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Agenda item 4

Recommendations for achieving the objective of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation of nuclear weapons

Working paper submitted by the Syrian Arab Republic

The frequently noted danger of the acquisition of nuclear weapons by terrorists makes the complete elimination of such weapons imperative. To achieve this objective, it is important to consider adopting the following recommendations:

1. Nuclear-weapon States must, in accordance with the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, demonstrate genuine political will for the complete elimination of nuclear weapons.
2. Nuclear-weapon States must cease providing assistance to States that are not parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and accordingly cease violating their commitments under the Treaty.
3. Nuclear-weapon States must refrain from placing limitations and obstacles in the way of the use by non-nuclear-weapon States of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. This would result in greater transparency in the activities of States and would facilitate the work of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).
4. The International Atomic Energy Agency must be supported so that it is able to carry out its assigned tasks in the areas of non-proliferation and progress towards nuclear disarmament.
5. The principles of transparency in the activities of States, cooperation with IAEA and providing the necessary assistance to IAEA to carry out its assigned task must be firmly established.
6. Nuclear-weapon States must assume their responsibilities and strive for universalization of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons as a necessary precondition for nuclear non-proliferation and for achievement of the objective of nuclear disarmament.

* Reissued for technical reasons.

7. The Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons should be reaffirmed as the cornerstone of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation.
8. The 13 steps adopted by the 2000 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons must be adhered to and implemented in order to achieve the objective of nuclear disarmament.
9. Due attention must be paid to implementing the Middle East resolution first adopted by the 1995 Review Conference and reaffirmed by the 2000 Review Conference.
10. The imposition of measures taken outside the multilateral framework must cease, as well as the treatment of nuclear proliferation issues according to an obvious double standard.
11. The Conference on Disarmament must be allowed to agree on an agenda that places nuclear disarmament at the top of its concerns.
12. Adequate impetus must be given to implementing nuclear disarmament resolutions adopted by the General Assembly and to activating United Nations disarmament mechanisms, including the First Committee, the Conference on Disarmament and the Disarmament Commission.
13. Attention and priority must be given to nuclear disarmament in regions of tension and conflict. Most prominent in this regard is focusing on Israeli nuclear weapons in the Middle East, which are developing in quality and quantity without any international control whatsoever. On the contrary, they receive aid and encouragement from certain nuclear-weapon States.
14. Israel must be called upon to submit all its nuclear facilities, activities and materials to the comprehensive IAEA inspection regime, to give up its nuclear weapons, and to accede to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons as a non-nuclear-weapon State party.
15. The establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones should be encouraged as a step towards complete nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation and towards reducing the danger of arms races in conflict zones. The Middle East is a prime example of such a zone, given Israel's possession of nuclear weapons outside the framework of any international control.