

Chairman's statement at the conclusion of the Meeting of focal points of NWFZs and Mongolia

A meeting of focal points of Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones of Latin America and the Caribbean (Tlatelolco Treaty), South Pacific (Rarotonga Treaty), Southeast Asia (Bangkok Treaty), Central Asia as well as Mongolia was held on 27-28 April 2009 in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. It discussed the issues of implementation of the Tlatelolco declaration of 2005 as well as preparations for the follow-up conference of the States Parties and Signatories to Treaties that Establish NWFZs and Mongolia and for the 2010 NPT Review Conference. Following the consideration of these issues the Chairman is making the following statement:

1. We reaffirm the validity of the Declaration of the first Conference of States Parties and Signatories to Treaties that Establish Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones (NWFZs) adopted on 28 April 2005 in Mexico.
2. We reaffirm that the existence of nuclear weapons and the possibility of their use constitute a threat to the entire humankind, and that their use would have catastrophic consequences for it. Hence nuclear disarmament, total prohibition and eventual elimination of nuclear weapons remain urgent tasks facing the humankind. We support the United Nations Secretary-General's five point proposal to revitalize the international disarmament agenda that includes a call for negotiations on effective measures leading to nuclear disarmament.
3. We welcome the positive signs that are emerging to reduce further nuclear arsenals as well as the recent "surge" in various ideas and proposals to address the pending issues of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation of nuclear weapons as imperatives that humankind is facing today. These positive developments and trends taken together create a positive climate to pursue further the goals of a world free from nuclear weapons and of nuclear non-proliferation.
4. We recognize the importance of multilateralism and in particular the notable role played by the United Nations in the area of nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation and we reiterate our commitment to adopting measures to strengthen that role.
5. We reaffirm that the NPT remains an essential instrument of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, and reiterate the validity of the principles, obligations and rights contained therein, in particular in Articles III, IV, VI and VII.
6. We are convinced that the establishment of internationally recognized NWFZs on the basis of agreements entered into freely among the States of the zone concerned promotes the goals of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. Respect for such zones by Nuclear-Weapon and neighboring States constitute important nuclear disarmament commitments;
7. We reiterate our concern that though almost a decade has passed since the 2000 NPT Review Conference, uneven progress has been marked in implementing the agreed nuclear disarmament measures. Therefore we urge all States to comply with the obligations set forth in Article VI of the NPT and elaborated further in the decisions of the Review Conference mentioned above;

8. We urge Nuclear Weapon States to continue taking steps toward concluding an unconditional and legally-binding universal treaty on security assurances for non-nuclear-weapon States and to honor their commitments regarding the security assurances until the treaty is concluded.
9. We welcome the entry into force of the Central Asian NWFZ Treaty on 21 March 2009, first such a zone in the northern hemisphere and covering an area where nuclear weapons were previously based. With more rigorous safeguards provisions, it will make an effective contribution to strengthening regional and global peace and security.
10. We are looking forward to the entry into force of the African NWFZ Treaty which would mark an important measure towards attaining the objective of global non-proliferation.
11. We urge Nuclear Weapon States and any other States listed or mentioned in the relevant Protocols to the treaties establishing NWFZs that have not yet signed or ratified the Protocols to do so as soon as possible, and those that have made reservations or unilateral interpretations to modify or withdraw them.
12. We express full support for Mongolia's policy of institutionalizing its nuclear-weapon-free status. We welcome the start of the talks by Mongolia with its two neighbours to conclude the required legal instrument and express the hope that it would soon result in the conclusion of an international instrument institutionalizing the status.
13. We reiterate our support for the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones in the Middle East as well as Northeast Asia, South Asia and Central Europe;
14. We reaffirm the importance of achieving the universality of the NPT and urge those States that are not parties thereto to accede to the Treaty without delay or conditions as non-nuclear-weapon States.
15. We reaffirm the commitments reflected in the NWFZ treaties to further promote and strengthen these zones and to cooperate in promoting ratifications, where appropriate, by all States that belong to a NWFZ as a contribution to strengthening confidence, the NPT regime and achieving nuclear disarmament.
16. We reiterate our demand for the total elimination of all nuclear testing and stress the importance of speedy entry into force of and achieving universal adherence to the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty which would make a tangible practical contribution to the cause of nuclear disarmament. Pending its entry into force, a moratorium on nuclear-weapon-test-explosions or on any other nuclear explosions need to be maintained.
17. We reaffirm the inalienable right of all States to develop the research, production and utilization of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes without discrimination and in conformity with Articles I and II of the NPT. We further reaffirm that NWFZs do not prevent the use of nuclear science and technology for peaceful purposes.
18. We recognize the fundamental role of the IAEA in the application and verification of compliance with the international safeguards regime provided for in the NPT and the

relevant NWFZ treaties, as well as its efforts to strengthen the effectiveness of the international safeguards system.

19. Bearing in mind that disarmament and non-proliferation education can contribute to promoting a world free of nuclear weapons threats, we encourage all States to promote programs instilling the values of peace and disarmament.
20. We will continue preparations for the second conference of the States Parties and Signatories to Treaties that Establish NWFZs and Mongolia to be held in advance of the 2010 NPT Review Conference. It was also understood that a parallel civil society forum would take place.