

Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons
Preparatory Committee
28 April – 9 May 2014, New York

Statement by the Vienna Group of Ten

Mr Chairman,

I have the honour to take the floor on behalf of the 'Vienna Group of Ten' – Australia, Austria, Canada, Denmark, Finland, Hungary, Ireland, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway and Sweden.

The Vienna Group of Ten first met in 1980. In the almost 35 years since, we have convened prior to each Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) meeting with a view to encouraging discussion and substantive progress on the so-called 'Vienna issues' – the peaceful uses of nuclear energy; nuclear safety, security and safeguards; export controls; and nuclear testing.

We are likeminded in many ways. We believe that the NPT fundamentally contributes to international peace and security. We are committed to its universalisation. We understand the NPT plays a unique role in providing a framework that fosters international confidence and cooperation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. And we recognise the equally important and mutually reinforcing nature of its three pillars.

We also agree that while progress has been made, much work remains to be done to take the 2010 Action Plan forward. Slow progress on the implementation of nuclear disarmament commitments, the lack of universality and a number of pressing non-compliance challenges have had the net effect of undermining confidence in the Treaty itself.

While we are broadly likeminded, the paper took time to prepare. Our membership is diverse. It includes nuclear power states and uranium exporters, non-nuclear power states, members of NATO, the G20, the EU, the Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Initiative, the New Agenda Coalition and the Geneva Group. We bring with us a range of experiences and perspectives that have shaped the paper we have submitted to this Preparatory Committee.

The paper represents a carefully negotiated consensus, which we hope will prove useful to other States Parties when considering how to approach the so-called 'Vienna issues'. It begins with an overview of these issues, submits a series of proposals for consideration by the Preparatory Committee, and provides more detailed analysis in six attached annexes.

The Vienna Group of Ten commends its paper to the Preparatory Committee. We hope it will focus delegates' minds on the importance of these issues and ensure they are given appropriate weight during our discussions. The Vienna Group of Ten calls on all States, including those outside the NPT, to redouble their efforts towards the fundamental goals of the Treaty. We stand ready to engage constructively with other States Parties to discuss our paper and the ideas it contains.

Thank you Mr Chairman.