

2020 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

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Facilitating Dialogue to Support Enhanced Peaceful Uses Cooperation as Envisioned under Article IV of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

Working paper submitted by Canada, Japan, the Republic of Korea, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America

1. In recognition of the 50th anniversary of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) and on the occasion of its 10th Review Conference, it should be noted that among this Treaty's significant successes, it has minimized the proliferation of nuclear weapons, provided the framework to enable significant levels of nuclear disarmament, and enabled States to benefit from the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, science, and technology ("peaceful uses") in a safe, secure, and safeguarded manner.

2. The role of the NPT in expanding the benefits of peaceful uses is often not fully appreciated at Review Conferences, yet peaceful uses play a vital role in serving the world's energy, health, and agricultural needs, thus helping achieve the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). NPT Parties' commitment to further develop applications of nuclear energy for peaceful uses is found in Article IV.2 of the NPT, which states in relevant part:

Parties to the Treaty in a position to do so shall also co-operate in contributing alone or together with other States or international organisations to the further development of the applications of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, especially in the territories of non-nuclear-weapon States Party to the Treaty, with due consideration for the needs of the developing areas of the world.

3. We, the States Parties that have endorsed this paper, remain committed to expanding access to the benefits of peaceful uses in conformity with our commitments under the NPT. We continue to support national programs; bilateral, regional, and international cooperation; and the work of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), particularly the Technical Cooperation (TC) Program and the Peaceful Uses Initiative (PUI).

4. Argentina, as the country of nationality of the President-designate of the 10th Review Conference, has been seeking the support of NPT States Parties to focus more attention at this Review Conference on peaceful uses as envisioned in Article IV of



the NPT. Argentina has led this effort by supporting other States Parties in hosting an ambitious and comprehensive program of engagement led by policy and decision makers. This engagement focused on seeking views from a wide range of technical experts involved in peaceful uses, such as regulators, scientists, doctors, engineers, agronomists, hydrologists, and academics, and occurred through a series of regional and international workshops, with a goal of identifying challenges and areas for further action for the expansion of peaceful uses.

5. These discussions highlighted important areas of achievement in the implementation of peaceful uses activities in health, agriculture, energy, and many other fields, a list of success stories too numerous to summarize in this paper. Many discussants lauded the IAEA's lead role in enabling such successes. But also, it was clear that there is much left to do. The discussions identified several areas in which the effectiveness of peaceful uses cooperation and assistance can be improved at national and international levels, such as:

- National-level recognition of the potential positive impact of a wide-range of peaceful uses on development and economic priorities;
- Engagement with domestic audiences to dispel the lack of understanding of peaceful nuclear technologies and counter digital misinformation;
- National procedures and planning that help recipients take advantage of existing assistance and cooperation programs, such as technical assistance offered by the IAEA;
- Communication, coordination, and transparency among the wide range of stakeholders at the national level required for decision-making and successful, sustained implementation;
- Sufficient coordination between/among international partners providing assistance;
- Long-term planning and longer timelines for assistance delivery; and
- Coordination of efforts at the national and regional levels to sustain programs.

6. We recognize the continued urgent and compelling global need for additional peaceful uses assistance to address national development needs and global challenges. Therefore, at this 10th NPT Review Conference, we are announcing a new effort to promote, hand-in-hand with the IAEA, dialogue and discussion that will seek to advance international awareness of the important contribution of peaceful uses, promote greater acceptance of the benefits of peaceful uses, and identify new opportunities to enhance peaceful uses assistance and cooperation, while recognizing and drawing attention to the pivotal role of the IAEA in making peaceful uses available to address development needs. In doing so, we will pay particular attention to the ways in which peaceful uses can promote the achievement of the SDGs, especially for those who are economically and socially vulnerable, as well as the vital importance of gender equality in achieving sustainable development. Understanding and addressing the needs of countries facing the greatest burdens and with the least ability to budget for peaceful uses programs at the national level should be prioritized.

7. The workshops and seminars over the last few years gleaned recommendations for how best to promote ongoing efforts and encourage and support new efforts that complement and ensure the success of current assistance programs. In these discussions, we have heard from a variety of potential partners about how they believe continuing such dialogue, which includes the widest possible range of policy, technical, and program experts, could lead to enhanced acceptance and implementation of peaceful uses as envisioned under NPT Article IV.

