

# **NPT REVIEW CONFERENCE**

## **Main Committee I - Nuclear disarmament**

### **Statement by Egypt**

#### **on behalf of the New Agenda Coalition**

**(Brazil, Ireland, Mexico, New Zealand, South Africa  
and Egypt)**

Mr. Chair,

1. I have the honor to deliver this statement on behalf of the New Agenda Coalition: Brazil, Ireland, Mexico, New Zealand, South Africa, and my own country, Egypt.

2. The Tenth Review Conference is a vital opportunity for all States Parties, and particularly Nuclear-Weapon States, to demonstrate, in concrete terms, their commitment, without conditionality, to the NPT's full implementation.

3. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic this Review Conference is a long time in coming. In the seven years since the NPT's last review meeting, which failed to reach an agreed outcome, we have witnessed a further marked deterioration in the international security environment. No progress was made in eliminating nuclear weapons, and their salience has been increasing for some NPT State Parties.

4. The NAC calls on the nuclear-weapon states to make progress towards the full implementation of Article VI and to reiterate their unequivocal undertaking to eliminate their nuclear arsenals, leading to nuclear disarmament, in order to reinforce the credibility of the NPT and its Review Process.

5. Continued delay by the Nuclear-Weapon States in implementing their obligation to disarm is not acceptable. The NAC regrets that their failure to take concrete actions to eliminate their nuclear arsenals adds to the challenging environment for this Review Conference, including through threats of use and heightened levels of alertness. The NWS must reaffirm their existing obligations and commitments as a starting point for further progress.

6. The demise of core agreements, such as the Intermediate Nuclear Forces Treaty and Open Skies Treaty, the adoption of national plans to expand, modernize and qualitatively improve nuclear arsenals, and maintain or increase the role of nuclear weapons in security doctrines, are not developments consistent with the NWS's commitment to nuclear disarmament. Since the last Review Conference in 2015, the threat of a new nuclear arms race has become a stark reality. This pernicious trend must be reversed.

7. Although the NAC was encouraged by the extension of New START and the resumption of efforts by the US and Russia to advance their bilateral strategic arms control dialogue, we are deeply concerned that such efforts are now stalled. We reiterate that concrete results that are irreversible and verifiable are urgently needed on this

front and should inspire the nuclear-weapon states' broader multilateral engagement on nuclear disarmament.

8. Any use of nuclear weapons would have catastrophic humanitarian consequences that transcend national borders, pose grave implications for human survival and well-being and are incompatible with respect for the right to life. This Review Conference should, at the very least, reiterate its deep concern at this prospect. It should also reaffirm the need for all States to comply with applicable international law, including international humanitarian law, at all times.

9. We recall the evidence brought to light by the Conferences on the Humanitarian Impact of nuclear weapons, including the most recent one held in Vienna in June 2022. It is clear that no state or international organization has the capacity to address the devastating consequences of nuclear weapons use.

10. That NAC notes that a disparity persists between the treatment of biological and chemical weapons on the one hand, and nuclear weapons on the other. On nuclear disarmament, solemn commitments have been made and are repeated, and there is growing awareness of the consequences of inaction to curb this category of weapon of mass destruction. However, the ongoing absence of good faith negotiations on effective measures for nuclear

disarmament among NPT states parties relying on nuclear weapons for their security continues to be a dangerous omission that holds back the Treaty's full implementation.

11. One bright spot on a bleak disarmament landscape was the entry into force of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW), in January 2021. This new Treaty, and its first Meeting of States Parties, in June 2022, offer some much needed impetus to the nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime. The TPNW is consistent with the NPT, complements and advances the implementation of Article VI, while reiterating its urgency, as well as embodies a long-standing demand for the elimination of nuclear weapons.

Mr. Chair,

12. The NAC supports proposals aimed at urgently reducing nuclear risk, however, such measures must be seen for what they are - as means to an end, and the overarching end must be nuclear disarmament. Such risk reduction efforts must be recognized as interim solutions. The total elimination of nuclear weapons is the only guarantee against their use or threat of use. Without a direct link to the ultimate goal of a nuclear-weapon-free world, nuclear risk reduction measures at best sustain the illusion that we can live with nuclear weapons

indefinitely. While nuclear weapons continue to exist, they will always pose risk to humanity.

13. The NAC urges all the NPT States Parties to accelerate their implementation of all agreements and undertakings made at successive Review Conferences. The Nuclear Weapon States bear special responsibility in the fulfilment of the obligations under Article VI. We invite all countries to consider the suggestions put forward in the NAC's working paper NPT/CONF.2020/PC.III/WP.35.

14. The NAC has consistently called for and proposed measures to accelerate the implementation of States Parties nuclear disarmament obligations and commitments. These include de-alerting, entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty, a fissile material ban treaty, the creation of new nuclear-weapons-free zones, particularly in the Middle East, and entry into force of the legally-binding protocols to existing zone treaties as well as the review of any related reservations, transparency and nuclear disarmament verification among others.

15. The NAC believes it is long past time for NPT States Parties, and in particular, the five Nuclear-Weapon States, to deliver upon their political commitments to fully implement the legally binding obligation embodied in

Article VI. Our suggestions aim at paving the way towards that goal, thereby contributing to the successful outcome of this Conference and to the preservation of a regime that must ensure the security of all States Parties and their peoples.

Thank you.