



**European Union**

**Preparatory Committee for the 2020 Review Conference of the Parties to the**

**Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT)**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Session**

**(23 April to 4 May 2018)**

**Statement by**

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**on behalf of the European Union**

**Geneva, 23 April 2018**

**Preparatory Committee for the 2020 Review Conference of the Parties to the  
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**EU General Statement**

Mr Chairman,

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union.

The Candidate Countries the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia\*, Montenegro\*, and Albania\*, the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate Bosnia and Herzegovina as well as Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova and Georgia align themselves with this statement.

Let me start by congratulating you and assure you of the EU's full support. We appreciate the close cooperation between the Dutch and the Polish chairmanships of the First and Second Preparatory Committee sessions and their leadership in conducting regional consultations. The innovative working methods have resulted in an inclusive and transparent preparatory process and ensured the continuity of efforts which, we hope, will continue until the 2020 Review Conference. We note the eight principles offered by the First Preparatory Committee Chair as a contribution to our debate. We agree with your view that States Parties bear a collective responsibility to ensure that this review cycle, important in many aspects, successfully marks the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

The EU and its Member States are united in their support for the NPT, the cornerstone of the global nuclear non-proliferation regime, the essential foundation for the pursuit of nuclear disarmament in accordance with Article VI of the NPT and an important element in the further development of the applications of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes.

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\* The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Albania continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.

The NPT has retained its value over the past 50 years, despite ever-changing circumstances. Its principles and goals continue to make a fundamental contribution to global security. The EU and its Member States are committed to upholding the NPT as a key multilateral instrument for reinforcing international peace, security and stability, promoting its universality and enhancing its implementation. We call upon States that have not yet done so to join the Treaty as non-nuclear weapon States, and we call upon all States Parties to implement the Treaty obligations and the commitments undertaken during the previous Review Conferences.

With these objectives in mind and in the spirit of cooperation, the EU will actively participate in the ongoing review process. We continue to promote comprehensive, balanced and full implementation of the 2010 Review Conference Action Plan designed to strengthen the three pillars of the Treaty. Its concrete, equally important and mutually reinforcing steps on nuclear disarmament, non-proliferation and peaceful uses of nuclear energy remain valid and will contribute to the objective of achieving a world without nuclear weapons.

The EU contributes actively to global efforts to seek a safer world for all and to create the conditions for a world without nuclear weapons, in accordance with the goals of the NPT, in a way that promotes international stability, and based on the principle of undiminished security for all. In this context, we call for further progress on all aspects of disarmament to enhance global security.

It is important that all parties contribute to improving the strategic context for arms control and disarmament and avoid eroding the rules-based multilateral system. We must endeavour to decrease international tensions, restore dialogue and trust, and move from confrontation to cooperation to be able to solve global security challenges and regional conflicts. All proliferation crises must be addressed in a resolute way. Given the current severe security environment, we encourage all States concerned to take appropriate practical risk reduction measures, as outlined in the 2010 NPT Review Conference Action Plan, which are important to also ensure the safety and security of their nuclear arsenals.

The EU notes the severe consequences associated with nuclear weapons use and emphasises that all States share the responsibility to prevent such an occurrence from happening.

Mr. Chairman,

EU Member States remain committed to the pursuit of nuclear disarmament, in accordance with Article VI of the NPT. We stress the continued need for concrete progress towards the full implementation of Article VI, especially through an overall reduction in the global stockpile of nuclear weapons, with the ultimate goal of total elimination of those weapons, taking into account the special responsibility of the States that possess the largest nuclear arsenals.

We encourage the United States and the Russian Federation to extend the New START Treaty and seek further reductions to their arsenals, including strategic and non-strategic, deployed and non-deployed nuclear weapons. We encourage further initiatives on confidence building, transparency, verification activities and reporting, and welcome the concrete actions taken by the two European nuclear weapon States in this regard.

