



# African Commission on Nuclear Energy

Unit B2003, Corobay Corner, 169 Corobay Avenue, Waterkloof Glen, 0010  
Pretoria, South Africa. Tel: 00 27 87 0960 175 Email: [info@afcone.org](mailto:info@afcone.org)

---

## AFCONE reflections on the Tenth Review Conference (RevCon) of the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT)

5 August 2022

1. The Tenth NPT RevCon is being held in New York from 1 to 26 August 2022.
2. Article VIII (3) of the NPT requires that review conferences be held “to review the operation of this Treaty with a view to assuring that the purposes of the Preamble and the provisions of the Treaty are being realized”. The review process is both backward reviewing and forward looking, thus evaluating the implementation of undertakings of the NPT States Parties and thereafter identifying areas and means through which further progress should be sought in the future.
3. The overall goal is therefore to have a comprehensive final document approved by consensus that reviews the operation of the Treaty and sets forth recommendations for follow-on actions. The States Parties sought such a consensus outcome at all nine previous Review Conferences, but failed to achieve this in five of these, with the most recent being the Review Conference held in 2015. However, the failure to reach an outcome has never occurred in two successive review cycles, therefore, there would be greater attention and effort exerted to reach an outcome in this review cycle.
4. The success of the Tenth RevCon is seen as critical to ensuring the continued credibility of the NPT. The adoption of an outcome document will be critical in view of the failure of the 2015 RevCon.
5. An ambitious, forward-looking outcome would represent a meaningful public demonstration of the enduring value which the Treaty has for international peace and security.
6. As a bare minimum, however, the RevCon outcome document should reflect meaningful progress on nuclear disarmament (especially in the context of current global developments), and reinforce States Parties’ commitment to the NPT as well as past commitments and undertakings of previous RevCons,
7. It is important to note that with the entry into force of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW), States Parties and signatories to the Treaty are of the view that the TPNW is consistent with the non-proliferation objectives of the NPT, that it is an effective measure of nuclear disarmament contributing to the implementation of Article VI of the NPT and is complementary to the NPT by fulfilling these obligations.
8. Safeguards contribute to mutual confidence in the peaceful nature of a State's nuclear activities which should facilitate the transfer of nuclear technology and use of nuclear energy for the benefit of developing countries. States Parties should recommend that the Conference reiterates that IAEA safeguards should be assessed and evaluated regularly and that decisions adopted by the IAEA policy bodies aimed at further strengthening the effectiveness and improving the efficiency of IAEA safeguards, should be supported and implemented.
9. The IAEA Additional Protocol (AP) is an essential contribution to an enhanced verification standard and an integral part of the IAEA safeguards system. States Parties should continue to be proponents of a strengthened international verification regime through the AP while simultaneously ensuring that concluding this agreement remains voluntary.

10. The 2010 RevCon agreed on specific actions aimed at strengthening the IAEA safeguards system, including through the development of appropriate legally binding arrangements to ensure the irreversible removal of fissile material designated by each NWS as no longer required for military purposes. NWS could be called upon to commit to declaring to the IAEA all weapon-grade fissile material and to place such material under the supervision of the Agency to ensure that such material remains permanently outside military programmes.
11. Nuclear power and the peaceful applications of nuclear technology can meaningfully contribute to the achievement of a country's socio-economic development goals, the Sustainable Development Goals, and the African Union's Agenda 2063. States Parties could recommend that the 2010 RevCon outcome be affirmed, which states that each country's choices and decisions in the field of peaceful uses should be respected.
12. States parties should guard against attempts to deny technology, especially to developing countries, under the guise of non-proliferation or nuclear security measures that fall outside the IAEA verification system. States Parties should also guard against any reinterpretation of, or restrictions on, the inalienable right of States to pursue the peaceful uses of nuclear technology while underlining the need for transparent, non-discriminatory, and multilateral negotiations on any measures relating to the nuclear fuel cycle.

