

GLOBAL ENTERPRISE TO STRENGTHEN NONPROLIFERATION AND DISARMAMENT

DISCUSSION PAPER:

ILLUSTRATIVE NPT “HIGH-LEVEL STATEMENT”

Updated: October 1,2020

There is interest among many countries in a short, high-level statement as one possible outcome from the postponed 2020 NPT Review Conference (RevCon). Such a statement could be pursued without prejudice to other possible outcomes, including a consensus final document and/or stand-alone voluntary commitments by groups of countries. The specific language of such a high-level statement would ultimately be negotiated by the NPT Parties, and countries may differ on how much to include in that statement and how to word it. However, even prior to such negotiations, it is useful to explore what broad elements could be included.

An initial draft of broad elements (not specific language) that could become part of such a statement was discussed at the September 11th meeting of the Global Enterprise. At that meeting there was broad support for the idea of a high-level statement. Participants also believed that any such statement should focus on broad, high-level themes and should not incorporate very specific action commitments which could be handled elsewhere. Reflecting these and other comments, the following revision sets out possible elements of a high-level statement. Pledges by states Parties to a small number of commitments would be an important complement to such a high level document and this statement should be read in parallel with the related GE discussion paper “Illustrative Actions for 2025.”

Broad Elements of a “High-Level Statement” for Consideration

1. Recognition of the devastation that would be visited upon all mankind by nuclear war and the consequent need to make every effort to ensure that nuclear weapons are never used again;
2. Reaffirmation of the NPT’s contribution to the security and well-being of its Parties;
3. Reaffirmation of Parties’ obligations under the NPT and their commitment to intensified actions to implement fully and effectively those obligations;
4. Affirmation of the need for balanced action and renewed cooperation to advance the NPT’s goals of preventing proliferation, fostering the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, and nuclear disarmament;
5. Affirmation of the importance of successful non-proliferation based on sustained efforts to reduce incentives to acquire nuclear weapons as well as support for robust national, regional, and global non-proliferation institutions and undertakings;
6. Support for the peaceful applications of nuclear technology consistent with Parties’ non-proliferation obligations, with particular reference to the needs of developing countries and to robust fissile material management;

7. Reaffirmation by all Parties of the goal of a world free of nuclear weapons as well as the need for intensified actions to overcome the obstacles to – and build the foundations for - accelerated progress toward nuclear disarmament;
8. Support for strengthened non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament education; and
9. Commitment to enhance diversity in all its dimensions in national, regional, and global efforts to advance the goals of the NPT and the Treaty's contribution to a safer, more prosperous world.