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

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Nuclear-weapon-free zones

**Working paper submitted by the members of 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 Treaty recognizes the right of any group of States to conclude regional treaties in order to assure the total absence of nuclear weapons in their respective territories, which the Group considers to be a contribution towards the total elimination of nuclear weapons. The Group is, however, of the firm belief that the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones is not a substitute for the legal obligations of and unequivocal undertakings by the nuclear-weapon States to eliminate nuclear weapons entirely.
2. The Group welcomes the efforts aimed at establishing nuclear-weapon-free zones worldwide and calls for cooperation and broad consultation in order for the States of the regions concerned to freely arrive at such agreements. In this regard, the Group continues to consider the nuclear-weapon-free zones created by the treaties of Tlatelolco (Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean), Rarotonga (South Pacific Nuclear Free Zone Treaty), Bangkok (Treaty on the South-East Asia Nuclear Weapon Free Zone), Pelindaba (African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty) and Semipalatinsk (Treaty on a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Central Asia) to be a positive step and important measure towards attaining the objective of global nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation of nuclear weapons.
3. In this regard, the Group strongly supports the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East and calls for the full implementation of the 1995 Resolution on the Middle East, which is an integral and essential part of the package of decisions reached without a vote that enabled the indefinite extension of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons in 1995. In the Group's view, the resolution remains valid until its objectives are achieved.
4. The Group welcomes the entry into force of the Semipalatinsk and Pelindaba treaties on 21 March 2009 and 15 July 2009, respectively, and considers the



establishment of these zones to be an effective contribution towards strengthening regional and global peace and security.

5. The Group reiterates that, in the context of the nuclear-weapon-free zones, it is essential that the nuclear-weapon States provide unconditional, non-discriminatory and specific legal assurances against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons to all States of the zone concerned. In this regard, the Group strongly calls for the withdrawal of any related reservations or unilateral interpretative declarations that are incompatible with the object and purpose of such treaties. The Group further calls upon the nuclear-weapon States to fulfil their obligations with a view to achieving the objectives of the treaties to establish nuclear-weapon-free zones and their protocols.

6. The Group emphasizes the need to strengthen the integrity of the statute of denuclearization provided for in the Treaty of Tlatelolco by reviewing the declarations that were formulated by the nuclear-weapon States parties to additional protocols I and II for possible withdrawal or modification.

7. The Group urges States to conclude agreements with a view to establishing new nuclear-weapon-free zones in regions where they do not exist in accordance with the provisions of the Final Document of the first special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament (see A/S-10/4) and the principles and guidelines adopted by the United Nations Disarmament Commission at its 1999 substantive session. In this context, the Group considers that the further institutionalization of Mongolia's nuclear-weapon-free status would be an important step towards strengthening the non-proliferation regime in that region.

8. The Group welcomes the conclusion of the consultations between the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and the nuclear-weapon States on the Protocol to the Bangkok Treaty and urges the nuclear-weapon States to become parties to the Protocol as soon as possible. The Group looks forward to the signing of the Protocol by the five nuclear-weapon States in July 2012.

9. The Group stresses the importance of the signature and ratification by the nuclear-weapon States of the relevant protocols to the treaties of Pelindaba, Rarotonga and Semipalatinsk in order to ensure the total absence of nuclear weapons in the territories of the States parties to those treaties, as envisaged in article VII of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

10. The Group, while noting with satisfaction the convening of the Second Conference of States Parties and Signatories of Treaties that Establish Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones and Mongolia, which was held in New York on 30 April 2010, calls upon the States parties and signatories to those treaties to put in place further forms of cooperation among themselves, their treaty agencies and other interested States.