



SLOVENIA

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY!

**Statement by the Republic of Slovenia
at the Second Session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2020
Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the
Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons
Geneva, 23 April to 4 May 2018**

Mr Chairperson, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me start by congratulating Ambassador Bugajski for assuming the role of the Chairperson of the second Preparatory Committee meeting of the 2020 Review Conference of the ***Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT)*** and wish him every success in his endeavors.

In addition to the statement of the European Union, which we fully support, as well as the statement on progressive approach, I would also like to make some remarks in my national capacity and contribute to our collective responsibility for successful implementation of the NPT.

Mr Chairperson,

Slovenia is a strong supporter of non-proliferation, arms control and disarmament of nuclear weapons.

We are of firm belief that we have to achieve our common goal of the world free of nuclear weapons ***progressively*** through the ***full implementation of the NPT***. For Slovenia the NPT remains the cornerstone of disarmament, non-proliferation and development of nuclear energy applications for peaceful purposes.

At the 2010 NPT Review Conference we have agreed on the ***step-by-step Action plan*** with ***practical measures*** also in the area of

disarmament, in accordance with its Article VI, to which we are all committed.

We all agreed to do our utmost to bring the ***Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT)*** into force. Given the importance that Slovenia attaches to this issue, it was among the topics discussed at the Bled Strategic Forum, our high-level platform for discussing pressing regional and global issues, in 2016 as well as in 2017. The Executive Secretary of the CTBTO Dr Zerbo highlighted the importance of the entry into force of the CTBT for global security. I would like to use this opportunity to **call on all states, particularly those listed in Annex II, to sign and ratify the Treaty** without delay and without preconditions.

We also encourage the Conference on Disarmament to begin negotiations on a ***treaty banning the production of fissile material for use in nuclear weapons***. Slovenia has supported the relevant UN General Assembly resolutions related to this issue, including the convening of open-ended consultative meetings and sessions of the High-Level Expert Preparatory Group led by Canada. We are strongly convinced that these meetings will help ***bridge the differences*** in our understandings of the FMCT and hopefully (soon) lead to negotiations. We believe that the **recently established second subsidiary body to the CD will contribute to that as well.**

We believe that ***significant progress*** has been made in both mentioned areas, as well as in the area of **nuclear disarmament verification.**

Transparency in the area of ballistic missiles (HCoC), decreasing the operational readiness of nuclear weapons, negative security assurances, as well as establishing and maintaining nuclear weapons free zones (NWFZ) are also important steps that are being taken and we **encourage all nuclear weapon states to participate in these initiatives.** In our view, effective, verifiable and irreversible nuclear disarmament requires not only appropriate technical and security conditions, but also an **active engagement of states that possess nuclear weapons.**

We encourage the United States and the Russian Federation to **extend the New START Treaty** and **preserve the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty.**

Mr Chairperson,

As one of only thirty states with an operating nuclear power reactor, Slovenia attaches great **importance to the work of the IAEA**. This is clearly demonstrated through our current membership in its Board of Governors.

We welcome the significant contribution of the Agency to the implementation of the NPT.

We commend the role of the IAEA in ensuring Iran's on-going implementation of its commitments under the **Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action**. The **JCPOA** clearly shows that even the most difficult issues can be resolved by diplomatic and peaceful means. Slovenia therefore counts on **continued compliance with the nuclear deal by all sides**. This is essential to ensure international confidence in the exclusively peaceful nature of the Iranian nuclear programme.

We **welcome the high-level talks between the Republic of Korea and the DPRK, as well as foreseen talks between the US and DPRK**, and we support diplomatic efforts aimed at de-escalating the situation and achieving the complete, verifiable and irreversible de-nuclearisation of the Korean Peninsula through peaceful means. However, Slovenia strongly condemns the grave **violation of numerous resolutions adopted by the UN Security Council by DPRK**. We call on all states to fully and effectively implement the restrictive measures. We joined the statement of the **Proliferation Security Initiative** on the need to step up the implementation of the last two UN Security Council resolutions related to the DPRK.

Syria should also resolve all the outstanding issues and adhere to the **Additional Protocol**. Together with the **Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement it constitutes an effective verification standard**.

Mr Chairperson,

Slovenia is concerned with the **risk of non-state actors acquiring WMDs**. We have been therefore supporting UNSC resolution 1540 and the work of the 1540 Committee to strengthen global capacity to prevent, detect, and respond to the use of WMD for terrorist purposes.

We understand that **nuclear security** remains the responsibility of the states. We thus strongly support international cooperation in this area to

effectively cope with serious challenges both on the global and national levels. Within ***Nuclear Security Contact Group we aim to facilitate cooperation and strengthen activities on nuclear security.*** As a country whose experts were deeply engaged in the process of preparation of the ***Amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material*** (a-CPPNM), we underline the importance of its universalization and full implementation.

Mr Chairperson,

In the IAEA Board of Governors we follow closely ***our priority areas*** such as ***nuclear energy, nuclear safety and technical assistance.***

Nuclear security and nuclear safety enable the peaceful use of nuclear technology. Slovenia supports the Agency in its discharge of statutory obligations by offering ***technical assistance*** in its area of work, regardless the big differences in the needs of Member states. Slovenia is always open to ***share its experience*** with others and is interested in ***improving its own capabilities.*** This kind of capacity building is vital for any country dealing with nuclear technology. We welcome and support the Agency's contribution to the implementation of ***Sustainable Development Goals.***

Mr Chairperson,

We will contribute to ***constructive discussions*** in the next days that will hopefully lead us to a successful 2020 NPT Review Conference.

Thank you.