

Closing Statement by the United States

**Third Session of the Preparatory Committee for the
2020 Review Conference of the Parties to the
Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons**

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Mr. Chairman,

First, allow me to thank you for accepting the challenge of chairing this Preparatory Committee meeting. The role of PrepCom Chair is a difficult one, and we appreciate the time and effort you put into leading our work these past two weeks.

As we are also concluding the third and final session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2020 Review Conference (RevCon), I would like to thank the Netherlands and Poland for their outstanding work in chairing the 2017 and 2018 Preparatory Committee meetings. We appreciate the hard work that the three PrepCom chairs have put into leading preparations for next year's Review Conference. The series of regional and other consultations and the close coordination between the members of the leadership bureau during this review cycle has set the standard for future review cycles. The United States also looks forward to working with the three PrepCom Chairs as they take up their roles as the Chairs of the Main Committees during the RevCon. Also, I would be remiss if I did not thank the NPT Secretariat staff for their tireless efforts in ensuring the review cycle meetings run efficiently and effectively.

While the importance of strong leadership during the Preparatory Committee meetings cannot be overstated, we cannot achieve success in the review cycle without a capable RevCon President. I commend our colleagues for working collaboratively together during this PrepCom to advance this issue of key importance to all NPT Parties. The United States has full confidence that Ambassador Grossi is up to the task, and he has our full support in his efforts to guide the 2020 RevCon towards a successful outcome. The selection of the President-designate was a major task for this PrepCom, and while it was a difficult process, a successful outcome was achieved.

Mr. Chairman,

The other main task of the PrepCom is to develop consensus recommendations for the Review Conference. That this task is daunting is evident in the fact that it has never been achieved. While the prospects for success were always slim, during the past days we have only succeeded in moving farther apart. As such, the Chairman's Working Paper cannot serve as a basis of work for next year's RevCon. Furthermore, our deliberations here served to highlight

that getting agreement among all NPT Parties on any outcome in 2020 will be an incredibly difficult task. However, it is a task we cannot abandon. During the 2020 RevCon, we will be marking the 50th anniversary of the Treaty's entry into force, and we must rededicate ourselves to ensuring the Treaty continues for another fifty years and beyond. The RevCon is an opportunity for all NPT Parties to reflect on what they have accomplished in realizing the shared benefits embodied in the NPT, reaffirming their commitments to the NPT, and rededicating themselves to preserving and further strengthening the NPT regime. But above all, we must look forward.

During all three sessions of this PrepCom, NPT Parties voiced strong support for the Treaty and its critical role in international security. This collective recognition of the value of the NPT and the shared benefits it provides must serve as the starting point for 2020. We can achieve a positive outcome only if we are prepared to focus on what unites us – the shared goals and interests that the Treaty embodies, and to abandon divisive and unrealistic agendas that, in the end, would prove futile and fruitless.

Mr. Chairman,

In closing, let me thank you once again for your efforts during this third meeting of the 2020 NPT review cycle. The NPT has made and will continue to make the world far safer and more prosperous by limiting the proliferation of nuclear weapons, and by serving as the foundation for nuclear disarmament and the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. As we look forward to 2020, the United States remains committed to working with all NPT Parties to keep the Treaty strong, vibrant, and effective in serving our shared goals.