

Preparatory Committee for the 2026 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

2 June 2023

Original: English

First session

Vienna, 31 July–11 August 2023

Note verbale dated 2 June 2023 from the Government of Japan addressed to the Chair-designate of the Preparatory Committee for the 2026 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons at its first session

Working paper submitted by Japan

The Government of Japan presents its compliments to the Chair-designate of the Preparatory Committee for the 2026 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons at its first session and has the honour to transmit herewith the text entitled “Message from the International Group of Eminent Persons for a World without Nuclear Weapons to the Preparatory Committee of the 2026 Review Conference” at its first session (see annex I), produced by the International Group.

The Prime Minister of Japan, Fumio Kishida, announced the establishment of the International Group as a forum in which participants from both nuclear and non-nuclear-weapon States, as well as non-Treaty 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 International Group participate in the discussions in their personal capacities and do not represent any specific organizations or countries.

The mandate of the International Group is to consider and propose a realistic and practical road map to realize a world without nuclear weapons, while addressing the current severe global security environment, to be put for the consideration of all States Members to the United Nations and the 2026 Review Conference.

The members of the International Group convened the second meeting in Tokyo on 4 and 5 April 2023. At that meeting, the members had frank and in-depth discussions on the importance of maintaining and strengthening the Treaty regime in light of the current severe security environment as well as the situations surrounding the Treaty between the United States of America and the Russian Federation on Measures for the Further Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms (the



new START Treaty), with a view to making a positive contribution to the next Non-Proliferation Treaty review process.

Based on the discussions outlined above, the members of the International Group concurred that it would be meaningful to deepen their discussions at this meeting so as to provide input to the Preparatory Committee at its first session, which they issued on 21 April as the message in annex I hereto.

The Government of Japan believes that the message could be a meaningful reference for the international community and requests that the present text and its annexes be circulated as a working paper of the Preparatory Committee for the 2026 Review Conference at its the first session.

Annex I

Message from the International Group of Eminent Persons for a World without Nuclear Weapons to the Preparatory Committee of the 2026 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons at its first session

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, namely nuclear non-proliferation, nuclear disarmament and the 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 Non-Proliferation Treaty, 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 Treaty.

With this shared responsibility in mind, the International Group urges States to prioritize the following during the 2026 Treaty review cycle:

A. 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 that “nuclear war cannot be won and must never be fought”, made by the leaders of the five nuclear-weapon States on 3 January 2022, as well as that “the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons is inadmissible”, made by the Group of 20 leaders on 15 and 16 November 2022;

(b) Uphold and expand negative security assurances, while supporting the vital role of nuclear-weapon-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.

5. Not produce fissile material for nuclear weapons.
 - (a) Declare and maintain moratoriums on fissile material production;
 - (b) Urgently commence negotiations of a fissile material cut-off treaty.
6. Reaffirm and implement commitments made at the previous Review Conferences.
7. Increase awareness of the horrendous consequences of nuclear-weapon use, drawing upon the experiences of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

B. Taking concrete measures

1. Practice strategic restraint by not engaging in activities that threaten to undermine international stability and the Non-Proliferation Treaty regime, including by not expanding nuclear arsenals, with the ultimate goal of achieving a world without nuclear weapons, consistent with article VI of the Non-Proliferation Treaty.
2. Improve reporting on the implementation of commitments made at 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 the 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 zone free of weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East.
6. Undertake voluntary measures to uphold and reinforce nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, while pursuing multilaterally agreed measures.

C. Revitalizing and strengthening the Non-Proliferation Treaty review process

1. Increase transparency and accountability by establishing a process of discussing regular national reports submitted by States parties to the Non-Proliferation Treaty, in particular the five nuclear-weapon States, with a view to clarifying nuclear modernization programs and potential changes in nuclear doctrines.
2. Strengthen the Non-Proliferation Treaty review process, calling upon the working group established in decision 2 as contained in the final document of the tenth 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 five nuclear-weapon States, between the five nuclear-weapon States and the non-nuclear-weapon States, including signatories to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (for example, through briefings), and with States not parties to the Non-Proliferation Treaty (including via observer participation) in order to address nuclear challenges.

5. Engage more diverse stakeholders from civil society and Government in the Non-Proliferation Treaty review process, including political leaders and defence officials tasked with nuclear decision-making.

Annex II**List of members of the International Group of Eminent Persons
for a World without Nuclear Weapons**

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
Rose Gottemoeller	Former Under Secretary of State for Arms Control and International Security Affairs of the United States of America
Angela Kane	Former High Representative for Disarmament Affairs of the United Nations
Dina Kavar	Ambassador of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan to the United States
Anton Khlopkov	Director of Center for Energy and Security Studies
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, Australian National University College of Asia and the Pacific
George Perkovich	Vice-President for Studies, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace
Manpreet Sethi	Distinguished Fellow, Centre for Air Power Studies
Nobushige Takamizawa	Visiting Professor, Graduate School of Public Policy, University of Tokyo
Bruno Tertrais	Deputy Director, Foundation for Strategic Research
Tong Zhao	Senior Fellow, Carnegie-Tsinghua Center for Global Policy and Visiting Research Scholar, Princeton University
Gustavo Zlauvinen	President of the tenth Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons