the global community the prospect of a permanent and legally binding commitment to end nuclear testing.

4. Although the Vienna Group notes with concern that twelve years after it was opened for signature the CTBT still has not entered into force, it warmly welcomes the fact that a still growing number of countries have ratified since 2005, including two countries - as listed in Annex 2 - whose ratification is a prerequisite for the entry into force of the Treaty. Reducing the number of these Annex 2 countries from 11 to 9 gives a strong signal to the 9 remaining states and the group expects those countries to follow suit. The CTBT has now been signed by 178 States of which 144 have ratified, including 35 whose ratification is necessary for entry into force. The group renews its call upon all States yet to do so to sign and/or ratify the Treaty without delay, in particular the 9 remaining Annex 2 countries, and to recognise the value of the CTBT for their national and for international security. The reliable performance of the International Monitoring System (IMS) and the practical development of other aspects of the verification regime, as well as the example of a still growing number of ratifiers, should help them with a positive decision.

5. The Vienna Group welcomes the outcome of the CTBT Article XIV (entry into force) Conference held in Vienna in September 2007, resulting in the adoption by consensus of a Joint Declaration. The group expresses its hope that agreement can be reached soon on the modalities for the next Article XIV conference in 2009.

6. The Vienna Group acknowledges the valuable work of the Conference "Synergies with Science, 1996-2006 and Beyond" held in Vienna 31 August to 1 September 2006, and welcomes

the ideas and initiatives aimed at further enhancing the involvement of individual Governments, scientists and national scientific institutions that are being pursued as a follow-up to the Conference.

7. The group welcomes initiatives taken to perform a comprehensive evaluation of the verification regime of the CTBT, to demonstrate the level of inspection readiness, and to assess how it can be improved.

8. In order to enable the Provisional Technical Secretariat of the CTBTO to complete the Preparatory Commission's mandate, the Vienna Group calls on State Signatories to support the work of the CTBTO by providing adequate resources, as well as relevant expertise.

9. The Vienna Group welcomes the progress made by the CTBTO Preparatory Commission to build the system to verify compliance with the CTBT at its entry into force. The goal of this work should be an effective, reliable, participatory and non-discriminatory verification system with global reach. Ultimately, however, this verification system can only show its full worth once the CTBT has entered into force.
