NPT at mid-course
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More than half of the five year period between the last NPT review conference of May 2010 and the next session scheduled for 2015, has already elapsed .

Unlike its previous edition of 2005,the 2010 conference was a success.

The most relevant feature of the 2010 conference is the consensus reached on the establishment of a zone free of WMDs in the Middle East: an ambitious project also dealing with weapons not contemplated by the NPT mandate.

Another significant feature of the 2010 meeting is the agreed language on the humanitarian implications on the use of nuclear weapons.

Never before had the necessity of prohibiting the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons through a "Cut- off Treaty" (FMCT) been expressed so unequivocally.

The record is less satisfactory when it comes to implementation.
If one excludes the question of nuclear security, the implementation of the remaining items contained in the 2010 action plan is disappointing and does not augur well for a successful 2015 session.

The date of conference on a Zone free of WMD in Middle East, due to take place by 2012, was postponed; its sponsors were not even able to announce a new date and agree on a common statement.

If the negotiation of an FMCT treaty remains confined to the chronically paralyzed Conference on Disarmament, the prospects of some progress with regard to fissile material, which is considered as the next logical step in the multilateral nuclear disarmament domain, are rather bleak.

Nothing much has changed since 1996 when the International Court of Justice expressed an advisory opinion on the humanitarian consequences of the use of nuclear weapons.

There is no doubt that an entry into force of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty would be a boost for the next Review Conference. One should at least seek to obtain ratification by all the NPT states.

If Iran really wishes to be credible it should ratify the CTBT now. The international community does not insist sufficiently on this point.