
**Preparatory Committee for the 2015 Review
Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the
Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons**

24 April 2012

Original: English

First session

Vienna, 30 April-11 May 2012

**Security assurances against the use or threat of use of
nuclear weapons****Working paper presented by the Group of Non-Aligned States Parties to the
Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons**

1. The Group of Non-Aligned States Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons reaffirms that the total elimination of nuclear weapons is the only absolute guarantee against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons and accordingly believes that the 2015 Review Conference of the Treaty should also substantially focus on this issue as a matter of priority. The Group recalls that the 2010 Review Conference of the Treaty reaffirmed and recognized the legitimate interest of all non-nuclear-weapon States parties to the Treaty in receiving unequivocal and legally binding security assurances from the nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons. The Group is of the firm belief that receiving such security assurances is a legitimate right and in the security interest of all non-nuclear-weapon States parties to the Treaty.

2. The Group of Non-Aligned States Parties to the Treaty stresses that it is the legitimate right of all States parties to the Treaty that have given up the nuclear-weapon option to receive effective and unconditional legally binding security assurances against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons. In this regard, while noting the unilateral statements by each of the nuclear-weapon States, in which they give very limited, conditional and insufficient “security assurances” against the use of nuclear weapons to non-nuclear-weapon States parties to the Treaty, the Group expresses its concern over the continued insufficiency of such assurances.

3. The Group of Non-Aligned States Parties to the Treaty recalls that, in successive conferences of heads of State or Government of the Non-Aligned Countries and the ministerial conferences of the Non-Aligned Movement, it has been reiterated that improvements in existing nuclear weapons and the development of new types of nuclear weapons, as envisaged in the Nuclear Posture Review of the United States of America, contravene even the mere and still conditional, very limited and insufficient unilateral statements made by each of the nuclear-weapon States. They have further reaffirmed that these improvements and the development of new types of such weapons violate the commitments undertaken by the nuclear-



weapon States at the time of the conclusion of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty.

4. The Group of Non-Aligned States Parties to the Treaty emphasizes that the indefinite extension of the Treaty does not imply the indefinite possession by the nuclear-weapon States of their nuclear arsenals and considers, in that regard, that any assumption of indefinite possession of nuclear weapons is incompatible with the integrity and sustainability of the nuclear non-proliferation regime, both vertical and horizontal, and with the broader objective of maintaining international peace and security.

5. The Group of Non-Aligned States Parties to the Treaty reaffirms that, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, States must refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any State, or in any other manner inconsistent with the purposes of the United Nations. Accordingly, the Group is of the view that pending the total elimination of nuclear weapons, as the only absolute guarantee against the threat or use of nuclear weapons, the nuclear-weapon States shall refrain from the threat or use of nuclear weapons against any non-nuclear-weapon States parties to the Treaty. The Group reiterates that efforts to conclude a universal, unconditional and legally binding instrument on security assurances to all non-nuclear-weapon States parties to the Treaty against the threat or use of nuclear weapons by the nuclear-weapon States should be pursued as a matter of priority and should be materialized without further delay.

6. Moreover, the Group of Non-Aligned States Parties to the Treaty, while noting the lack of progress since the establishment in 1998 of an ad hoc committee in the Conference on Disarmament to negotiate universal, unconditional and legally binding security assurances to all non-nuclear-weapon States parties to the Treaty, expresses concern that despite long-standing requests by non-nuclear-weapon States parties to the Treaty to receive such legally binding assurances, no tangible progress has been achieved in this regard. In this connection, the Group calls for the commencement, without any further delay, of the negotiation for a universal, unconditional and legally binding instrument on irrevocable and non-discriminatory negative security assurances, believing that such assurances to the non-nuclear-weapon States parties to the Treaty would fulfil the undertaking to the States that have voluntarily given up the nuclear-weapons option by becoming parties to the Treaty. The Group further believes that legally binding security assurances within the context of the Treaty would provide an essential benefit to the States parties to the Treaty and to the credibility of the Treaty regime. The Group also is of the view that pending the conclusion of unconditional and multilaterally negotiated legally binding security assurances for all non-nuclear-weapon States, all nuclear-weapon States shall fully respect their existing commitments with regard to security assurances and shall extend these to all non-nuclear-weapon States parties to the Treaty.

7. In keeping with the above-mentioned position and in accordance with the decision at the 2000 Review Conference, the Group of Non-Aligned States Parties to the Treaty calls for the establishment of a subsidiary body on security assurances for further work to consider legally binding negative security assurances by the five nuclear-weapon States to the non-nuclear-weapon States parties to the Treaty.

8. The Group of Non-Aligned States Parties to the Treaty expresses concern over the lack of agreement on a number of its key priorities, including, inter alia, to commence negotiations on a universal, unconditional and legally binding instrument on irrevocable and non-discriminatory negative security assurances to non-nuclear-weapon States parties to the Treaty, and expresses its determination to continue its collective efforts in pursuing the realization of the aforementioned priority in the 2015 review process of the Treaty.
