

This day is published
A
GLOSSARY
of the
TERMS and LOCUTIONS
APPURTENANT to the diplomatic INTERCOURSE
on
NUCLEAR WEAPONS
in which
The **WORDS** are deduced from their **ORIGINALS**,
and
ILLUSTRATED in their **DIFFERENT SIGNIFICATIONS**
by
EXAMPLES from the best **DIPLOMATS** and **OFFICIALS**.
To which are prefixed,
A HISTORY of the **NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY**,
and **AN ACCOUNT** of its most successful **IMPLEMENTATION**.
By sundry **REPRESENTATIVES** of the **P5 GOVERNMENTS**.
In **ONE Volume**

Action plan

1. A plan setting out specific steps or measures to be taken by designated parties at specified times.

2. In NPT contexts, a collection of vaguely-worded exhortations, recycled from previous unfulfilled commitments, to be taken up or not by various parties according to their inclination and at a time of their choosing. “The P5 considered the implementation of the 2010 Action Plan as a roadmap for long term action.”

Committed

Generally in favour (of something), provided it is sufficiently vague, abstract or distant not to require any specific or immediate action. “We are committed to a world without nuclear weapons.”

Conference on Disarmament

1. The single multilateral disarmament negotiating forum of the international community; a travesty, a poor joke.

2. A forum used by *nuclear-weapon states*, other nuclear-armed states, and *weasels* to obstruct progress on nuclear disarmament while appearing to support it; more generally, a convenient means to ensure that a

given proposal or initiative is stymied. “All States agree that the Conference on Disarmament should immediately establish a subsidiary body to deal with nuclear disarmament”.

Cornerstone

1. A stone that forms the base of a corner of a building; an important quality or feature on which something is based.

2. A heavy, immovable object that obstructs progress; a millstone, a deadweight. “The NPT is the cornerstone of international disarmament and non-proliferation efforts.”

Disarmament Commission

A mythical gathering said to take place annually at the United Nations in New York; its purpose is unclear.

Hoffmann Doctrine

A diplomatic strategy of doggedly continuing to pursue approaches that have not worked in the past, that are not working now, and that show no signs of ever working in future, while actively resisting any attempt to try something new. See also *realistic approach*.

Hoffmann’s Last Theorem

The (largely discredited) proposition that the threat of proliferation drives *nuclear-weapon states* to keep their weapons, but that the converse is not true, i.e. the retention of nuclear weapons by some states does not drive proliferation.

Modernization

(Of *nuclear weapons*) A means of pursuing nuclear disarmament in accordance with Article VI of the NPT, by spending large sums of money on renewing, upgrading and improving nuclear warheads and delivery systems.

Non-nuclear-weapon state

A state party to the NPT other than a *nuclear-weapon state*; an excessively naive or trusting state; a sucker, a dupe.

Nuclear weapon

1. A catastrophically destructive explosive device powered by nuclear fission or fusion, used to ensure global and regional stability and security and maintain peace through deterrence; a stabilising influence; a means of redressing strategic imbalance or ensuring national defence against uncertain future developments; a good thing. See also *strategic deterrent*.

2. A catastrophically destructive explosive device powered by nuclear fission or fusion, causing profound and irreversible damage to life, infrastructure and the environment, unable to be used in warfare without risking human civilisation; a dangerous, destabilising risk; a militarily and morally unjustifiable use of resources; a bad thing. See also *weapon of mass destruction*.

Nuclear-weapon state

A state recognised by the NPT as possessing *nuclear weapons* (having manufactured and exploded a nuclear weapon or other nuclear explosive device prior to 1 January, 1967); a trustworthy, reliable and responsible state; a custodian of international security, stability and order; a leader, an exemplar.

Nuclear weasel state

A party to the NPT which is technically a *non-nuclear-weapon state* but is in an alliance with one or more *nuclear-weapon states* and relies on *nuclear weapons* in its national security doctrine; a purveyor of double standards, a hypocrite.

Priority, top (or highest)

Something not very important, unlikely to occur, or that for one reason or another will not be seriously pursued. “Entry into force of the CTBT remains a top priority for the United States.” “Nuclear disarmament is the highest priority of the Non-aligned Movement.”

Process, step-by-step

See *Step-by-step process*.

Realistic approach

An approach to nuclear disarmament the speaker prefers, especially one that has repeatedly failed over a long period, relies on improbable developments, or otherwise seems unlikely to alter the status quo.

Ride the woodpecker

(Of a *nuclear weasel state*) To call for action by others while blithely ignoring one’s own contributions to preserving the status quo and avoiding progress on nuclear disarmament.

Step-by-step process

See *Process, step-by-step*.

Strategic deterrent

Nuclear weapons possessed by the state which the speaker represents; in NPT contexts, nuclear weapons possessed by a *nuclear-weapon state*. “Our strategic deterrent is strictly for defensive purposes.” cf. *weapon of mass destruction*.

- Unequivocal undertaking** A promise or commitment given subject to various vaguely-specified conditions, that is able to be altered or withdrawn at any time according to the perceived needs of the issuing party; an equivocal undertaking.
- Weapon of mass destruction** A *nuclear weapon* held, or that may be acquired, by a state or entity other than the one the speaker represents. cf. *strategic deterrent*.
- Weasel** See *nuclear weasel state*.