8. **Sustained dialogue and engagement on peaceful uses:** Previous events facilitated by Wilton Park and others have shown clear support for continuing such dialogue on peaceful uses. To enable that continuation, the United States and United Kingdom are undertaking steps to convene a focused dialogue on this topic, acting through a third-party organization, preferably a foundation, university, or non-profit. The objective will be to focus on creating a cooperative engagement environment that is voluntary, with participation implying no commitments, just a willingness to take part in peaceful uses dialogue in a relatively informal format.

9. The new effort will model and build from the series of peaceful uses engagements leading into this Review Conference. Building on work done to date, the effort will seek to bring together experts from a wide array of relevant disciplines to support efforts by developing countries to self-identify prioritized needs and to lead expert analyses on how nuclear technologies can contribute to the achievement of specific SDGs. For example, working with the IAEA and a wide range of experts from recipient and donor countries, we hope to identify opportunities to address challenges that prevent countries from taking advantage of existing assistance and cooperation programs, such as technical assistance offered by the IAEA, in order to enhance global access to peaceful uses.

10. We are following IAEA Director General Grossi's lead in seeking to "build a bigger table" for peaceful uses dialogue, incorporating the expertise from the broader assistance community and seeking to engage new stakeholders to showcase how peaceful uses can be complementary to other assistance initiatives to meet development goals. For example, we will encourage participation from representatives of industry, professional societies, non-governmental organizations, medical and research communities, universities, industry, operators, foundations, regulators, and assistance, agricultural, and health ministries. The dialogue should recognize the success of ongoing efforts and seek to create opportunities for more success, including via assistance made available under the IAEA's TC Program and the PUI. Sustained success of this new effort will depend on the engagement of the broad community of expert practitioners and exceptional coordination with the ongoing efforts of other relevant institutions.

11. The activities supported by this effort should be demand-driven, and recipients' active participation should be prioritized. To ensure global participation and maintain a focus on the recipients, as appropriate and practicable, the United States and United Kingdom intend to support the participation of those lacking sufficient resources.

12. The success of this effort requires the participation of experts with experience in implementation of peaceful uses, experts from partner governments, and relevant international organizations. The IAEA plans to have relevant IAEA officers take part in prospective discussions under this sustained voluntary dialogue.

13. **Driving global awareness:** We also envision working collaboratively with experts, in particular from the IAEA, to widely share information on where nuclear techniques and thematic areas deliver the greatest return for investment and have a comparative advantage over, or collaborative synergy with, non-nuclear conventional techniques. Such information could help national decision-makers assess their nuclear technology needs in light of their development goals, review regional and national development issues, assess current assistance, and identify gaps that could be addressed with further assistance.

14. This effort will also seek to disseminate findings on peaceful uses success stories to support countries and organizations in promoting global understanding of the benefits of peaceful uses cooperation envisioned under NPT Article IV, thus raising awareness of the potential impact of nuclear technology on national development and economic priorities.

15. **Identifying new opportunities:** As we improve the understanding of where peaceful uses can best serve development challenges through the sustained dialogue described above, we anticipate participants may identify new avenues and donors to help meet recipient states' prioritized development needs through peaceful uses of nuclear technologies. While, as noted, the effort we are embarking upon will not include any new central funding or bureaucratic structure, we envision sustained dialogue can help facilitate information sharing that could lead to matches of partners' and donors' programs with beneficiary countries' needs; for example, helping to ensure projects are directed to appropriate existing assistance programs, such as the IAEA TC Program or bilateral national efforts, with an eye to delivering projects with the necessary expertise, capacities, and sustainability.

CONCLUSION

16. In conclusion, we are informing the NPT Review Conference of this new effort to help solidify the findings of an extremely informative series of engagement events on the peaceful uses of nuclear technologies. Through continuing these dialogues, we hope to expand what they can achieve and to help States Parties prompt an enhanced focus on the global good arising from Article IV of the Treaty.

17. We see this Review Conference as an opportunity to remind the world how profoundly and practically beneficial the nuclear non-proliferation regime, including the NPT as its cornerstone, has been for all States Parties. We will continue to emphasize the vital work of the IAEA, and in particular, IAEA leadership in promoting and implementing peaceful uses cooperation with and among its Member States. The sustained dialogue effort we seek to enable is intended to help ensure that global, regional, and national needs that could be addressed by nuclear applications do not go unidentified and unmet.
