

Preparatory Committee for the 2020 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

18 April 2019

Original: English

Third session

New York, 29 April–10 May 2019

Disarmament and non-proliferation education

Working paper submitted by the members of the Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Initiative (Australia, Canada, Chile, Germany, Japan, Mexico, Netherlands, Nigeria, Philippines, Poland, Turkey and United Arab Emirates)

1. Achieving a world free of nuclear weapons requires long-term commitments and constant efforts. In this context, the Final Document of the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons underscored the importance of disarmament and non-proliferation education as an effective means to advance the goals of the Treaty in support of achieving a world without nuclear weapons.
2. Disarmament and non-proliferation education should not indoctrinate specific ways of thinking or politicize the issue, but should rather nurture critical thinking, skills and knowledge that enable people to think of how to steadily advance nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, while considering various political, technical, historical, legal and security-related aspects and scientific evidence regarding the impact of the use of nuclear weapons. We need to train ourselves so that we can analyse the current global situation and put forward and implement concrete ways to overcome any obstacles in order to achieve our common goal.
3. Based upon changes, such as the deterioration of the security environment and the advancement of science and technology, it is also vital to seek the most effective ways to raise public awareness of disarmament and non-proliferation. Such awareness should be generated among all people, regardless of age, gender and nationality, and should be viewed from a wide perspective, including humanitarian aspects, the scientific evidence on the known impact of the use of nuclear weapons, the sharing of experiences related to atomic bombings and the relationship between security and disarmament.
4. The members of the Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Initiative strongly believe that disarmament and non-proliferation education plays a crucial role in maintaining and strengthening the regime of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. Concrete measures to be taken should include visits by leaders, young people and others to, and interactions with, communities and people, including



those affected by nuclear weapons, as well as raising awareness of the negative impact and diverse risks posed by nuclear weapons.

5. In action 22 of the action plan adopted at the 2010 Review Conference, all States parties are encouraged to implement the 34 recommendations contained in the 2002 report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations study on disarmament and non-proliferation education ([A/57/124](#)). The members of the Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Initiative call upon all States parties to renew their commitment to implementing those recommendations. The implementation of those recommendations contributes to activities that promote and function in accordance with the proposed actions to further advance disarmament and non-proliferation education contained in the Secretary-General's disarmament agenda of 2018.

6. States parties are encouraged to effectively implement disarmament and non-proliferation education and to contribute to the report of the Secretary General on actions that fulfil the above-mentioned United Nations study, as stated in General Assembly resolution [73/59](#). In so doing, States should take into consideration the following points:

(a) Cooperation and collaboration among actors: Disarmament and non-proliferation education will not be conducted only by States, it requires efforts by educational institutions, academia, think tanks and research institutes, the scientific community and centres of excellence, as well as local municipalities, international organizations, civil society, the private sector and the media: in this regard, Governments are expected to serve as one of the main actors in promoting fruitful discussions and meaningful dialogues on the ideas held by various stakeholders, while also facilitating the efforts of other actors to advance the agenda;

(b) Active and interactive participation: Disarmament and non-proliferation education needs to include more active, interactive and participatory means, such as role-playing and the use of simulated situations, in particular those that bridge the gap between science and policy: the role of art, including literature, the performing arts and movies, should also be considered as a way of promoting disarmament and non-proliferation education and raising awareness; such opportunities are expected to be provided by various actors, including Governments;

(c) Cutting-edge technologies: Given recent developments in the fields of science and technology, including advances in the fields of artificial intelligence and virtual reality, new ways to utilize such cutting-edge technologies to further promote disarmament and non-proliferation education should also be explored;

(d) Beyond generations and genders: Since long-lasting efforts are required to achieve a world free of nuclear weapons, individuals of all generations and genders must be engaged; in particular, generating new solutions to disarmament-related issues will require the empowerment and inclusion of all voices, including those of women and girls, who remain extremely underrepresented: in addition, educating young people is one of the most critical ways of developing the leaders of the next generation, who can take concrete actions towards our ultimate goal of a world without nuclear weapons. In this regard, it is imperative to offer inclusive opportunities for all generations to learn from one another with an open mind and to apply bold and creative thinking for the future.

Annex

The following are examples of good practices engaged in by members of the Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Initiative as of April 2019:

Canada

In March 2019, Global Affairs Canada hosted and organized an event to facilitate the exchange of views with graduate students and representatives of civil society, academia, think tanks and the private sector on non-proliferation, arms control and disarmament, including issues relating to non-proliferation, arms control and disarmament in space. Based on a long-standing partnership with an important Canadian foundation working on nuclear disarmament and education, four graduate students were selected by an external panel of experts to present their research to the over 70 people who participated in the forum. The students also received scholarships to further pursue their studies in the fields of non-proliferation, arms control and disarmament.