In particular, the EU calls for the preservation of the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty. We look forward to an active dialogue between the United States and the Russian Federation to resolve concerns about Russia's compliance with the INF Treaty and to ensure the full and verifiable implementation of their commitments under this Treaty which is crucial for Europe's security.

We call on all States that have not yet done so, in particular the remaining Annex II States, to sign and ratify the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) without further delay. Promoting universalisation and the entry into force of the CTBT remains a top priority. The EU continues to provide significant financial support for the CTBT verification regime, which is making an important contribution to international peace and security, as recognised by UN Security Council Resolution 2310. Pending the entry into force of the CTBT, the EU calls on all States to uphold their moratoria on nuclear weapon test explosions or any other nuclear explosion, and to refrain from any action that would defeat the object and purpose of the Treaty.

The EU reaffirms its commitment to verifiable, treaty-based nuclear disarmament and arms control and underlines the need to renew multilateral efforts and revitalise multilateral negotiating bodies. We call for the immediate negotiations in the Conference on Disarmament of a treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices (FMCT), on the basis of document CD/1299 and the mandate contained therein, and look forward to the

recommendations of the High Level Expert Preparatory Group. In the meantime, we call on all States possessing nuclear weapons that have not yet done so, to declare and uphold an immediate moratorium on the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices.

The EU and its Member States support the ongoing work on nuclear disarmament verification with the aim to develop appropriate multilateral technical capabilities. We welcome the establishment of the Group of Governmental Experts on the role of verification in advancing nuclear disarmament and we look forward to further work in other fora, such as the International Partnership for Nuclear Disarmament Verification (IPNDV). The EU's views are presented in more detail in the two working papers submitted to this Preparatory Committee session on a Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty and on nuclear disarmament verification.

The EU recognizes that negative security assurances strengthen the nuclear non-proliferation regime and calls on all nuclear weapon States to reaffirm the existing security assurances, noted by relevant UN Security Council resolutions. As recommended by the 2010 NPT Review Conference, the Conference on Disarmament should begin discussion with a view to elaborating recommendations on all aspects of the issue, without excluding an internationally legally-binding instrument.

Mr. Chairman,

The nuclear and ballistic missile programmes of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) remain a matter of grave concern to the EU. They pose a serious threat to international peace and security and the global non-proliferation regime. While the ongoing diplomatic efforts to achieve a peaceful solution are timely and much welcome, and it will be encouraging if the DPRK fulfils its recent commitments regarding testing, the international community must keep up maximum pressure on the DPRK until it embarks on a credible path towards complete, verifiable and irreversible denuclearisation. The EU urges the DPRK to comply with its international obligations under multiple UN Security Council Resolutions, sign and ratify the CTBT, and return to compliance with the NPT and the IAEA Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement. It is the firm stance of the EU that the DPRK cannot have the status of a nuclear weapon State in accordance with the NPT. We call upon all States to fully and effectively implement the UN Security Council Resolutions on the DPRK.

The EU reaffirms its continued commitment to the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) and expects all parties to continue to implement the deal in full. This multilateral endeavour, endorsed by UN Security Council Resolution 2231, illustrates that it is possible to find peaceful and diplomatic solutions even to the most pressing proliferation challenges. It is in our common interest to preserve a deal that strengthens the global non-proliferation regime, contributes positively to regional and international peace and security, and provides the international community with necessary assurances on the exclusively peaceful nature of Iran's nuclear programme. We call on Iran to promptly ratify the Additional Protocol to its Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement with the IAEA. We also call on Iran to refrain from ballistic missile launches that are inconsistent with UN Security Council Resolution 2231.

The EU deeply regrets that Syria still has to remedy its non-compliance with its Safeguards Agreement under the NPT. We once again urge Syria to resolve all outstanding issues in full cooperation with the IAEA and to adhere to the Additional Protocol as soon as possible. We condemn in the strongest terms any use of chemical weapons in Syria and the deliberate targeting of civilians, which adds to Syria's violations of its non-proliferation obligations in relation to weapons of mass destruction. The international community must end impunity for such war crimes.

