

Joint Statement on behalf of a Group of States NPT Transparency & Accountability

9 May 2025

I deliver this statement on behalf of Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahrain [Kingdom of], Belgium, Brazil, Cambodia, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Finland, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Iraq, Italy, Japan, Kiribati, Lebanon, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Malta, Mexico, Moldova, Netherlands [Kingdom of the], New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Peru, Philippines, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Samoa, San Marino, Serbia, Singapore, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Türkiye, Ukraine, Uruguay, Vanuatu and my own country, Ireland.

I refer to the Joint Statements delivered by New Zealand at the 1st and 2nd Preparatory Committee sessions of this NPT review cycle, on behalf of a group of respectively 28 and 47 States.

Our governments are fully committed to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), the cornerstone of the nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime. The NPT is a fundamental instrument in the pursuit of international peace and security, and we reaffirm the urgent need for its full implementation. A desire to see the obligations and commitments under the Treaty implemented in full, and the total elimination of nuclear weapons realised, has motivated our governments to pursue improvements to transparency and accountability in the implementation of disarmament obligations and commitments this review cycle.

Alongside verification and irreversibility, transparency is a fundamental principle that underpins the full implementation of the NPT and, in enabling accountability, functions as a critical component of States' confidence in the Treaty. For this reason, every NPT decision since, and including, the Review and Extension Conference in 1995 has recognised its centrality. This was further elaborated in the 13 Practical Steps in 2000 and the 2010 Action Plan which sets out the commitments of States Parties, in particular the nuclear-weapon States, with regard to reporting on implementation of Article VI and related nuclear disarmament commitments.

The necessity to improve transparency and accountability on the implementation of Article VI and its related commitments has been further reinforced by many delegations throughout this Review Cycle, with specific recommendations to this effect being formulated by various States and Groups. This includes recommendations contained in Working Paper 34 of the 2023 Preparatory Committee Meeting and recommendations in various working papers and national statements calling for enhanced transparency.

We welcome the national reports – and draft reports – that were submitted to this Meeting, in particular by nuclear weapons States.

Chair,

With these elements in mind, we deem it vitally important that States Parties are able to achieve concrete progress on, *inter alia*, transparency as an essential element of accountability at next year's 11th Review Conference with respect to the implementation of nuclear disarmament obligations and commitments by the nuclear-weapon States. Enhanced transparency is not a substitute for implementation of these disarmament obligations and commitments, but it will bolster the confidence and ability of States Parties as they seek to monitor progress in this domain. Based on deliberations in this Review Cycle, we consider that the following elements have emerged as essential considerations that should underpin and inform a decision on enhanced transparency and strengthened accountability at the Review Conference:

- 1) Transparency is a fundamental principle in relation to the implementation of treaty obligations.
- 2) A particular need exists to strengthen accountability through enhanced transparency in relation to the implementation of nuclear disarmament obligations and commitments, guided by Actions 5, 20 and 21 of the 2010 Action Plan.
- 3) A formalised process is required, agreed among all States Parties, that clarifies the submission and consideration of national reports by all the nuclear-weapon States.
- 4) As part of this, nuclear-weapon States should present their national reports at NPT meetings, and engage in interactive discussions on them.

5) The content of their national reports should include standardised and comparable information, with specific criteria to be considered among States Parties at the forthcoming Review Conference.

In order to agree on concrete measures on transparency and accountability at next year's Review Conference, we urge the President-designate of the Review Conference and all States Parties to prioritise this issue, including through dedicating time at the Review Conference to consider this issue, and to develop a forward-looking decision, or decisions, on transparency and accountability, including during the intersessional period, as a contributor towards increased confidence in the NPT, and to unlock future disarmament progress.

Thank you.