



Geneva Centre for Security Policy
Centre de Politique de Sécurité, Genève
Genfer Zentrum für Sicherheitspolitik

Impartial, Inclusive, Influential



UNIDIR



Reaching Critical Will

Project

THE 2010 NPT REVIEW CONFERENCE ACTION PLAN: IMPLEMENTATION AND OPERATIONALIZATION

Background

The international context in the field of arms control, disarmament, and the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons has been marked by important developments in recent years. In April 2009, President Obama delivered his famous Prague speech on a world without nuclear weapons. In September 2009, the United Nations Security Council adopted at the highest level its resolution 1887 (2009) in which it seeks “to create the conditions for a world without nuclear weapons” and “calls upon all States that are not Parties to the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) to accede to the Treaty as non-nuclear-weapon States so as to achieve its universality at an early date.” In 2010, the Global summit on Nuclear Security was convened, and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) offered cooperation with Russia on missile defence. The entry into force of the New START Treaty between the United States and the Russian Federation in February 2011 paved the way for new reductions in deployed nuclear strategic arsenals and further negotiations encompassing non-strategic and non-deployed nuclear weapons.

Despite this positive evolution, frustrations are expressed in the international community about the pace and scope of nuclear disarmament; the degree of compliance of some States Parties to the Non-proliferation Treaty (NPT) with their commitments and the lack of universality of that Treaty give rise to serious concerns or suspicions; the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) has yet to enter into force 15 years after it was opened for signature; and consensus still eludes the Conference on Disarmament on the negotiation of a treaty to prohibit the production of fissile material for weapons purposes. Even regarding peaceful uses of nuclear energy, it is difficult to predict the future impact of the recent catastrophe in Japan.

Rationale

In this context, the May 2010 Review Conference of the NPT has been considered a success. It adopted a final document in which it agreed on 64 actions (plus the Middle East resolution) in order to implement the obligations contained in the three “pillars” of the NPT (nuclear disarmament, nuclear non-proliferation and peaceful uses of nuclear energy). Of course, the implementation and monitoring of many of those actions are within the competence of States Parties and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). However, considering the past and potential role of Geneva as the venue of bilateral and multilateral nuclear disarmament-related negotiations and meetings, the GCSP offers to contribute, with partners, to

stock-taking, analysis and recommendations on the implementation and operationalization of those actions. This project is financially supported by the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs.

Aims

This project aims at:

- Providing a platform for examining the degree of implementation and operationalization of the Action Plan in the three NPT “pillars”, and
- Proposing concrete actions and initiatives for the NPT Review process, or advances in the areas where insufficient progress was reported.

It is intended to provide all interested stakeholders (governments of nuclear-weapon- and non-nuclear-weapon states, academia, civil society, international organisations, and industry) opportunities to express their views, share information, and seek common solutions. The results of those discussions will be made available through summaries posted on the partners’ websites.

Format

As a run-up to the 2012 Preparatory Committee (PrepCom) of the 2015 Review Conference, three one-day **seminars** will be organised in Geneva with international experts on each “pillar” of the NPT on the following dates:

1. Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy: 30 June 2011 (this seminar will take into account recent developments in the area of safety of nuclear energy);
2. Non-Proliferation: 29 September 2011
3. Disarmament: 20 January 2012

The issue of the resolution on the **Middle East** will be addressed as an agenda item of all three seminars, and a dedicated seminar may be organised on that issue at an appropriate time. Each of the three seminars will be prepared by two **background papers**, assessing the implementation of the Action Plan in the relevant “pillar” in order to steer the discussion. Reaching Critical Will (RCW) will produce a monitoring report ahead of each seminar, which will include a factual overview of the relevant actions and concrete implementation measures taken by relevant states in line with the Action Plan. The second background document will be an assessment analytical paper authored by an invited specialised expert, who will evaluate policies and degree of fulfilment of commitments, and formulate recommendations. These two background papers will constitute the basis for the discussions at each seminar. The results of the three seminars will be summarised into a **synthetic report**, drafted by an expert (“rapporteur”), to be circulated to the States Parties prior to the PrepCom. Participants and partner organisations may also contribute with separate papers and comments on the discussion. The process will have continuity:

- The rapporteur will attend all three seminars;
- Between the seminars, smaller working groups could work on specific issues;
- An on-line forum could allow for more comments and contributions;
- The final report will include updates since the time of the seminars.

If this appears useful and if there is interest, the project could be renewed for the next PrepComs and/or the 2015 Review Conference.

Target Audience

A generic invitation to the three seminars will be sent to the Geneva disarmament community (Permanent Missions, experts, NGOs) as well as representatives from international organisations, civil society and relevant industry. Before each seminar, a reminder will be sent to the same and additional experts more relevant for each topic. The outcomes (background papers and synthetic report) will be made public by each partner on their websites, and the synthetic report will be published by GCSP as a *Geneva Paper*.

Partners

This will be a partnership between GCSP, UNIDIR, and Reaching Critical Will (RCW – the project of the Women's International League for and Peace and Freedom – WILPF) with the financial support of the Swiss Confederation. The project will also enjoy the support of the Geneva Branch of the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA). RCW will be responsible for producing the monitoring report ahead of each seminar. GCSP will host and organise the seminars, and manage the publications in liaison with the partners.

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