The EU reaffirms its strong commitment to the establishment of a zone free of nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems in the Middle East. We consider the 1995 Resolution valid until its goals and objectives are achieved and strongly support the outcome of the 2010 NPT Review Conference on the Middle East. We deeply regret that it has not been possible so far to convene a Conference on the establishment of such a zone as outlined in the 2010 NPT Review Conference Action Plan. The EU calls on all States in the region to urgently and proactively engage with the Co-Conveners and each other with the aim of enabling the Conference to be convened as soon as possible, on the basis of arrangements freely arrived at between the States of the region. The EU has continuously expressed its readiness to assist in the process and organised a seminar in 2011 and in 2012 as well as a capacity-building workshop in 2014 to help produce a conducive atmosphere and move the process forward. We continue to call on all States in the region, which have not yet done so, to join the NPT, the CTBT, the Chemical Weapons Convention and the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention.

The IAEA's system of safeguards is a fundamental component of the nuclear non-proliferation regime and plays an indispensable role in the implementation of the NPT. Comprehensive

Safeguards Agreement, together with the Additional Protocol, constitute the current IAEA verification standard under Article III of the NPT. Twenty years after the adoption of the Model Additional Protocol, we insist on its universalisation without delay.

The EU also attaches utmost importance to effective export controls, in accordance with Article III of the NPT and supports the work of multilateral export control regimes. We invite all States to adhere to their guidelines as well as to The Hague Code of Conduct against Ballistic Missile Proliferation. All UN Member States have a legal obligation to prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems to State or non-State actors, as required by UN Security Council Resolution 1540 and its follow-on resolutions.

Mr. Chairman,

The EU recognises the right of NPT States Parties to use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, in accordance with Article IV of the Treaty. It is in our common interest to ensure that the development and use of nuclear energy takes place in a responsible manner under the most rigorous safety, security, safeguards and non-proliferation conditions.

The EU and its Member States continues to promote the highest standards of nuclear safety and nuclear security in Europe and worldwide. We urge all States to join relevant international treaties, such as the Convention on Nuclear Safety and the Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and Radioactive Waste as well as the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism and the amended Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (aCPPNM).

While nuclear safety and nuclear security both remain a matter of national competence, the EU and its Member States believe that strengthening nuclear security and nuclear safety through international cooperation is of utmost relevance. We must work together to prevent accidents and incidents, including illicit trafficking and terrorist access to nuclear and radiological materials. The safety and security of radioactive sources must be improved worldwide. During this Preparatory Committee session, the EU will organise a side event to discuss and encourage further international cooperation and capacity building in managing radioactive sources. The IAEA plays a central role in fostering a strong nuclear safety culture and a nuclear security culture.

The EU and its Member States strongly support the IAEA's Technical Cooperation (TC) Programme in all areas of peaceful uses of nuclear energy, such as human health, food and agriculture, water resources, the environment, preservation of cultural heritage, nuclear and radiation safety and nuclear energy, thereby contributing among others to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. We call on all countries to contribute to the IAEA's Technical Cooperation Fund (TCF).

The EU's financial support has significantly increased in the fields of nuclear safety, security and safeguards and peaceful uses of nuclear energy. For example, the EU and its Member States are collectively among the largest donors to the IAEA Nuclear Security Fund. We will elaborate on our assistance activities in the Cluster III statement.

I would like to conclude by underlining that gender equality and the empowerment of women is an important horizontal priority for the EU, and the Women, Peace and Security Agenda continues to feature prominently in EU external action. Women must be fully involved, through active and equal participation, including in leadership in non-proliferation and disarmament efforts. The EU and its Member States also support further engagement of civil society and academia in addressing and discussing challenges related to the NPT.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman