



1st Session of the Preparatory Committee to the 11th NPT Review Conference

Vienna, Austria

**Statement by the Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Initiative on
Strengthening the review process**

Chair,

The NPTDI welcomes the fact that its recommendation to the 2022 Review Conference to establish a working group on strengthening the NPT review process was adopted and that the working group took place in the last week of July. Unfortunately, the concrete results of this group are underwhelming.

It is regrettable that the working group could not agree on concrete recommendations to the PrepCom, despite of all the efforts of the Chair and the Secretariat, which we appreciate greatly.

However, the NPTDI welcomes the constructive discussions that took place and looks forward to continuing these substantive discussions, including during this and future PrepComs and RevCons. We also welcome the Chair's working paper, which the NPTDI considers reflective of many of the key themes from the discussion.

It became clear during the interactive debate that there is an urgent need to discuss and improve the effectiveness, efficiency, transparency, accountability, coordination and continuity of the review process of the Treaty. And whilst we have heard many areas of convergence last week, it also became clear that especially the discussion on transparency and accountability will need continuation. It is imperative that we preserve the momentum of our productive discussions.

Therefore, even though we did not manage to agree on a substantive outcome, or on a way forward, the NPDI would like to highlight a few of the recommendations the NPDI has circulated earlier:

On effectiveness and efficiency:

- The NPDI supports enforcing time limits on statements delivered during PrepComs and RevCons, such as established at the last Review Conference. The more efficient use of time would allow for a greater substantive discussion of issues earlier on in the main committees.
- The NPDI recommends that the president of the Review Conference should provide clarity and guidance on the function and role of the subsidiary bodies and facilitate a better understanding whether topics are fixed or can be changed. In particular, subsidiary bodies should be

framed as a venue for in-depth discussion. To avoid potential overlap, there is a need to reflect upon their interrelation.

On transparency and accountability:

- The NPDI considers that adequate reporting is an essential instrument both for providing greater transparency and for achieving greater accountability. Reporting that provides clear information can serve as a baseline from which to measure progress made on NPT implementation. This was agreed by all the NPT States Parties at the 2010 Review Conference and is stated in the Action Plan.
- The 10th Review Conference draft outcome document contained recommendations in regard to the allocation of dedicated time under cluster 1 to discuss NPT implementation reports, in particular those of the nuclear-weapon states. The NPDI proposes that the NPT States Parties implement these proposals.
- In addition, States Parties may wish to consider establishing an independent publication on NPT reporting, an NPT Monitor, which would provide an added layer of transparency and accountability.

Lastly, on coordination and continuity

- To facilitate continuity between and within review cycles (thereby enabling more focus on substantive matters), the formal establishment of a “Chair’s Bureau” comprising immediate past, current, and future incumbents should be considered.
- A Chair’s Bureau would require the earlier nomination of preparatory and review conference officials so that the Bureau can be established at the outset of the review cycle. Consideration could also be given to means by which the Chairs’ Bureau could be supported to better manage the administrative matters of the review process.
- And let me conclude by stating that the NPDI encourages Ambassador Akan Rakhmetullin of the Republic of Kazakhstan, as Chair of the second session of the PrepCom, to work with States Parties to continue advancing practical efforts to strengthen the review process.

Thank you, Chair.