The five Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) nuclear weapon states, or “P5”, met in London on 12-13 February 2020 for the ninth P5 Conference, to discuss the preparations for the 2020 NPT Review Conference.

They welcomed the confirmation of Gustavo Zlauvinen of Argentina as President-designate of the Review Conference, and had a fruitful exchange of views with him and the other members of the Bureau, Ambassador Syed Hasrin of Malaysia, Ambassador Adam Bugajski of Poland, and Ambassador Marjolijn van Deelen of The Netherlands. They also had a valuable dialogue with representatives of civil society from the P5 countries and across the wider NPT membership, in partnership with King’s College London and the European Leadership Network.

During the course of the Conference, the P5 each reaffirmed their commitment to the NPT in all its aspects, fifty years since its entry into force and 25 years since its indefinite extension. They reiterated that the NPT provides the essential foundation for preventing the proliferation of nuclear weapons, thereby limiting the risk of nuclear confrontation; for the promotion and sharing of the peaceful uses of nuclear technology, to the benefit of humanity; and for nuclear disarmament, by helping to ease international tensions and create conditions of stability, security and trust among nations. They reiterated their commitment to continue their individual and collective efforts to uphold their obligations and to advance the goals and objectives of the NPT in all its aspects.

In a wide-ranging discussion, the P5 exchanged views on the current situation in the international security environment and other issues relevant to the Review Conference, including proliferation challenges in Iran and the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, the Middle East zone free of nuclear and all other weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems, nuclear disarmament verification, and the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty. They also pledged their full and continued support to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), and for its new Director-General, Rafael Mariano Grossi. They acknowledged that the IAEA plays a critical role in NPT implementation, both to promote the fullest possible cooperation on the peaceful uses of nuclear technology, and to apply safeguards and verify that nuclear programmes are entirely peaceful.
Specifically, they reviewed progress on the five areas of work agreed at the Beijing P5 Conference in January 2019.

First, they welcomed the continued exchange of views on their respective nuclear doctrines and policies, and confirmed their intention to hold a side event presenting them at the Review Conference. They agreed to continue these expert-level meetings beyond the Review Conference. They also underlined the importance of reducing nuclear risk and promoting stability, and agreed that experts should continue and deepen their dialogue on strategic risk reduction up to and beyond the Review Conference.

Second, they endorsed the progress made on the second phase of the Working Group on the Glossary of Key Nuclear Terms, which is conducive to strengthening the NPT and enhancing mutual trust. They agreed to publish the results of the Working Group ahead of the Review Conference.

Third, they reaffirmed their commitment to the aims and objectives of the Southeast Asia Nuclear-Weapon-Free-Zone, and welcomed ongoing discussions between the P5 and the ASEAN countries on the Protocol to the Southeast Asia Nuclear-Weapon-Free-Zone Treaty.

Fourth, they reiterated their readiness to negotiate, a non-discriminatory, multilateral and internationally and effectively verifiable treaty to end the production of fissile material for use in nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices – a Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty (FMCT) – on the basis of consensus and with the participation of all relevant countries. In this context, they welcomed the ongoing P5 expert-level discussions on FMCT-related issues.

Fifth, they reiterated their commitment to share with the international community the many benefits of nuclear technology and its applications for peaceful purposes, and to continue their contributions to IAEA or bilateral development projects. They also announced their intention to host a joint P5 side event focusing on peaceful uses at the Review Conference.

Finally, the P5 reaffirmed their commitment to present their respective national implementation reports to the Review Conference, based on the common reporting framework agreed in 2013.

The P5 looked forward to continuing their dialogue and their work on these and other relevant issues up to the Review Conference and beyond, and welcomed France’s generous offer to host the next P5 Conference in 2021.

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