

## **Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Initiative Statement (for delivery)**

### **2024 Preparatory Committee to the 11<sup>th</sup> NPT Review Conference, Geneva, Switzerland**

1. We, the members of the Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Initiative (NPDI), Australia, Canada, Chile, Germany, Japan, Mexico, the Netherlands, Nigeria, the Philippines, Poland, Türkiye and the United Arab Emirates, reiterate our unwavering commitment to the full implementation of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT). The NPDI offers its full support to you, Ambassador Rakhmetullin, as Chair of this PrepCom. We stand ready to engage constructively.
2. At the outset, the members of NPDI would like to recognise the contribution to global disarmament efforts of Ambassador Sergio Duarte, former UN High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, who passed away recently. He once said that “all States have a high moral, ethical and legal responsibility to do whatever is at their reach to prevent a nuclear catastrophe in which there will be no victors – only losers”. We would do well to heed these words as we continue our work over the coming weeks.

Chair

3. As the cornerstone of the international disarmament and non-proliferation regime, the NPT is an essential element for international peace and security. We call on all states not yet party to the Treaty to accede to it immediately.
4. As we continue this Review Cycle, we urge all States parties to work cooperatively, to honestly assess progress, and to advance our shared goal of a world free of nuclear weapons. Our efforts must be guided by the knowledge that the NPT continues to be instrumental in constraining nuclear proliferation; providing the indispensable framework for nuclear disarmament and; guaranteeing the right of States parties to the use of nuclear technology for peaceful purposes and facilitating this access.

5. Since its founding in 2010, the NPDI has made practical recommendations across all three NPT pillars. The strength of the NPDI as a cross-regional group of states has been its ability to formulate proposals that reflect the shared ambitions of its diverse membership. This shows the spirit of multilateralism which imbues the NPDI's efforts and which we consider essential to the success of this meeting and achieving Treaty objectives.
6. All State Parties must uphold their obligations and commitments under the NPT. We urge each nuclear-weapon State to use this PrepCom to explain what steps they are taking to deliver under the NPT and to action commitments in their 3 January 2022 statement affirming that "a nuclear war cannot be won and must never be fought."
7. The nuclear-weapon states have the responsibility to implement obligations under Article VI of the NPT on disarmament – this obligation is integral to the Treaty. The NPDI calls on the nuclear-weapon States to ensure that the decrease in global nuclear arsenals be sustained and not reversed.
8. Our ultimate goal is to attain and maintain a world free of nuclear weapons. We are deeply concerned about the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of any use of nuclear weapons. It is in the interest of all nations that nuclear weapons are never used again. As long as nuclear weapons exist, actions must be taken to reduce the risk of their use. The NPDI reiterates that the only way to eliminate risks is through complete, verifiable and irreversible nuclear disarmament.
9. The NPDI recalls the importance of the New START Treaty to nuclear arms control, and we express our concern over Russia's suspension of its participation in the Treaty. Resumption of the implementation of all the treaty's provisions, and commencement of negotiation of a follow-on agreement by both parties, are urgent and essential to international peace and security and to nuclear arms control.

Chair

10. Transparency is indispensable for nuclear disarmament. Enhanced transparency builds trust and confidence, facilitating further reductions in nuclear arsenals towards their total elimination. Strengthening NPT reporting and accountability mechanisms, including through the adoption of a standard reporting form, is a useful tool in this regard. The NPDI is pleased to contribute an updated working paper and host a side event on this issue on 29 July.

11. The NPDI looks forward to continuing discussion on proposals to strengthen the review process on 31 July and encourages all States Parties to participate constructively by taking forward the Chair's working paper priorities.
12. The international security environment has deteriorated further since the PrepCom in Vienna last year, with serious consequences also for the implementation of the NPT. Noting ongoing conflicts in various regions, we remain gravely concerned by threats of use of nuclear weapons. Russia's announcements regarding deployment of Russian nuclear weapons in Belarus, and its actions endangering nuclear facilities in Ukraine are of serious concern. We fully support the IAEA's efforts to advance nuclear safety and security, including in Ukraine especially through its mission at ZNPP.
13. The NPDI is committed to the goal of the complete, verifiable and irreversible denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula. We strongly condemn North Korea's ongoing ballistic missile launches. We strongly urge North Korea to comply fully with the NPT and IAEA safeguards and to dismantle all its nuclear weapons, other weapons of mass destruction, and ballistic missiles in accordance with UNSC resolutions. The NPDI is grateful for the contribution of the UNSCR 1718 Committee Panel of Experts to the international community's response to North Korea's sanction evasion and violations as well as proliferation and deeply regret that the Panel's mandate was not renewed.
14. The NPDI notes with concern Iran's continued expansion of its nuclear programme, including uranium enrichment activities, and failure to implement its nuclear related commitments under the JCPOA. We call on Iran to cooperate fully with the IAEA to resolve all outstanding safeguards issues in a timely manner. We encourage Iran to return to full implementation of JCPOA-related transparency measures, and support efforts towards the full implementation of the JCPOA by all parties. We encourage parties to the JCPOA to re-engage in renewed talks for a diplomatic solution in a constructive spirit.

15. The NPDI welcomes progress towards the universality of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) since the last PrepCom, including Somalia's signature of the Treaty in September 2023 and Papua New Guinea's ratification in March this year. We urge all states that have not yet ratified the CTBT to do so. We deeply regret that the remaining Annex 2 States now number nine and urge all states to refrain from actions that bring us further from entry into force. It is critical that all states continue to uphold the moratorium against nuclear testing.
16. The NPDI stresses that the commencement of fissile material cut-off treaty negotiations remains an international priority. We call on the Conference on Disarmament to start negotiations on a fissile material cut-off treaty without delay, and for States parties to undertake further work to facilitate the successful conclusion of such a treaty.
17. The NPDI emphasizes the central role of the IAEA safeguards system in the non-proliferation regime. The IAEA comprehensive safeguards agreement (CSA) and, where applicable, the revised Small Quantities Protocol (SQP), in combination with an additional protocol (AP), is the current international verification standard under Article III of the NPT. We urge states that have not yet done so to conclude CSAs and APs and revise any SQPs without delay.
18. The IAEA plays an essential role in assisting states to peacefully use nuclear energy, science and technology, recognising the prerogative of each State to establish its own national energy policy. This pillar of the NPT is crucial for addressing global challenges in support of sustainable development. The NPDI seeks to further improve safeguards, nuclear safety and security, and to ensure access to the benefits of nuclear energy, science and technology for peaceful uses.
19. To achieve our NPT goals, the NPDI underscores the importance of disarmament and non-proliferation education. We must continue to raise awareness of the realities of the use of nuclear weapons.
20. The NPDI reiterates its commitment to the full implementation of the NPT and its ultimate objective of a world without nuclear weapons.

Thank you Chair