

National Statement of the REPUBLIC of LITHUANIA
Preparatory Committee for the 2020 NPT Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the
Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT)
Second session, Geneva, 23 April- 4 May 2018

Mr. Chairman,

Let me congratulate you, Ambassador Bugajski, on assuming the duties of the Chair of the second Preparatory Committee meeting of the 2020 NPT Review Conference. Lithuanian delegation stands ready to support you in achieving a successful conclusion to this Session. We appreciate an all-inclusive and succinct manner in which you have navigated the preparations to ensure a comprehensive review cycle and wish success to the Polish chairmanship. Lithuanian position is well reflected in the European Union statement and we would like to highlight a few aspects in our national capacity.

Upholding and preserving the NPT as a multilateral instrument for reinforcing international peace, security and stability is the principal goal that is to be pursued systematically and with equal determination across all three pillars, by all states parties. Success of the 2020 NPT Review cycle depends on us as the states parties. We must remain committed to these fundamental principles and achieve outcomes that strengthen non-proliferation and disarmament, and facilitate access to peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

While it is fair to assume that some states parties may tend to favor a more composed progression over a struggle for prompt outcomes on the most delicate dossiers, the protection of the Treaty's credibility and integrity is of paramount importance to us. All obligations and commitments assumed under the Treaty or undertaken during previous Review Conferences have to be duly implemented.

We underscore the necessity to progress towards the full implementation of **Article VI** and progressive reductions to both strategic and non-strategic arsenals of deployed and non-deployed nuclear weaponry. We anticipate the **nuclear weapon states** to exercise leadership in this regard and **non-nuclear weapon states** to comply with their Treaty obligations and International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards agreements, and strive to reinforce the Treaty's non-proliferation regime.

As a member state of NATO, Lithuania stands behind the core principle of NATO's nuclear posture based on the premise all nuclear-weapon states of the Alliance maintain full control and custody of their nuclear weapons. NATO's nuclear arrangements were already in place and part of the acquis of the Treaty when the NPT was negotiated and entered into force, with the primary intent to prevent further spread of nuclear weapons, and to preserve peace.

Continuous efforts in confidence-building, transparency, and verification activities and reporting are commendable. In this light, we reiterate the importance of preserving the integrity of the **Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF)** Treaty, an essential instrument to the international security and strategic stability, only ensured by a full and verifiable compliance of its Parties.

Mr. Chairman,

We observe with regret that the circumstances for achieving disarmament without compromising security and international stability, are not favorable today. We continue to support an operable protocol to nuclear disarmament via continuous **practical systematic approach**, within the existent framework of complementary treaties, institutions and commitments in support of achieving and

maintaining a world without nuclear weapons. Given the current arduous geopolitical environment, prudence demands we stay realistic. Therefore, we remain incredulous that delegitimization of nuclear weapons would productively add to the harmonization of the disarmament and security ends.

The international community is again confronted with the proliferation crises that pose a grave threat to the international peace, security and non-proliferation regime. We urge the **DPRK** to return to full compliance with the NPT and its associated safeguards agreement, as its nuclear and ballistic missile programmes remain a matter of serious international concern. In the meantime, a maximum pressure on the DPRK is needed to compel it to take a credible path towards a complete denuclearization.

We condemn **in the strongest terms** chemical weapon use in Syria, which adds to the number of Syria's blatant violations of its non-proliferation obligations in relation to weapons of mass destruction. We echo yet another call upon **Syria** to resolve its non-compliance with its Safeguards Agreement alongside outstanding issues in full cooperation with the IAEA and to adhere to the Additional Protocol. Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement combined with an Additional Protocol should be recognized as the basic standard of verification.

On an affirmative note, the implementation of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) on Iran is testament to the determination of the international community to ensure NPT commitments are respected and upheld. Lithuania continues to view the JCPOA as a long-term comprehensive solution to the Iranian nuclear program.

Mr. Chairman,

We support the right of state parties to develop peaceful nuclear energy, within a framework that reduces proliferation risk and adheres to the international safeguards standards. Lithuania recognizes the value many states place on access to the benefits of **peaceful nuclear energy**. Nuclear security cannot be upheld in isolation from **nuclear safety**; and both must be dealt with in a coordinated and consistent manner. Consistency with IAEA safety standards, transparency, respect to the reasoned interests of the neighboring countries and international law, alongside advanced safety culture are of key importance in this regard.

Mr. Chairman,

Across its three monumental pillars, NPT stands among the most successful and significant of multilateral treaties.

In order to realize progress across all three pillars, we must build bridges across the issues that divide us, and seek consensus on areas where we can progress. We recognize that this will require a massive amount of political will, flexibility and determination to rise above unproductive debates and uphold commitments enshrined in the Treaty.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.