

UPDATE

**Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons  
Preparatory Committee – Vienna – 30 April to 11 May 2012**

**Statement  
by the  
Vienna Group of 10**

Mr Chairman

I have the honour to take the floor on behalf of the “Vienna Group of 10” - Australia, Austria, Canada, Denmark, Finland, Hungary, Ireland, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, and Sweden.

The Vienna Group of 10 comprises states who are resolutely likeminded on the vital benefits that the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) brings to global peace and security, and on the value of sustained and constructive progress in the implementation of the NPT. The Group meets informally prior to each NPT meeting, with a view to contributing working papers that would facilitate discussion and secure progress of Article III and IV issues.

Our membership is almost unchanged in over 30 years since the Group first met in 1980. The Group comprises nuclear-power States and non-nuclear-power States; some uranium exporters; some “New Agenda Coalition” members; some states from the Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Initiative (NPDI); states from three continents; states with a particular interest in transport issues; some NATO countries; several EU members; one member of the G-8; and some members of the Geneva Group.

Within, and drawing on, that diversity of interest and perspective, we share a common readiness to draft language and work on NPT topics in a constructive spirit, hopeful that this will contribute ideas, help bridge differences, build goodwill and facilitate agreement at NPT meetings.

The Group’s prime objective is to promote a fruitful outcome of the NPT Review cycle as a whole. We prepare and submit working papers to the Preparatory Committees and the Review Conference, in particular so that issues of verification and peaceful uses are given appropriate attention.

Our working papers have received a high degree of interest and acceptance in previous NPT Review cycles. Through these papers, we seek to pursue the broadest possible amount of consultation and dialogue, and secure outcomes that reflect the consensus we know that can be found on most “Vienna” issues.

For this Preparatory Committee we have worked through key issues in the form of six working papers, in an effort to promote consensus on, and support for, these issues.

The Group commends these papers to this Preparatory Committee. They cover the important subjects of: compliance and verification; export controls; nuclear safety; physical protection; and peaceful uses. We have also submitted a paper on the importance of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty to non-proliferation and disarmament. Group members stand ready to engage with other States Party to discuss our papers and the ideas they contain.

Mr Chairman

The Vienna Group of Ten notes that its papers were submitted prior to the meeting of the E3+3 with the Iranian nuclear negotiator in Istanbul on 14 April 2012. The Vienna Group of 10 has taken note with appreciation of the fact that the EU High Representative Catherine Ashton characterized the Istanbul discussions as “constructive and useful” and that there was agreement “that the NPT forms a key basis for what must be serious engagement, to ensure all the obligations under the NPT are met”.

In this spirit, the Vienna Group looks forward to concrete action on this issue with the aim of a comprehensive negotiated solution.

Thank you, Mr Chairman.