Officials of the Government of Canada continue to conduct outreach with students and academics, including by making themselves available to give guest lectures in college and university seminars and courses and by taking part in panels during university-organized symposiums and conferences.

Germany

Germany contributes funding to the United Nations Disarmament Fellowship Programme and hosted the group of fellows in Berlin in the fall of 2018. The fellows met with officials from the Federal Foreign Office, as well as representatives from think tanks and other relevant institutions.

The Federal Foreign Office has initiated two postdoctoral and doctoral programmes with two renowned academic institutions in Germany. The objective is to strengthen academic research and expertise in the fields of disarmament, arms control and non-proliferation. Given the evolving geostrategic and security environment and the speed of technological developments, it is paramount to generate expert knowledge.

On 27 November 2018, the Federal Foreign Office provided a platform for a meeting of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization Youth Group in Berlin to discuss issues pertaining to the nuclear test-ban, the proliferation crisis relating to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Non-Proliferation Treaty at large. The goals were to raise awareness of the issues of nuclear disarmament and arms control, to foster youth engagement and to promote international networks.

Germany contributed funding to the Scholarship for Peace and Security of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe in 2018 and 2019. The Scholarship offers a training course for young professionals, in particular women, providing a general orientation and knowledge about conflict prevention and resolution through arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation.

Japan

Every year since 1983, Japan has welcomed young diplomats from Member States who participated in the United Nations Disarmament Fellowship Programme to Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The Programme serves as an effective means to emphasize the inhumane nature of nuclear weapons, as witnessed by atomic bomb

survivors (*hibakusha*), and to advocate for the importance of continuing efforts towards disarmament and non-proliferation.

Japan, as the only country to have suffered atomic bombings during war, recognizes its responsibility to convey the reality of the devastation caused by the use of nuclear weapons to the international community and to future generations. In 2010, the Government of Japan launched a programme entitled “Special Communicators for a World without Nuclear Weapons”, through which *hibakusha* were asked to speak at international conferences and communicate their first-hand experiences of the devastating consequences of the use of nuclear weapons. To date, 293 communicators have been commissioned for 97 occasions. In addition, in the light of the ageing of atomic bomb survivors, Japan recently launched a programme entitled “Youth Communicators for a World without Nuclear Weapons” for younger generations. Youth communicators have spoken at the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva and participated in the meetings of the Preparatory Committee for the Review Conference. To date, 382 youth communicators have been commissioned for 34 occasions.

Japan has also organized forums of “Youth Communicators for a World without Nuclear Weapons” with the aim of empowering them to further spread the realities of atomic bombings to people of all generations and nationalities and to reconfirm their commitment to the realization of a world without nuclear weapons.

In order to raise awareness in the international community of the reality of atomic bombings, the Government of Japan has translated the testimonies of atomic bomb survivors into 13 foreign languages and shared them on the Government’s website.

Mexico

Mexico, in coordination with the James Martin Center for Non-Proliferation Studies, the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean, and the Matías Romero Institute (a diplomatic academy in Mexico), holds an annual summer course on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation for diplomats from Latin America and the Caribbean. Mexico has also taken the following measures:

A biennial submission to the First Committee of the General Assembly of the resolution on the United Nations study on disarmament and non-proliferation education.

The inclusion of materials on disarmament and non-proliferation in the curriculum of the Secretariat of National Defence, the Secretariat of the Navy and the Matías Romero Institute.

Participation in round tables and diverse forums in Mexico and abroad, including talks on nuclear disarmament and the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons.

Netherlands

The Netherlands has finalized a non-proliferation project, started in 2010, through which it has funded three doctoral posts at universities in Utrecht and Rotterdam to conduct core academic research into various historical, legal and governance aspects of nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament in order to generate expert knowledge.

The Netherlands attaches great importance to providing platforms to scholars for sharing their ideas and connecting with one another to increase international collaboration in the field. Examples thereof include a nuclear disarmament

colloquium, held in Geneva on 15 April 2019; a side event relating to the Non-Proliferation Treaty, to be held on 30 April, including a presentation of the results of an historical review of the 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons; and three regional outreach meetings, at which the Netherlands engaged with local expert networks.

The Netherlands contributes to various educational organizations and initiatives, such as the Vienna Center for Disarmament and Non-proliferation and the Asser Institute's summer programme on disarmament and non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, including the funding of several scholarships in developing countries to enable participation in the course. It also funds internships at the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean for candidates from the region.

The Netherlands provides funding for the Member State Support Programmes of the International Atomic Energy Agency, which promote capacity-building in the area of nuclear safeguards, including in-kind support through the organization of courses and training activities, as well as the development of new technologies.
