An overview of State Parties' proposals submitted to the Working Group on further strengthening the NPT Review Process

July 2023

EUROPEAN LEADERSHIP NETWORK

Problem	Proposed solutions	AT	CA	CZ	DE	EG	US	IE, NZ, CH	EU	ELN	NPDI
1. Effectiveness and efficiency											
Inefficient use of time at meetings of State Parties	Enforce time limits on statements		X		X				X		X
	Formalise time limits established at 10th NPT RevCon		X								X
	Limit national statements to 5 minutes, group statements to 8 minutes		X								X
	Additional time limits on general statements in MCs		X								X
	Allocate time to interactive, substantive, informal exchanges		X		X				X		
Repetitive State Parties statements	MC to commence work during general debate		X								X
	Alternative forms of input, such as written statements, video messages								X		
Mandate of subsidiary bodies unclear/ overlap with main committees	Dedicate plenary sessions to cross-cutting issues such as transparency, reporting, education, capacity building, gender and diversity						X				
	Mandate RevCon President to clarify function and scope of Subsidiary Bodies (SB)		X								X
	SBs as venue for in-depth discussion on particularly sensitive or complex issues relevant to MCs		X								X
Duplication of substantive debates between PrepComs / RevCon and across MCs and subsidiary bodies	Reassess and revise role of SBs, mandates of MCs with view toward avoiding duplications	X					X		X		
	Reassess divisions between "review" and "future-oriented" discussions in SBs								X		
	RevCon President to clarify forward-looking function of SBs		X								X
	MCs focus on past decisions / SBs focus on future recommendations						X				
	Establish clear substantive division of labour between MCs and SBs						X				
	Abolish SBs			X							
	MC Chair doubles as SB Chair; Vice Chairs assist MCs chairs									X	
	Replace MC pillar-by-pillar review with article-by-article review in plenary sessions						X				
	Structure RevCon discussions along working papers	X									
	Informally cluster PrepCom debates and organise interactive topical discussions on State Parties reports					X					
Unclear division of labour between DC and RevCon President	The President to delegate drafting functions to DC									X	

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Inability of PrepComs to agree on recommendations for Review Conference										
Commit PrepCom to consensus reports with recommendations to RevCon								X		
Focus PrepCom on compiling, exchanging views, and assigning proposals to MCs and SBs for structured discussion						X				
Assign focal areas to PrepComs (including but not limited to NPT pillars)				X		X				
Put third (and fourth) PrepComs in position to respond to time-critical developments and produce recommendations for RevCon				X						
PrepComs procedures not conducive to facilitate agreed outcomes										
Mandate PrepComs to work with incremental "Rolling Text(s)" with debates on sub-topics or cross-cutting issues advancing at different pace. Outcomes to be "agreed ad referendum" as partial inputs to RevCon draft final document(s)			X	X	X			X		
Rolling Text to set aside elements that could be considered agreed "ad referendum" with a view to focussing debates on resolution of remaining differences			X	X	X			X		
Consider fourth PrepCom to resolve remaining differences				X	X					
Chair to reflect PrepComs proceedings in "Rolling Text", to be adopted under Chair's responsibility, or agreed by State Parties "ad referendum"										
High political hurdles to agreement on single consensus Final Documents at RevCon										
SRP WG Chair to lead structured discussion on measures of success other than single consensus outcome document		X								
Consider ways to salvage text not agreed by consensus, such as Chairperson's summary to delineate areas of consensus, and areas of persistent disagreement, and/or interpretative declarations in final documents					X					
Acknowledge positive achievements even in absence of a consensus outcome document. RevCon to adopt a series of agreed documents or decisions on specific topics				X						

