

Joint Workshop:

Sejeong Institute and Nagasaki University RECNA

“From Peace on Korean Peninsula to North East Asia Nuclear
Weapon Free Zone”

Session 6: Commentary

**Bridge-building between Nuclear Weapon States (NWS) and
Non-Nuclear Weapon States (N-NWS) plus NGOs based on
Recommendation by the Group of Eminent Persons (EPG)
established by the Japanese Government**

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1. EPG Establishment for Bridge-building by the Japanese Government in 2017

Former Foreign Minister (FM) Fumio Kishida established EPG for Bridge-building on the basis of consideration that a **divide** on approaches towards a world without nuclear weapons between nuclear weapon states (**NWS**) and non-nuclear weapon states (**N-NWS**) were serious after the adoption of the Treaty on the prohibition of nuclear weapons (**TPNW**) in 2017.

He also emphasized that although **Japan would not join the TPNW** but continues a traditional attitude as **only one nation encountered nuclear weapons attacks**, towards the **world without nuclear weapons**.

He also stressed that the **present international security environment was seriously deteriorated**, resulting **continuation of Japan's nuclear dependent posture** based on the United States and Japan Security Treaty.

It seems possible that **Japan does not simply neglect TPNW contrary to other NWSs**

Former FM Kishida's **successor FM T. Kohno presented and explained the EPG's First Recommendation at the second Prep-Com in Geneva in 2018.**

The second one was presented at the third Prep-Com in New York a few weeks ago.

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The First Recommendation (2018)

17 (10 from abroad) members of EPG met four times as of March 2019. Its preamble is that the **common goal of all NPT member states is nuclear weapon-free world in line with Article VI**. Unfortunately under the present NPT regime nuclear disarmament process has been sluggish along with nuclear proliferation. However, there is **“International Norm” not to use nuclear weapons** in any circumstance. This norm must be maintained. EPG considers that **civility in discourse and respect for divergent views are essential to work together under NPT**. These are the essential of our EPG idea.

In this idea NPT still plays a central role

The EPG considers that **all previous NPT commitments on nuclear abolition** are important to be realized; CTBT to be ratified completely/ full compliance of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) on Iran/ start negotiation on **Middle East Zone free of Nuclear Weapons and Weapons of Mass Destruction/ Russia-US nuclear arms control framework** as a fundamental basis for the global nuclear arms reduction/ **EPG urges Russia and United States to secure further reductions and extend New START for 5 years/ to avoid catastrophic consequences from the North Korean nuclear-missile crisis (as of early 2018) by all stakeholder through peaceful means as the present negotiation between US-DPRK and ROK-DPRK shows.**

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Proposed Bridge-building actions by the First Recommendation

1. Enhancing the implementation of the NPT review process: Most importantly **NWS** must report their **nuclear disarmament plans** to ensure the **transparency** and start **dialogue** between **NWS and N-NWS** as well as **Civil Society**.

2. Confidence-building measure as a foundation of bridge-building: reduction of the role of **nuclear weapons** in national security policies/ **UN Security Council Resolution (984)** to **strengthen negative security assurance for non-nuclear weapon states and states parties to NWFZ treaties**.

3. Preparing the ground for convergence of different approaches: a **lack of consensus** on common understanding on **verification and enforcement/ intensification of verification and compliance mechanisms/ stock problem of nuclear fissile materials/ promotion of Cut-Off Treaty negotiation**.

4. There remains hard questions: Although **nuclear deterrence may arguably enhance stability in certain environment**, it is a **dangerous long-term basis for global security**, therefore all nations must seek a **better long-term solution/ What is minimization point for total denuclearization/ Addressing the right of self-defense under extreme circumstances of national survival envisage the possibility of limited threat of use or use of nuclear weapons, mindful of international humanitarian law/ Solutions for ultimate dilemma of how to guarantee of all states by ensuring obligation under NPT regime, including timely enforcement when compliance fails.**

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The Second Recommendation by EPG as “KYOTO APPEAL”

The year 2020 marks the **50th anniversary** of the entry-into-force of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), and the **25th anniversary** of its indefinite extension. The NPT is the cornerstone of the global regime for nuclear non-proliferation, nuclear disarmament and international cooperation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, and is a fundamental part of the architecture for collective global peace and security, along with norms of the renunciation of aggression, peaceful settlement of disputes, and an effective UN Security Council.

