

- International co-operation on disarmament and non-proliferation⁹

The documents submitted by the NWS, although not formal reports, tended to provide information on a broad range of Treaty-related issues. With the exception of China, all provided hard information on at least some elements of their nuclear holdings, nuclear doctrine, and operational status of their weapons. The most detailed information was submitted by the United Kingdom, but in all cases there was room for substantial elaboration.

See the background document for further information concerning the nature and content of the reporting at the two PrepComs.

Roundtable participants considered the background document extremely useful, praising it highly and promising to distribute it at the United Nations, to States parties, and to NGOs. The document will be made available for circulation after Project Ploughshares has incorporated a number of minor suggestions made by participants for corrections and additions.¹⁰

Participants tended to view the record of reporting to date as mixed.

In 2002, 139 of the then-187 States parties attended the PrepCom and 52 reported, representing 28% of States parties and 37% of attendees. Formal reports were submitted by 6% of States parties (8% of attendees). In 2003, 106 of the then-188 States parties attended the PrepCom and 60 reported, representing 32% of States parties and 57% of attendees. Formal reports were submitted by 15% of States parties (26% of attendees). In other words, although only a small number of States parties reported at the 2002 PrepCom, this number showed a promising increase at the 2003 PrepCom. Nonetheless, even in 2003, more than two-thirds of States parties did not report in any way. It was suggested that understaffing in foreign ministries and delegations may be one major reason for this relatively low rate of participation.

Participants asked how many of the 44 states listed in Annex 2 of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (the states that possessed nuclear research and/or nuclear power reactors as of the mid-1990s)¹¹ reported. These states, which include the NWS and most states with nuclear-proliferation-related capabilities, might be considered the states most likely to have important information to report.

⁹ See pages 18-19 of the background document for explanations of these topics.

¹⁰ It was suggested, for example, that mention be made of the working paper submitted by Belgium, the Netherlands, and Norway at the 2003 PrepCom (NPT/CONF.2005/PC.II/WP.17: Working Paper submitted by Belgium, the Netherlands and Norway for consideration at the second Preparatory Committee of the 2005 NPT Review Conference).

¹¹ Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Egypt, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran, Israel, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Netherlands, Norway, Pakistan, Peru, Poland, Romania, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Slovakia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Viet Nam, and Zaire (now Democratic Republic of the Congo).