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2. Transparency and accountability											
Irregular and uneven reporting on Article VI implementation	Dedicate time in PrepCom and RevCon meetings to discuss National Reports	X	X				X		X		
	Chairs to allocate time for structured discussion of nuclear weapon states reports under Cluster 1/ in MC1		X						X		
	Establish unified reporting template "Standard Reporting Form"				X	X					
	Establish time extension limit to stimulate submissions of National Reports									X	
	Structure National Reports to have backward looking and forward looking sections, to detail future undertakings				X						
Wide divergence in quantity and quality of information submitted by NWS	Create standard reporting form for National Reports						X		X		
	Create more extensive reporting format for nuclear weapon states (NWS)	X									
	Create standard for more detailed individual or joint presentations by NWS of National Reports, including facts on nuclear weapon and fissile material inventories, and implementation of nulear risk reduction measures								X		
	Establish peer-review mechanism for NWS national reports	X			X						
	PrepCom Chairs could provide Joint Report to RevCon to monitor Article VI implementation								X		
Unequal participation of states parties and international organisations in NPT deliberations	PrepCom Chairs to conduct Article VI consultations with all State Parties ahead of PrepComs								X		
	Establish travel funds for smaller and less developed countries, to facilitate participation in NPT regional consultations							X			
	Create needs-based financial assistance for states without diplomatic representation in PrepCom and RevCon locations								X		
	Give CTBTO dedicated speaker's slot in General Debate								X		
Lack of civil society representation	Include broad range of stakeholder in PrepComs					X					
	Enhance participation of civil society in NPT meetings			X							
	Permit civil society to submit thought papers to NPT meetings			X							
	Invite civil society to give expert technical presentations to NPT meetings			X					X		
	RevCon President to lead institutionalised consultation process with civil society			X							
	Accord speaking slots to NGOs in NPT sessions	X									
Lack of civil society access	Grant NGOs access to SBs	X									
	Leverage digital tools, enhance remote participation									X	
	Establish two-tier NGO accreditation process, including option of virtual (remote) accreditation									X	
Lack of inclusivity	SRP WG to agree on importance of, and commit to equal, full and effective participation and leadership of women and men, to further integrate gender perspectives in all aspects of Treaty implementation					X					
	SPR WG to recognize civil society contribution to NPT processes and implementation and agree on recommendations					X					

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3. Coordination and continuity											
Insufficient regional outreach	Hold regional and topical workshops during the year prior to NPT meetings						X				
	Continue regional outreach and Intersessional Work		X								
	Further develop regional approach, including through workshops and consultation meetings with participation of regional experts and diplomats									X	
Lack of personnel continuity during Review Cycle	Establish "Chair's Bureau" comprising immediate past, current, and future incumbents		X		X						
	Nominate PrepCom and RevCon Chairs at review cycle outset to enable early establishment of Bureau		X		X						
	Elect PrepCom Chairs and RevCon President-Designate immediately after previous RevCon, etablish Chair's Bureau								X		
	Select PrepCom and RevCon leadership one year in advance						X				
	Nominate RevCon President and PrepCom Chairs within 3 months of previous RevCon, endorse nominations through an expedited silence procedure					X					
	If necessary, respective Governments can replace officials during review cycle					X					
	Supplement the Chair's Bureau with support staff to manage administrative matters of the review process		X								
	Create PrepCom Chair and RevCon president "team" with UNODA logistical and administrative assistance						X				
Institutional deficit of NPT	Establish Treaty Support Unit to assist and facilitate NPT meetings and intersessional work and provide substantive, administrative, logistical and representative support	X	X		X			X			X
	Create small, dedicated ISU						X				
	Create small Treaty ISU, to assist NPT meetings and intersessional work, support Chairs								X		
	Establish UNODA as permanent Secretariat for NPT Review Process						X				
	Formalise role of IAEA to provide staffing support for NPT Secretariat (for non-proliferation and peaceful uses issues)						X				
	Embed Bureau members in ISU						X				

Abbreviations

AT	Austria	**ELN**	European Leadership Network	**NPT**	Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty
CA	Canada	**EU**	European Union	**PrepCom**	Preparatory Committee
CTBTO	Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty Organisation	**IAEA**	International Atomic Energy Agency	**RevCon**	Review Conference
CZ	Czech Republic	**IE, NZ, CH**	Ireland, New Zealand, Switzerland	**SB**	Subsidiary Body
DC	Drafting Committee	**ISU**	Implementation Support Unit	**SRP WG**	Working Group on Further Strengthening the Review Process of the Treaty
DE	Germany	**MC**	Main Committee	**UNODA**	United Nations Office of Disarmament Affairs
EG	Egypt	**NPDI**	Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Initiative	**US**	United States of America

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This is part of the ELN's project **Protecting the Non-Proliferation Treaty**. The project seeks to preserve the multilateral nuclear non-proliferation regime and prevent further erosion of the nuclear taboo and non-proliferation treaty (NPT). Bringing together an intergenerational, pan-regional Network of experts, it works to identify pathways to success in the eleventh review cycle, taking a holistic approach to the NPT and its three pillars.

For more information on the project please go to www.europeanleadershipnetwork.org/protecting-the-non-proliferation-treaty.

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