

International Group of Eminent Persons  
For a World Without Nuclear Weapons

# **IGEP MESSAGE**

**To the First Preparatory Committee of  
The 2026 NPT Review Conference**

**Second Meeting of the IGEP  
April 4-5, 2023  
Tokyo**

# **IGEP Message to the First Preparatory Committee of the 2026 NPT Review Conference**

## **Grave Crises in the Non-Proliferation Regime**

Today, the international community faces an array of grave and unprecedented nuclear challenges. Threats of escalation to actual use of nuclear weapons are higher than ever. Nuclear arsenals are expanding, and nuclear salience is increasing. The guardrails provided by the arms control architecture have been seriously damaged. Once a nuclear weapon is used again, humanitarian and environmental consequences will ensue. Risks of nuclear proliferation are also rising in various parts of the world as regional security environments deteriorate.

Meanwhile, nuclear power is experiencing a revival against a backdrop of climate change and energy security needs, and nuclear technology applications are multiplying, which could potentially increase the risks of nuclear proliferation. Striking an appropriate balance among the three pillars of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), namely nuclear non-proliferation, nuclear disarmament, and peaceful use of nuclear energy, is now more critical than ever.

These challenges should not be allowed to damage the international nuclear non-proliferation regime based on the NPT, a cornerstone of the international security architecture. It is a moral imperative and a shared responsibility of all states to collaborate in upholding the international nuclear non-proliferation regime – indeed, doing so is in the interest of all humanity and life on

earth. Together, we should transform the current crisis into an opportunity to strengthen the nuclear non-proliferation regime, in particular by upholding and strengthening the NPT.

With this shared responsibility in mind, the IGEP urges states to prioritize the following during the 2026 NPT review cycle:

### **1. Reinforcing and Expanding Norms**

- (1) respect international law and principles, in particular non-aggression and the resolution of international disputes through peaceful means.
- (2) uphold the principles of undiminished security for all.
- (3) not use or threaten to use nuclear weapons.
  - (a) uphold the statement “Nuclear war cannot be won and must never be fought” made by the leaders of the five nuclear-weapon States on January 3, 2022, as well as “The use or threat of use of nuclear weapons is inadmissible” made by G20 leaders on November 15-16, 2022.
  - (b) uphold and expand negative security assurances (NSAs), while supporting the vital role of nuclear weapons free zones.
- (4) not conduct nuclear testing.
  - (a) maintain the nuclear test moratorium.
  - (b) make every effort to realize the urgent entry-into-force of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT).
- (5) not produce fissile material for nuclear weapons.
  - (a) declare and maintain moratoria on fissile material production.

(b) urgently commence negotiations of a fissile material cut-off treaty (FMCT).

(6) reaffirm and implement commitments made at the previous NPT Review Conferences.

(7) increase awareness of the horrendous consequences of nuclear weapon use, drawing upon the experiences of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

## **2. Taking Concrete Measures**

(1) practice strategic restraint by not engaging in activities that threaten to undermine international stability and the NPT regime, including by not expanding nuclear arsenals, with the ultimate goal of achieving a world without nuclear weapons consistent with Article VI of the NPT.

(2) improve reporting on the implementation of commitments made at NPT Review Conferences by providing information regarding nuclear weapons arsenals, nuclear postures and doctrines.

(3) agree on and implement concrete nuclear risk reduction measures, such as initiating strategic dialogues and committing to full and timely use of crisis communication channels.

(4) engage in dialogue on establishing new arms control arrangements.

(5) address regional issues, particularly in the Korean Peninsula and the Middle East, uphold the norm of nuclear non-proliferation everywhere, and implement the 1995 resolution on establishing a WMD free zone in the Middle East.

(6) undertake voluntary measures to uphold and

reinforce nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation while pursuing multilaterally agreed measures.

## **3. Revitalizing/Strengthening the NPT Review Process**

(1) increase transparency and accountability by establishing a process of discussing regular national reports submitted by NPT States Parties, in particular the five nuclear-weapon States (N5), with a view to clarifying nuclear modernization programs and potential changes in nuclear doctrines.

(2) strengthen the NPT review process, calling upon the Working Group established in Decision 2 as contained in the Final Document of the 10th NPT Review Conference to agree upon concrete measures to this end.

(3) explore joint measures that evaluate and address the impact of emerging and disruptive technologies.

(4) revitalize and/or facilitate dialogue on a more regular and frequent basis among the N5, between the N5 and non-nuclear-weapon States, including TPNW signatories (for example, via briefings), and with non-NPT states (including through observer participation) in order to address nuclear challenges.

(5) engage more diverse stakeholders from civil society and government in the NPT review process, including political leaders and defense officials tasked with nuclear decision making.

The International Group of Eminent Persons for a World without Nuclear Weapons (IGEP), which was established in 2022 under the initiative of Prime Minister Fumio Kishida, convened the second meeting in Tokyo on April 4-5, 2023.

Prime Minister Kishida announced the establishment of the IGEP as a forum in which participants from both nuclear and non-nuclear-weapon States, aided by the involvement of incumbent and former political leaders around the globe, exchange ideas and thoughts beyond their respective national positions and engage in candid discussions concerning a concrete path towards the realization of a world without nuclear weapons. Members of the IGEP participated in the discussions in their personal capacities, and do not represent any specific organizations or countries.

The mandate of the IGEP is to consider and propose a realistic and practical roadmap to realize a world without nuclear weapons while addressing the current severe global security environment to be put to consideration for all States Parties to the United Nations and the 11th Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) Review Conference in 2026.

### **Member List**

Takashi Shiraishi (Chair): Chancellor, Prefectural University of Kumamoto

Nobumasa Akiyama: Dean, School of International and Public Policy, Hitotsubashi University

Ian Anthony: Programme Director, European Security, Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI)

Rose Gottemoeller: Former U.S. Under Secretary of State for Arms Control and International Security Affairs

Angela Kane: Former UN High Representative on Disarmament Affairs

Dina Kavar: Ambassador of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan to the United States

Anton Khlopkov: Director of Center for Energy and Security Studies (CENESS)

Raden Mohammad Marty Muliana Natalegawa: Former Minister for Foreign Affairs of Indonesia

Tanya Ogilvie-White: Research Director and Associate Professor, Centre for Nuclear Non-proliferation and Disarmament, ANU College of Asia and the Pacific

George Perkovich: Vice President for Studies at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace

Manpreet Sethi: Distinguished Fellow, Centre for Air Power Studies

Nobushige Takamizawa: Visiting Professor, Graduate School of Public Policy, the University of Tokyo

Bruno Tertrais: Deputy Director, Foundation for Strategic Research

Tong Zhao: Senior Fellow, Carnegie-Tsinghua Center for Global Policy / Visiting Research Scholar, Princeton University

Gustavo Zlauvinen: President of the 10th NPT Review Conference