



CHAIR OF THE COORDINATING BUREAU OF THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT



Communique by the Group of Non-Aligned States Parties to the NPT Way Forward for the Convening of the tenth Review Conference of the NPT in 2022

29 December 2021

1. The Group of the Non-Aligned States Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) reaffirms that Review Conference (RevCon) is an opportunity to evaluate the implementation of obligations of States Parties under the Treaty. Learning from the failure of the previous conference, the Group continues to commit itself to ensuring success for the upcoming RevCon which will help fulfill the objective of the NPT as an indispensable instrument to achieve a world free of nuclear weapons.
2. The Group reaffirms the need to convene the tenth RevCon as early as possible in 2022 which will contribute to the maintenance of international peace and security, in line with the objectives of the Charter of the UN. In this regard, the Group expresses its appreciation to the President-designate, the bureau-designate members and the provisional secretariat for their tireless effort and dedication to this cause.
3. The Group shares serious concern regarding the worrying trend of pandemics around the world, which has also posed challenges to the convening of the tenth RevCon. The Group attaches high importance to the safety of all delegates and secretariat staffs. Therefore, the Group has previously extended its flexibility by accepting the in-person modalities agreed in October 2021 for the convening of the tenth RevCon, 4-28 January 2022.
4. In the spirit of flexibility and collaboration, the Group has decided to join consensus in the proposed further postponement of the convening of the tenth RevCon.
5. Building on the Group's principled position and the further postponement, the Group emphasizes three principles that should guide our decision-making on the way forward, namely: Maintaining the integrity of the tenth RevCon, ensuring equal participation by all States Parties, and promoting transparency and partnership.

Integrity of the tenth RevCon

6. Taking into account the views of all NPT States Parties, the tenth RevCon should be held in a manner that allows for a thorough, balanced, and comprehensive review of the Treaty's implementation as well as the adoption of a final document on the Treaty's implementation and necessary recommendations for the future.
7. The Group underscores the importance of holding the general debate sessions back-to-back with sessions of Main Committees, Subsidiary Bodies and informal negotiation meetings, based on the agreed modalities of October 2021, and taking into account the



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NPT document No. NPT/CONF.2020/INF/1/Rev.1/Add.1. Any proposal that involves delay or interval between the General Debate and its subsequent sessions is unacceptable as it will undermine the integrity of the RevCon.

Equal and meaningful participation by all States Parties

8. The Group is of the view that the tenth RevCon shall be held in New York to allow all States Parties to participate fully and meaningfully.
9. With the exception of participation in the general debate through recorded video statements¹, the Group is not in a position to accept the convening of the tenth RevCon in a virtual format as it could prevent delegations from equally and meaningfully participating in the RevCon, due to many factors, inter alia: time-zone difference, connectivity issues, absence of verbatim records, and necessity for in-person negotiation on sensitive issues.

Transparency and Partnership

10. The Group underscores that all relevant information, especially that will impact the decision on the convening of tenth RevCon be made available to States Parties, including but not limited to: health assessment, and advice/assessment by the local health authorities.
11. Recalling high priority attached by the majority of the UN Member States which are Parties to the NPT, the convening of the tenth RevCon at the earliest possible in 2022 shall remain a priority agenda at the UNHQ, as well as provision of necessary facilities and services at the UNHQ. The Group stands ready to provide its guidance in the consultation process to decide the new schedule of the meeting.
12. The Group kindly requests the President Designate, in coordination with the Secretariat to provide to the States Parties, as early as possible, suggested dates for the convening of the tenth RevCon.

¹ NPT/CONF.2020/INF/1/Rev.1/Add.1.