

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

II - WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION VERIFICATION AND COMPLIANCE: CHALLENGES AND RESPONSES

The following provides the major conclusions and recommendations of the integrated expert consultations on WMD-related verification and compliance issues, organized thematically rather than by weapons type.

Expanding the Scope of WMD Verification and Compliance Mechanisms

Well planned and fully resourced efforts should be undertaken to universalize existing WMD verification and compliance regimes. (Recommendations 1 and 11)

UN verification and compliance capabilities should be reinforced by creating a new independent WMD investigative unit designed to complement existing WMD verification and compliance mechanisms. (Recommendation 2)

The UN Security Council should ensure effective implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1540, which mandates compliance with WMD obligations at the national level related to preventing the proliferation of WMD to non-state actors. (Recommendation 3)

Options for expanding the application of verification and compliance mechanisms to WMD related activities should be explored, including measures applying to cooperative threat reduction efforts, nuclear export control guidelines, the security of chemical and biological relevant facilities, the end-use of exported missiles and related technology, and the Hague Code of Conduct. (Recommendations 1, 14, 23, 32, 35, 36, and 37)

All states that have not yet signed and ratified the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT), a key element in the global nuclear verification and compliance regime, should do so immediately. This applies especially to states listed in the treaty's Annex II. Meanwhile, work should continue, with urgency, to prepare all elements of the CTBT's verification system. (Recommendation 11)

Nuclear weapons states should consider contributing to global nuclear verification and compliance efforts by submitting all of their civilian nuclear activities to International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and extending their Additional Protocols to all domestic civilian activities. They should also move forward on the removal of fissile material from weapons programmes under IAEA verification (e.g., implementation of the trilateral initiative) and ensure that nuclear disarmament agreements/arrangements, including existing bilateral agreements, are subject to effective verification mechanisms, including multilateral involvement. (Recommendation 12)

Consideration should be given to encouraging states outside the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) to accept more comprehensive multilateral commitments and safeguards relating to their civilian nuclear cycles, including negotiation of a full-scope safeguards agreement and an Additional Protocol with the IAEA. (Recommendation 13)