



DDA 2000 Update

UNITED NATIONS DEPARTMENT FOR DISARMAMENT AFFAIRS

June 2000

2000 NPT Review Conference

New steps in nuclear disarmament recommended

Anxiety was high that the 2000 Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) Review Conference (24 April-19 May 2000) would get caught in the prevailing stalemate of the international nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament agenda.

Among the events on the minds of the participants were the nuclear tests conducted by India and Pakistan in 1998, the failure of the United States Senate to ratify the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty in October 1999 and the strident international debate over missile proliferation and the deployment of national missile defences.

The 2000 Conference was the sixth review conference of the States parties since the Treaty's entry into force in 1970, and the first after agreement was reached to extend the Treaty indefinitely at the twenty-five-year Review and Extension Conference in 1995. Also at that Conference, States parties agreed on measures that would help realize one of the central provisions of the Treaty contained in its article VI, the commitment of the Parties "to pursue negotia-

tions in good faith on effective measures relating to cessation of the nuclear arms race at an early date and to nuclear disarmament, and on a treaty on general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international con-

the Conference were reached after a stop-the-clock 18-hour meeting on 19 May. The Final Document, containing an article by article review of the operation of the Treaty since 1995 and an agreement on how to manage the next review process better, gave room for cautious optimism for steady and incremental gains in global nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation for the future.

BEFORE

"Nuclear conflict remains a very real, and very terrifying possibility at the beginning of the 21st century.

I propose that Member States reaffirm at the highest political level their commitment to reducing the dangers that arise both from existing nuclear weapons and from further proliferation."

From the statement of the Secretary-General to the opening session of the Review Conference, 24 April 2000

AFTER

"This consensus extends to new efforts aimed at the total elimination of nuclear weapons, a reinvigorated effort to halt the global spread of nuclear weapons, and a strengthening of essential standards governing the peaceful uses of nuclear energy."

From a statement of the Secretary-General on the last day of the Review Conference, 19 May 2000

control". Also adopted in 1995 was an agreement on ways to strengthen the review process of the Treaty and a resolution on nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament aspects of the Middle East region.

The ratification by the Russian Federation of the Strategic Arms Limitation and Reduction Treaty II (START II) and the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT), on 14 and 21 April respectively, raised expectations for a successful review. The five nuclear Powers issued a joint declaration early on during the four-week meeting, also raising hopes for a positive outcome. The joint declaration was the first ever published by the nuclear Powers during a review conference. The final results of

"We came to the Conference with solid determination", stated Antonio de Icaza, Ambassador of Mexico to the Conference on Disarmament, speaking on behalf of the New Agenda Coalition after agreement had been reached on the Final Document of the Conference. "The nuclear-weapon States have made the unequivocal commitment to the total elimination of their nuclear weapons. What has always been implicit has now become explicit." The New Agenda Coalition is a group of seven countries - Brazil, Egypt, Ireland, Mexico, New Zealand, South Africa and Sweden - that have been taking a lead at the United Nations in working towards a world free of nuclear weapons.

IN THIS ISSUE

2000 NPT Review Conference	1
NGOs at the NPT	2
Conference on Disarmament	2
Drugs and Firearms in the Caribbean and Central America	3
"We, the Peoples" at Millennium Forum	4

continued on page 2

NGOs at the NPT

Civil society, in the form of representatives from 141 non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and research institutes, the majority of which specialize in disarmament and international security, was active during the 2000 NPT Review Conference (24 April-19 May).

Though the number of participating organizations did not break a record in terms of disarmament meetings, the level of interaction with governmental representatives and coordination among the organizations themselves surpassed the last major Conference for the NPT in 1995.

Building on a practice initiated during the three Preparatory Committee sessions (1997-1999), NGO representatives had an unprecedented opportunity to express their views to the Review Conference in a meeting devoted to that purpose.

Speakers included such notables as Iccho Itoh, Mayor of Nagasaki, and Jonathan Schell, author of *The Fate of the Earth & The Gift of Time: The Case for Abolishing Nuclear Weapons Now*.

They addressed issues such as nuclear disarmament measures, nuclear weapons research and development, national missile defence, nuclear deterrence, the law and the NPT, health and the environment, alternatives to nuclear energy sources, indigenous testimony on the nuclear age, South Asia and the Middle East.

The NGOs conducted numerous parallel activities, including informal round tables with academic experts and delegations, regular briefings by the officers and secretariat of the meeting, and weekly press briefings.

Bringing considerable expertise on nuclear issues with them, the consistent presence of NGOs helped to raise the public profile of the meeting, thus giving added impetus to the achievement of the consensus Final Document.

(For further information, see <http://www.igc.org/disarm>)

◆ UNDDA

In the wake of the successful adoption of a consensus Final Document by the 2000 NPT Review Conference, hopes were renewed that the long-running deadlock in negotiations in the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva could be broken.

Consultations began immediately at the start of the second part of the 2000 session of the Conference (22 May-7 July) on a programme of work acceptable to all of its 66 member States. Undertaken by Ambassador Jean Lint of Belgium, as the President of the Conference, the consultations revolved around identifying appropriate ways to deal with the issues of nuclear disarmament and prevention of an arms race in outer space.

