

Statement by Norway in the General Debate at the 2018 Preparatory Committee for the 2020 Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference. 23 April 2018.

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Mr Chair,

This second meeting of the Preparatory Committee to the 2020 NPT Review Conference is taking place at a critical juncture. The DPRK nuclear and missile crisis remains unresolved. The JCPOA is under growing pressure. There are fundamentally opposing views on how best to achieve the overall objective of a safer world without nuclear weapons. In fact, we may be moving in the wrong direction. Core arms control treaties are under strain. Prospects for nuclear arms races are looming. The risk of nuclear terrorism is far from being eradicated.

Against such a grim backdrop, it is vital to preserve and consolidate the NPT. This is a daunting task. It will require mobilisation of genuine political will. Last year the Netherlands steered the first meeting of the Preparatory Committee in an excellent manner. Despite different perspectives on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, we were able to exchange views on a number of difficult topics in a constructive manner. Although we had different points of departure, we managed to focus on the importance of the NPT as the core pillar for nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation.

We need to continue to pursue this constructive approach. Norway greatly appreciates that this is the chosen path of the Polish chair of the second meeting of the Preparatory Committee. We would like to thank all those concerned for the inclusive and transparent preparations for this meeting.

Mr Chair,

We need to mobilise the political will needed to develop a forward-looking agenda on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation for the NPT that we will all be able to concur with in 2020.

Our point of departure must be the legal obligations of the Treaty itself, and the agreed outcome of the NPT review conferences. We attach particular importance to the Plan of Action adopted in 2010.

The agenda should include:

- Reaffirmation of the vitality of the NPT. In 2020 we will commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Treaty's entry into force. It is natural to pay tribute to the fundamental contribution it has made to global security, and to underline its continued relevance.
- Reiteration of the overall objective of a safer world without nuclear weapons. We must reaffirm the unequivocal undertaking of the nuclear-weapons states to accomplish the total elimination of their nuclear arsenals, while also recognising that all states must contribute to this end.
- Promotion of enhanced trust and confidence. We need to explore all avenues to uphold existing arms control agreements. We need to ensure compliance with existing treaties as well as laying the necessary groundwork for new reductions in the future. In particular the US and the Russian Federation are strongly encouraged to maintain and extend the New START, resolve outstanding compliance matters related to INF, and initiate strategic talks that could lead to deeper cuts in all categories of nuclear weapons.
- Nuclear disarmament verification increases confidence among the nuclear weapons states and the non-nuclear weapons states that disarmament commitments are adhered to. Norway took a lead on UN General Assembly resolution 71/67 on nuclear disarmament verification. We are pleased that the Governmental Group of Experts will commence its work in a few weeks.
- Preventing a nuclear arms race is of great importance. In this light, the early negotiation and conclusion of an effectively verifiable Fissile

Material Cut-off Treaty (FMCT) seems to be more relevant than ever before. We would like to thank the leadership shown by Canada, Germany and the Netherlands on the FMCT process.

- Consolidation of the non-test norm is essential. Norway has been consistent in advocating an early entry into force of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT). We urge all remaining Annex II states to meet the international community's requirements in this respect.
- The fact-based approach to the humanitarian consequences of nuclear detonations should inspire us to do more to reduce the risks associated with nuclear weapons. Norway has supported the resolution on decreasing the operational readiness of nuclear weapons systems in the General Assembly.
- A world without nuclear weapons cannot be achieved without a credible and robust non-proliferation regime. We must resolve the current threat to the regime posed by the DPRK and preserve the JCPOA. A fundamental precondition for a credible non-proliferation regime is the full universalisation of the comprehensive safeguards agreements and the Additional Protocol.
- Lack of agreement on how to achieve the objective of the 1995 resolution on the Middle East prevented us from reaching consensus at the NPT review conferences in 2005 and 2015. We must do everything possible to prevent this happening again in 2020. Achieving nuclear weapons free zones that are freely agreed on by the countries concerned is essential. Establishing a nuclear weapons free zone for the Korean Peninsula would have a tremendous positive impact on the global non-proliferation regime.
- Stepping up efforts on nuclear security is also an important part of the humanitarian approach. The IAEA has a central role. We urge all

states parties to ratify the amended Convention on Physical Protection of Nuclear Material, the Convention to Combat Nuclear Terrorism, and the related IAEA instruments, and to implement the requirements set out in UN Security Council resolution 1540. In collaboration with the IAEA, Norway will host an international symposium in Oslo on 5-7 June this year on minimisation of highly enriched uranium in civilian sector.

- Norway is fully committed to Article IV of the NPT. Civilian nuclear activities extend far beyond generating electricity, and that peaceful nuclear applications in a range of sectors are crucial for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. We encourage all states that are in a position to do so to contribute to the IAEA assistance programmes in these fields.

Mr Chair,

We must not disregard the fact that there are fundamental differences within the NPT community on how best to achieve the zero option.

Nevertheless, it should be possible to reach agreement on many steps that can bring the nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation agenda forward. In the lead-up to 2020, we need to focus on these steps. This will require political will and readiness to do so. Norway is ready.