

## **GLOBAL ENTERPRISE TO STRENGTHEN NONPROLIFERATION AND DISARMAMENT**

### **DISCUSSION PAPER:**

### **STRENGTHENING THE NPT – ILLUSTRATIVE ACTIONS FOR 2025**

Dr. Lewis A. Dunn

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The eventual 2020 NPT Review Conference (RevCon) provides an opportunity for Parties to reaffirm their support for the NPT, including: its roots in a recognition of the devastation that would be visited upon all mankind by a nuclear war; its vital contribution to global peace, security, and well-being; and the Parties' renewed commitment to advance its goals. The breadth of support and practical significance of such a general reaffirmation would be greatly strengthened if accompanied by agreement among the Parties to realize a very short list (<5) of NPT-related actions in the period prior to the 2025 NPT RevCon. Achieving these actions by 2025 also would significantly strengthen NPT implementation.

To help foster discussion of this approach, NTI prepared an initial discussion paper that set out a list of possible actions. It was stressed that all of the actions listed would not be pursued; others undoubtedly could be proposed. During the discussion of that paper at the September GE meeting, there was considerable interest in this concept. However, participants stressed that it needed to be understood that highlighting a few such actions to “get done” by 2025 should not implicitly downgrade the importance of those many other actions not so identified. In addition, any effort to agree on a short-list of “by 2025” actions needs to reflect balance across the NPT three pillars. Different views were put forward on how ambitious to make the short-list as opposed to emphasizing what should be achievable between the postponed 2020 RevCon and the 2025 RevCon. With regard to achievability, several speakers stressed that the global changes brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic are redefining what may be possible.

Reflecting the September discussion, the following is a revision of the list from the original discussion paper. *Again, its list of possible actions is intended to be illustrative, and while progress on many of these actions should be possible to achieve by the 2025 RevCon, there is no expectation that Parties would agree to all of them.* (Reference is made in parenthesis to the relevant items in the 2010 NPT Action Plan).

#### *Nuclear Disarmament*

- Sustain, extend, and reenergize the US-Russia arms control process through realization of specific agreements, while strengthening integration of other nuclear weapon states (NWS) into the global arms control process (Action 4).

- Report by NWS (individually and together within the P5 process) on actions taken to overcome obstacles to reenergized pursuit of nuclear disarmament (Actions 3, 4, 5 inter alia).
- Institute more robust bilateral, multiparty, and P5 dialogue on nuclear risk reduction, with reporting in the context of the NPT Review Process on specific measures implemented to reduce nuclear risks pending the elimination of nuclear weapons (Action 5 d).
- Affirmation by all NPT Parties [or by the P5] of the Reagan-Gorbachev principle that a nuclear war cannot be won and must never be fought (Action 5).
- Initiate negotiations in the Conference on Disarmament on legally binding assurances from the NWS to non-nuclear weapon states (NNWS) in compliance with their non-proliferation obligations against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons against them (Action 7).
- Reaffirmation of a moratorium on nuclear-weapons testing, with a view to entry-into-force of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (Action 11).
- Successfully develop the necessary technologies, concepts, and procedures that will be needed for verification of elimination of nuclear weapons (Action 1 and 2)

#### *Non-proliferation*

- Resolve outstanding issues and complete ratification of nuclear-weapon free zone treaties, including protocols (Action 9).
- Begin negotiation of a treaty on fissile materials, while taking parallel actions to enhance fissile material management, e.g., voluntary declarations of past production, moratorium on new production, technical expert exchanges (Action 15).
- Implement comprehensive safeguards agreements as well as the Additional Protocol in all NPT Parties (Actions 25 and 28).
- National actions and international cooperation to ensure that all NPT Parties have in place effective regulations and controls to ensure that their exports do not directly or indirectly assist development of nuclear weapons (Action 35 and 36).
- Ratification by all Parties of the amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Materials (Action 42).
- Commitment to strengthen nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation education (Action 22).

*Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy*

- Pledges of sustained contributions to IAEA technical assistance programs intended to support the peaceful applications of nuclear energy, including nuclear power (Action 52 and 53).
- Action by those states still using highly-enriched uranium for peaceful applications to voluntarily phase-out such uses (Action 61).
- Strengthened implementation of the IAEA principles on nuclear security (Action 43 and Action 60).

*Other Measures in Support of NPT*

- Sustained and strengthened interaction during the NPT Review Process among all NPT Parties, including between NWS and NNWS in the preparation and discussion of national reports on NPT implementation (Action 20).
- Commitment to actions to strengthen participation of women, youth and other diverse communities across activities related to all three NPT pillars.