

**Preparatory Committee for the 2020 NPT Review Conference of the Parties
to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT)**

Statement by

The Republic of Latvia

Geneva, 25 April 2018

Mr Chairman,

At the outset, I would like to congratulate you on your election as the Chairman of the Second Preparatory Committee of the 2020 NPT Review Conference. Let me assure you of the full cooperation of the Latvian delegation. Latvia fully aligns itself with the statement delivered on behalf of the European Union. I would like to make the following remarks in a national capacity.

Mr Chairman,

In the light of its 50th anniversary in 2020, the NPT remains a cornerstone of the global non-proliferation and disarmament regime and a major achievement in international security. Hence, it should be our responsibility to uphold and preserve the NPT as a key multilateral instrument, to promote its universalization and strengthen its implementation.

Latvia is strongly committed to the full implementation of the NPT and welcomes the progress made under its three mutually reinforcing pillars: non-proliferation, disarmament and the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. We have to preserve this progress and move forward with all the obligations and commitments assumed under the NPT.

Global community is faced with a multitude of emerging security challenges that should be addressed multilaterally. At the current security juncture a unified approach to proliferation and associated security threats is required more than ever. Both nuclear and non-nuclear weapon states have to be on board.

Latvia strongly supports efforts aimed at achieving peaceful and diplomatic solution to end the DPRK's nuclear program. We welcome DPRK's decision to suspend nuclear and ballistic missile tests. It is important to continue efforts to find lasting solution for regional and global peace and stability. This will require DPRK's full compliance with the NPT and other international obligations, including its complete, verifiable and irreversible denuclearization.

In recent years international efforts in the field of non-proliferation have brought some tangible results. We have to acknowledge the continued relevance of the

JCPOA. It is crucial that all parties maintain a constructive and balanced approach to fully implement the deal, while addressing concerns raised outside the JCPOA.

Mr Chairman,

The “building blocks” outlined in the NPT Action Plan 2010 are more relevant than ever and we should urge for their continued full and substantive step-by-step implementation.

We have to revisit our disarmament and non-proliferation commitments and act upon them. State Parties should move forward with their support to the FMCT, which they broadly reaffirmed at the 2010 NPT Review Conference. Immediate commencement of negotiations on the FMCT in the framework of the Conference on Disarmament is of utmost importance. Latvia supports the work of the High Level FMCT Expert Preparatory Group, established by the UNGA resolution 71/259.

The CTBT is of crucial importance to Latvia, and its entry into force and universalization is still a top priority. CTBT is an indispensable tool in our efforts to advance global nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. We reiterate our call on all States that have not yet done so, in particular those listed in Annex 2, to sign and ratify the Treaty.

A comprehensive verification regime that would eventually enable a world without nuclear weapons remains to be designed. The International Partnership for Nuclear Disarmament Verification (IPNDV) is one of the few examples that have made a substantial contribution to this end.

Latvia would also like to stress the importance of the IAEA in assuring the implementation of the NPT's third pillar of peaceful uses of nuclear energy. Its safeguards system plays an essential role in the implementation of the non-proliferation obligations under the NPT. IAEA's assistance to the Member States in ensuring the highest levels of safety and security that benefits us all should be underlined.

Mr Chairman,

It is crucial that disarmament and non-proliferation commitments under existing treaties are honored. In this regard, preservation of the INF Treaty is vital for international peace, security and stability. We would like to see Russia addressing any concerns regarding its compliance in a substantial and

transparent way and actively engage in a constructive dialogue with the United States.

Latvia also remains deeply worried that core provisions of the Budapest memorandum on security assurances to Ukraine continue to be violated. Such actions significantly erode the level of trust and undermine nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation efforts.

Mr Chairman,

I would like to conclude by reaffirming Latvia's full support and commitment to the aforementioned instruments and initiatives that lead us to a safer world with undiminished security for all. Latvia is committed to contribute to a rules based international order, including through chairing the Nuclear Suppliers Group for the period of 2018-2019.

Thank you!