

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

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Fissile material cut-off treaty: contributing to our shared goals under the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

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

Summary

The Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Initiative recognizes the continued importance of the commencement of negotiations on a treaty on fissile material for use in nuclear weapons and other nuclear explosive devices. As a measure agreed by Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons as one of the systematic steps to fulfil article VI of the Non-Proliferation Treaty, the long-awaited commencement of treaty negotiations would make a substantial concrete contribution towards the goals shared by all Parties under the Non-Proliferation Treaty. The Initiative acknowledges the report of the high-level fissile material cut-off treaty expert preparatory group of July 2018 ([A/73/159](#)), which could facilitate the future negotiations, and the informal discussions on a possible treaty on fissile material for nuclear weapons that were held in subsidiary body 2 of the Conference on Disarmament in 2018 and 2022, which are expected to continue in 2025. The Initiative highlights the formation of the cross-regional group of friends of the fissile material cut-off treaty as a measure to encourage greater political attention to and build awareness of a future fissile material cut-off treaty. Despite these activities, the Initiative remains gravely concerned about the dim prospects for treaty negotiations in the Conference on Disarmament, given the persistent stalemate in that forum. The Initiative calls upon all Parties to the Non-Proliferation Treaty to reaffirm support for the immediate commencement of negotiations and to engage in additional transparency and confidence-building measures, as called for in General Assembly resolution [78/28](#), that could facilitate these negotiations. Additionally, the Initiative calls upon nuclear-weapon States that have not already done so to declare and implement a moratorium on the production of fissile material for use in nuclear weapons and other nuclear explosive devices.



Report

1. The members of the Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Initiative reaffirm their commitment to pursuing the immediate commencement of negotiations on a treaty on fissile material for use in nuclear weapons or other explosive devices, as was agreed by the Parties to the Non-Proliferation Treaty at the 2000 Review Conference. The underlying obligations in a treaty on fissile material for nuclear weapons would not affect the inalienable right of all Parties to the Non-Proliferation Treaty to research, produce and use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes in conformity with the Non-Proliferation Treaty. In this respect, the early commencement of treaty negotiations is a shared priority for all Parties to the Non-Proliferation Treaty and, more generally, the international community.
2. Since the General Assembly adopted the objective of negotiations on a treaty on fissile material for use in nuclear weapons and other nuclear explosive devices in 1993 (resolution [48/75](#)), such a treaty has been a shared nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament priority for the international community. The Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Initiative acknowledges the establishment of the cross-regional group of friends of the fissile material cut-off treaty in 2024 to maintain and enhance political attention to a treaty as a priority action to prevent further arsenal expansions and to contribute to expanding support for the immediate commencement of treaty negotiations.
3. The General Assembly has provided the international community with the primary venue for substantive, expert-level discussions on a treaty on fissile material for use in nuclear weapons and other nuclear explosive devices, covering both technical considerations and broader political issues. In 2012, the Assembly adopted a resolution establishing a group of governmental experts on a treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices (resolution [67/53](#)). Released in 2015, the report of the Group of Governmental Experts to make recommendations on possible aspects that could contribute to but not negotiate a treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices ([A/70/81](#)) provides an in-depth assessment of and recommendations on key aspects of a future treaty. Another resolution was adopted by the Assembly in 2016 (resolution [71/259](#)) to establish a high-level fissile material cut-off treaty expert preparatory group to build on the work of the Group of Governmental Experts. The 25-member preparatory group was geographically diverse in its representation and included all five Non-Proliferation Treaty nuclear-weapon States, one non-Party to the Non-Proliferation Treaty and 19 non-nuclear-weapon States.
4. The report of the high-level fissile material cut-off treaty expert preparatory group of July 2018 provides a compendium of potential treaty elements and a summary of considerations that negotiators of a future treaty should bear in mind when deliberating on these options. In this respect, the report could facilitate future negotiations. The report emphasizes that negotiations on a treaty on fissile material for use in nuclear weapons and other nuclear explosive devices should begin without delay and makes recommendations on further work that could be undertaken, in parallel to or in advance of negotiations, to facilitate the successful conclusion of a treaty.
5. The Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Initiative supports initiatives such as the preparatory group to provide avenues for inclusive and genuine dialogue and consultation through mechanisms such as the informal consultative meetings held in 2017 and 2018 that allowed the broader United Nations membership to engage in the work of the preparatory group. The Initiative congratulates the members of the preparatory group on their work and welcomes the resulting report.

6. Similarly, the Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Initiative acknowledges the work conducted in 2018 by subsidiary body 2 of the Conference on Disarmament. Through the coordination of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, subsidiary body 2 considered general and technical aspects of a future treaty and discussed the value of further work in these areas. These discussions resulted in the adoption by the Conference on Disarmament of a report on this topic.

7. The Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Initiative acknowledges the value of carrying out further work, either prior to the start of negotiations on a treaty on fissile material for use in nuclear weapons and other nuclear explosive devices or in parallel, to support these negotiations on the technical and scientific aspects, scope, definitions, verification, and legal and institutional arrangements and on transparency and confidence-building measures relating to such a treaty.

8. The Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Initiative notes the adoption by the General Assembly of several resolutions on a treaty on fissile material for nuclear weapons since 2018 that welcome the adoption of the 2018 report of the preparatory group, and reiterates the call for the immediate commencement of negotiations on a treaty (resolution [73/65](#)). However, despite this near-universal support, the long-standing stalemate in the Conference on Disarmament continues to impede the start of negotiations in that forum. The Initiative remains gravely concerned about the dim prospects of negotiations in the forum.

9. Recalling the continued importance of a treaty on fissile material for nuclear weapons, and acknowledging that the long-awaited commencement of negotiations would make a significant, concrete contribution towards our shared goals under the Non-Proliferation Treaty, the Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Initiative calls upon all Parties to the Non-Proliferation Treaty to reaffirm their support for immediate commencement of negotiations and to carry out additional transparency and confidence-building measures, as called for in the 2023 report of the First Committee of the General Assembly on general and complete disarmament ([A/78/409](#)), that could facilitate the commencement of negotiations. The Initiative further calls upon nuclear-weapon States that have not already done so to declare and implement a moratorium on the production of fissile material for use in nuclear weapons and other nuclear explosive devices.
