



IRELAND

Closing Remarks

Statement by

Ambassador Michael Gaffey,

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other International Organisations in Geneva

At the

2018 Preparatory Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the
Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT)

Geneva, 4 May, 2018

Mr. Chairman,

Ireland associates itself with the comments **[to be]** delivered here by New Zealand on behalf of the New Agenda Coalition.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank you and your team for the dedicated and efficient manner in which you have conducted business during the last two weeks. Ireland acknowledges that producing an agreed summary of the complex discussions that take place at NPT Preparatory Committee meetings is a challenging task and we thank you for your efforts.

That being said, we regret that it has not been possible to include within the Chair's summary a more balanced and positive reflection of recent developments in connection with the adoption of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. The fact that numerous states *welcomed* the adoption of the TPNW is not reflected in the document. We believe that doing so would have ensured a more accurate and balanced presentation of the views expressed during our debate here.

Mr. Chairman,

Throughout this and the previous PrepCom, my delegation has repeatedly emphasised the importance of gender considerations in nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation fora. We were glad to see that your summary reflected the view expressed by a large number of States Parties of the fundamental importance of promoting the equal, full and effective participation and

leadership of both women and men in nuclear disarmament, non-proliferation and the peaceful use of nuclear energy.

However, it is deeply regrettable that no reference was made to the disproportionate gendered impact of ionizing radiation on women and girls. My delegation set out this issue in detail at this conference in our statements and in working paper 38. We view its absence as particularly unfortunate given its inclusion in last year's factual summary.

Let me close by thanking you again, Mr. Chairman, and by expressing Ireland's enduring commitment to the NPT, and emphasising our readiness to work hard to ensure a successful outcome to this Review Cycle.

Thank you.