"The international community would not understand that for the second con-

CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

secutive year, the Conference was not able to agree on a programme of work," stressed Ambassador Lint at the first plenary of his four-week period as President. Emphasizing the need for a sense of urgency and transparency, he called upon delegations to demonstrate greater flexibility and compromise.

In accordance with the rules of procedure of the Conference, Ambassador Celso L. N. Amorim of Brazil assumed the presidency of the Conference on 3 July. Despite his efforts, the Conference did not agree on a programme of work before the adjournment of its second session on 7 July. The Conference convenes for its third and final part of the year 2000 from 7 August to 22 September. ◆ UNDDA

from page 1

PRACTICAL STEPS TO IMPLEMENT ARTICLE VI

In its review of article VI, the Conference agreed on some practical steps for systematic and progressive efforts for its implementation. Most important, the nuclear-weapon States agreed to an unequivocal undertaking to accomplish the total elimination of their nuclear arsenals leading to nuclear disarmament, thereby reaffirming and strengthening their commitment to the Treaty.

One of the conclusions that can be made was that the elimination of nuclear weapons no longer appeared in terms of a remote, indefinite future. No specific timetable for disarmament was drawn up. But the urgent need for realistic and achievable steps in this regard was nevertheless more fully recognized.

Some other notable conceptual inroads were achieved in the commitments made in the Final Document of the Review Conference. For instance, the principle of *irreversibility* has been applied to nuclear disarmament, nuclear and other related arms control, and reduction measures. In other words, once nuclear weapons, including their warheads, are dismantled/destroyed, they can never be used again for weapons purposes. Another was the support for the concept of *transparency* with regard to nuclear weapons capabilities, as a voluntary measure to be undertaken by the nuclear-weapon States.

Currently, estimates of nuclear capabilities are obtained from private research sources. Governmental transparency would make such information official and available to the public.

In addition, nuclear doctrines will no longer remain outside the focus of future review conferences as the Final Document contains agreed language about the *diminishing role for nuclear weapons in security policies to minimize the risk that these weapons ever be used*. Agreement on this language was reassuring in the light of recent developments in the past several years. In April 1999, for example, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), celebrating its fiftieth anniversary, reasserted its reliance on nuclear weapons, although it acknowledged that "the circumstances in which any use of nuclear weapons might have to be contemplated by the Allies are . . . extremely remote." The review carried out by the Russian Federation of its military doctrine in February this year also reasserted its reliance on the use of nuclear weapons as a deterrent to NATO, while placing a greater emphasis on the immediate utility of such weapons.

The issue of non-strategic or *tactical nuclear weapons* was taken up for the first time in a Treaty review document and will thus not remain a taboo for future international deliberations. Estimates vary widely on how many "battlefield" weapons exist

continued on page 3

DRUGS AND FIREARMS IN THE CARIBBEAN AND CENTRAL AMERICA

Fort-de-France, Martinique

On 23 and 24 May 2000, in Fort-de-France, the UN Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament, and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean (UN-LiREC) conducted an awareness-building workshop to promote adoption of the 1997 Firearms Model Regulations of the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD) of the Organization of American States (OAS). The Workshop was a cooperative venture with the Centre Interministeriel de Formation Anti-Drogue of the French Ministry of Justice.

The focus of the attention was on the relationship of CICAD's Firearms Model Regulations to the implementation of the 1997 OAS Convention on Firearms, Ammunition and Explosives. The operation of the regulations on import, export, and trans-shipment was demonstrated, including details on forms, certifications, and record-keeping. Participants discussed the difference in the impact that illicit trafficking has on islands and on the continent. Variations were caused by population density, land mass and the actual quantity of firearms smuggled into and through countries.

Participants included police and customs officers and foreign ministry officials from 20 countries in Central America and the Caribbean, as well as officials from CICAD, the UN Drug Control Programme, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, and the European Commission Drug Control Office for the Caribbean. Brazil, Cuba and Japan attended as observer countries.

REGIONAL CAPACITY-BUILDING AND TRAINING

The Lima Centre is preparing a series of events to start in 2001, entitled "Curbing Illicit Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition and Explosives in Latin America and the Caribbean: Training Police and Custom Officer Instructors."

INCA SPACE WORKSHOP SERIES

Lima

On 19 May, the Regional Centre conducted a workshop entitled "Military

Perspectives of Regional Security: Consultations with Lima Military Attachés." The Workshop was the first in a series aimed at creating a forum for diplomats, military and other interested groups in Lima to debate issues with which the Centre deals.

The Workshop provided an opportunity for presentations on the activities of the Centre, the role of the United Nations in enhancing regional security, and on new opportunities for cooperation in peace operations. The Workshop also discussed potential military contributions to confidence- and security-building measures in the region and training opportunities in UN-military-related matters. ♦ UNDDA

Practical steps... from page 2

in the arsenals of NATO, the Russian Federation and other nuclear-weapon States. However, according to a preliminary report carried out by the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR), it was clear that, as long as they are deployed, tactical nuclear weapons hold a special risk of possible use. The Conference agreed that a further reduction of these weapons would be a desirable step towards nuclear disarmament. Reductions could be based on unilateral initiatives, but would also be an integral part of nuclear arms reduction and the disarmament process.

