

II PrepCom do TNP

Cluster 1:

Article VI and related commitments:

Disarmament:

- As we have stated during the General Debate, the track-record of NWS with regard to their disarmament obligation and commitments under the NPT leaves much to be desired, to say the least, and puts a huge strain on the regime as whole. The renewed salience of nuclear weapons in military doctrines and the reemergence of rhetoric on use and the threat of use of nuclear weapons go against the grain of long-held agreements and must be reverted.
- There is urgent need to reaffirm previous disarmament commitments and to move forward with their practical implementation. NWS could propose timeframes and/or lay out detailed strategies for fulfilling the commitments agreed to in 1995, 2000 and 2010, including the Resolution on the Middle East, the 13 Practical Steps and the Action Plan.

Humanitarian Consequences:

- The Humanitarian Initiative, stemming from the 2010 NPT Review Conference, has deepened our collective realization of the grave immediate, mid- and long term consequences of a nuclear weapon explosion. Any nuclear detonation would have regional and even global effects. These devastating and indiscriminate effects would mainly victimize civilian populations, which makes them incompatible with international law, particularly international humanitarian law and international human rights law. As governments we must view the elimination of nuclear weapons as a moral and ethical imperative and a legal obligation.
- With this understanding, Brazil has cosponsored, alongside several other countries, working paper NPT/CONF.2020/PC.II/WP.9, entitled “Humanitarian Consequences of Nuclear Weapons”, presented by Austria.

We expect the recommendations therein, which represent the positions of a diverse, cross-regional group of States, to be reflected in the Chair's summary of this meeting.

TPNW:

- The negotiation and adoption of the TPNW constitutes the most important contribution to the disarmament and non-proliferation regime of the last 20 years.
- It complements and supplements the NPT by giving concrete expression, and meaningful legal form, to obligations assumed by all NPT members to negotiate nuclear disarmament in good faith under Article VI.
- Such good faith negotiations can now have immediate effect by joining the TPNW in support of the legal prohibitions it establishes for all states parties, including NPT members and non-members possessing nuclear weapons.
- The latter countries can join and negotiate additional protocols to the new treaty that lay out a timeframe for the elimination of their nuclear weapons and arsenals under the supervision and verification of a competent international authority.
- The RevCon is an opportunity to face the challenges and stalemates which hamper the strengthening of the regime; it cannot but recognize and pay heed to the TPNW and the winds of change that it brings along with it through an all-encompassing the legal prohibition applicable to all states parties without exception.
- The TPNW brings the humanitarian perspective on nuclear disarmament to the fore, and honors those who have suffered through history the consequences of testing, development and use of nuclear weapons, namely, the Hibakushas, men, women and children victims of or affected by testing, as well as the environment.
- Uniquely, but hopefully a trend to be followed in future, the TPNW incorporates a strong perspective on gender as it relates with the challenge of nuclear disarmament, and disarmament issues in general.
- We must bear in mind that the Humanitarian Initiative, which substantiated the negotiating process leading to the TPNW, was borne out of the 2010 RevCon outcome document, which recognized the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons.
- Not only does the TPNW complement the nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime; it is in fact inherently linked with the NPT, flowing

logically from Article 6, and its process of negotiation clearly rooted in the Review Cycle.

- The prohibition of nuclear weapons is a first step towards their complete elimination, which must be made in a transparent, irreversible and verifiable manner, according to clearly defined benchmarks and timelines.

Nuclear Disarmament Verification:

- Brazil supports initiatives to advance nuclear disarmament verification. We have participated in the International Partnership on Nuclear Disarmament Verification from its inception.
- We have also cosponsored First Committee Resolution establishing a GGE on nuclear disarmament verification. Brazil will be represented in the GGE, which starts its work next month, and we hope results will be forthcoming and prove useful across the disarmament regime.
- Notwithstanding our constructive disposition and positive view of technical work ahead of negotiations, we must not substitute one for the other, nor set technical developments as preconditions for normative negotiations on nuclear disarmament, lest we fall into the trap of permanent procrastination and avoidance of commitments, increasing risk, tensions and instability instead of promoting them.
- Full scope solutions for verification will only be achieved and enacted when concrete disarmament commitments in the form of legally binding obligations and their corresponding implementation mechanisms are formally negotiated, agreed and entered into force.