Looking toward the 2020 Review Conference of the NPT, the EPG, meeting in Nagasaki November 2018 and in Kyoto March 2019, is deeply concerned about the steadily deteriorating situation for nuclear disarmament, which is endangering international peace and stability.

The EPG therefore urges the international community to reaffirm that:

The fundamental commitment remains of the unequivocal undertaking by the **Nuclear-Weapon States to accomplish the total elimination of their nuclear arsenals leading to nuclear disarmament, to which all States parties are committed under NPT Article VI, and which constitutes one of the pillars of the NPT regime, as elaborated by consensus in 1995, 2000, and 2010 in the respective NPT conference final documents.**

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The EPG emphasizes that:

A solid foundation for a more stable, safer and prosperous world requires:

- a) Sustaining and preserving **bilateral and multilateral nuclear arms control treaties** and agreements, including monitoring and verification modalities;
- b) Fulfilling all obligations and commitments under nuclear arms control and disarmament treaties and agreements, and utilizing existing mechanisms to resolve **concerns about non-compliance and potentially destabilizing nuclear arms modernization;**
- c) **Rebuilding civility and respect in discourse** and restoring practices of cooperation on nuclear arms control and threat reduction; and
- d) **Respecting the contribution of civil society** in nurturing mutual understanding and cooperation among conflicting parties, as well as in cultivating innovative ideas to help States to implement nuclear disarmament measures.

The EPG recommends that during the 2020 NPT Review Process:

Nuclear-weapon States further explain and share information regarding their **nuclear doctrines, deterrence policies, risk reduction measures, and security assurances, among themselves through the so-called “P-5 process,”** and in parallel **with non-nuclear-weapon States** at the 2020 Review Conference.

All States, including non-NPT States, contribute to, and develop as needed, **forums and processes** to address **nuclear threat reduction, confidence- and security- building measures, and nuclear disarmament verification.**

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To promote confidence and reassurance among themselves, and thereby enhance global security, all States possessing nuclear weapons must:

- a) Explain and discuss their respective **security concerns regarding the force postures of other States possessing nuclear weapons;**
- b) Further explain and clarify whether and **how their nuclear policies and force postures are consistent with applicable international law, especially international humanitarian law;**
- c) Implement measures to ensure **the safety and security of their nuclear weapons, weapon-usable nuclear materials, and related infrastructure,** to the extent possible given their respective international legally-binding nuclear non-proliferation obligations; and
- d) Agree on and implement measures **to increase transparency, and predictability and confidence in the non-use of nuclear weapons,** and also to reinvigorate nuclear arms control to advance universal nuclear disarmament.

All States should explore mechanisms/measures, which hold States accountable and liable for **any damages to third party States and populations,** resulting from any transport, deployment, or use of nuclear weapons.

Nuclear-weapon and non-nuclear-weapon States should promote the realization of **legally binding security assurances to non-nuclear-weapon States parties to the NPT and to nuclear-weapon-free zone treaties.**

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Despite the deep differences on the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW), all States should engage with each other to advance nuclear disarmament.

All States should take measures to demonstrate **how peace and security can be maintained with reduced reliance on, or without, nuclear weapons.**

All States should assess how **emerging technologies may complicate strategic stability and increase dangers of nuclear-weapons use,** and adopt measures to prevent this; **civil society** should contribute to these efforts.

All States should continue to support the **Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) and the CTBTO,** and the remaining **eight Annex II States** should sign and ratify the CTBT as applicable, in particular the four NPT States party signatories to the CTBT whose ratifications are pending.

The **EPG welcomes the convening of the conference on the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction,** to be held at the **United Nations in New York in November 2019,** and encourages all concerned States to **participate.**

All States should support the **United Nations Secretary-General's "An Agenda for Disarmament: Securing Our Future,"** which highlights the need for a common vision and path to achieve the total elimination of nuclear weapons.

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We EPG members hope that the **Japanese Government will incorporate the measures recommended by our Group to promote bridge-building to overcome the divide which seems to be further deteriorated during the third Prep-Com recently held in New York.**

I wish personally as I continued to insist on since the first meeting of EPG that **the Japanese government convenes an international conference for substantial progression of nuclear disarmament by inviting delegates from NWS and Non-NWS, as well as from the Civil Society at Hiroshima and Nagasaki.**

The End