CUBA, INDIA, ISRAEL AND PAKISTAN CALLED TO JOIN TREATY AS NON-NUCLEAR-WEAPON STATES

Intensive discussions led to agreed language on crucial regional issues, particularly pertaining to the Middle East and South Asia. The Conference reaffirmed its endorsement of the Middle East peace process and recognized that efforts in the direction of peace would contribute to a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and all weapons of mass destruction. To highlight the importance of universal adherence to the Treaty among the States of the Middle East, the Conference reaffirmed that it was important for Israel, the

only remaining State in the region not to do so, to accede to the Treaty and to place all its nuclear facilities under comprehensive IAEA safeguards.

The Conference noted that India and Pakistan, both of whom exploded nuclear devices in May 1998, declared moratoriums on further nuclear testing and their willingness to sign the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test Ban Treaty. It urged the two States to accede to the NPT as non-nuclear-weapon States and to place all their nuclear facilities under comprehensive Agency safeguards.

CONFERENCE ENDORSES STRENGTHENED IAEA SAFEGUARDS, PEACEFUL USES OF NUCLEAR ENERGY

In 1997 the Board of Governors of the International Atomic Energy Agency approved a set of measures strengthening the safeguards system that provides assurance that States parties are complying with their undertakings under the Treaty. Those measures were designed to enhance information about a State's nuclear activities and to allow complementary access to locations within a State. The Review Conference endorsed the adoption of those measures and their integration into the IAEA safeguards system.

The Conference underlined the role of IAEA in promoting international cooperation and the fullest possible exchange of equipment, material and scientific and technological information for the peaceful uses of nuclear energy among States parties to the Treaty. It recognized as well the continuing need to assist developing countries in particular in the peaceful use of nuclear energy through the development of effective programmes aimed at improving their scientific, technological, and regulatory capabilities.

STRENGTHENING THE REVIEW PROCESS

A review of the Treaty's operations is due every five years, the next falling in 2005. Since the 1995 Conference, however, emphasis has been placed on making the inter-sessional period between the quinquennial reviews more substantive and less organizational. The 2000 Conference reaffirmed the direction taken in 1995, setting out a programme for three

continued on page 4



DDA 2000 Update

UNITED NATIONS DEPARTMENT FOR DISARMAMENT AFFAIRS

June 2000

“We, the Peoples” at Millennium Forum

from page 3

NGOs call for convening of conference to eliminate nuclear dangers, reject unilateral national missile defence

Peace, security and disarmament were among the six sub-themes debated at the Millennium Forum, held at UN Headquarters (22-26 May 2000) under the broad theme "Strengthening the United Nations for the Twenty-first Century". 1,350 representatives of over 1,000 NGOs and other civil society organizations from more than 100 countries participated. The idea of organizing such a forum sprang from a suggestion of the Secretary-General that the 2000 Millennium Assembly be accompanied by "a companion peoples' assembly".

Among the many recommendations for peace, security and disarmament in the *Declaration and Agenda for Action* adopted by the Forum, the meeting called upon Governments to promptly carry out their obligations under the NPT to eliminate all nuclear weapons and to ban them. For that purpose, the Forum urged Governments to

convene, by the beginning of the year 2001, a conference to eliminate nuclear dangers, as proposed by the Secretary-General in his report to the Millennium Assembly (A/54/2000).

They also urged Governments to close laboratories that research and develop new nuclear weapons, to de-alert nuclear weapons, and to withdraw nuclear weapons from foreign States.

Further, the Forum participants considered the unilateral deployment of nationwide nuclear defence by any country "could have dangerously destabilising effects and create pressures to retain permanently high levels of nuclear weapons or even to increase existing levels." They proposed instead a worldwide nuclear launch-warning system and a conference to review methods of ending production of long-range surface-to-surface nuclear and long-range bombers.

(For the Final Declaration, see <www.un.org.millennium>

◆ UNDDA

to four annual sessions prior to the 2005 review. Those sessions would deal with "specific matters of substance relating to the implementation of the Treaty". Special arrangements will be made so that, in keeping with their evolving role with respect to the Treaty, non-governmental organizations can address the sessions of the Preparatory Committees.

FIRST REVIEW AGREED SINCE 1985

The last time a successful agreement was reached on reviewing the operation of the Treaty was in 1985. Thus the adoption, fifteen years later, of a Final Document in 2000 is of historical significance. The achievement of the Conference, particularly the agreement on practical steps towards nuclear disarmament, such as those described above, give direction and set a future disarmament and non-proliferation agenda. What matters now is to ensure that the commitments made are translated into reality from now until the next conference in 2005. The international community and civil society have an important part to play in this regard.

◆ UNDDA

<http://www.un.org/Dept/dda/DDAHome.htm>

Keep up to date on events by visiting our home page. It will also link you with other important sites dealing with disarmament and international security issues.

Monitoring, Database & Information Branch
Department for Disarmament Affairs
United Nations, Room S-3151
New York, N.Y. 10017