
**Preparatory Committee for the 2010 Review
Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the
Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons**

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**Fissile material cut-off treaty as the next logical multilateral
instrument to be negotiated for the cessation of the nuclear
arms race and nuclear disarmament in accordance with
article VI of the NPT****Working paper submitted by the European Union**

1. The European Union continues to regard the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) as the cornerstone of the global nuclear non-proliferation regime, the essential foundation for the pursuit of nuclear disarmament in accordance with article VI of the Treaty, and also the key element in the further development of nuclear energy applications for peaceful purposes in accordance with article IV of the Treaty. The European Union is firmly committed to strengthening the international nuclear non-proliferation regime, as underlined in the European Union Common Position of 2005. The European Union is committed to contributing to a successful outcome of the Review Process.
2. The European Union recalls that the NPT is based on the three mutually reinforcing pillars: non-proliferation, disarmament and the peaceful use of nuclear energy. With regard to nuclear disarmament, the European Union is convinced that a fissile material cut-off treaty, by banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices, will make a significant contribution to nuclear disarmament efforts in accordance with article VI of the NPT.
3. Decision No. D2 of the 1995 Extension and Review Conference and the Outcome Document of the 2000 NPT Review Conference call for the immediate commencement of negotiations on a Treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices at the Conference on Disarmament as one of the important measures to implement article VI of the NPT.
4. The European Union is convinced that a fissile material cut-off treaty, by banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices, will constitute a significant achievement to nuclear disarmament efforts in accordance with article VI of the NPT. Logically, a fissile material cut-off



treaty constitutes the next multilateral instrument to be negotiated in the nuclear disarmament field. A fissile material cut-off treaty would have beneficial consequences beyond those that pertain to nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament, including reducing the risk of theft or diversion to terrorist groups or activities. This consideration is increasingly pertinent in today's security environment.

5. Indeed, without the availability of additional fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices it would be impossible to increase existing stocks of fissile material for such purposes and this would contribute to the cessation of the nuclear arms race.

6. The pursuit of systematic and progressive disarmament efforts will not be complete without a treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices.

7. A fissile material cut-off treaty would also reinforce and complement the “non-proliferation” provisions of the NPT (articles I and II) by establishing a ban on the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices that would also apply to States not parties to the NPT.

8. The negotiation of a fissile material cut-off treaty is an integral part of document CD/2007/L.1, recently tabled by the six Presidents of the Conference on Disarmament in order to allow the Conference to resume its institutional activities. In that document it is proposed, “inter alia”, to appoint a coordinator “to preside over negotiations, without any preconditions, on a non-discriminatory and multilateral treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices”. The European Union will not object to the proposal contained in document CD/2007/L.1 and can accept the language on a fissile material cut-off treaty contained therein.

9. States participating in the first session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the NPT are invited to recognize the relevance of a negotiation and early entry into force of a treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices as an instrument of nuclear disarmament in accordance with article VI of the NPT.

10. States parties to the NPT that are members of the Conference on Disarmament are urged to support the start of negotiations in the Conference on Disarmament without preconditions on such a treaty. This constitutes an opportunity to be seized.