



NEW ZEALAND

ON BEHALF OF THE NEW AGENDA COALITION

**PREPARATORY COMMITTEE FOR THE 2010 REVIEW CONFERENCE OF
THE PARTIES TO THE TREATY ON THE NON-PROLIFERATION OF
NUCLEAR WEAPONS**

GENERAL DEBATE

**STATEMENT BY H.E. DON MACKAY
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE TO THE UNITED NATIONS IN GENEVA**

28 April 2008

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Mr Chairperson,

I have the honour to take the floor on behalf of the seven members of the New Agenda Coalition: Brazil, Egypt, Ireland, Mexico, South Africa, Sweden, and my own country, New Zealand.

Let me congratulate you on your election as Chairman of the Second Session of the Preparatory Committee to the 2010 Review Conference of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. You have undertaken extensive groundwork for this meeting which will enable us to get underway with substantive work at the outset. We would like to assure you of our full support as you guide us in our deliberations over the next two weeks.

The New Agenda Coalition is fully committed to the objectives of the NPT and its three fundamental pillars: nuclear disarmament, nuclear non-proliferation, and the peaceful use of nuclear energy, and the realisation of the elimination of nuclear weapons. While the Treaty continues to face several challenges, it is clear that creating a world free of nuclear weapons must remain one of the international community's most pressing collective priorities.

This Second PrepCom represents the mid-point in our work leading up to the Eighth Review Conference of the Treaty. Our experience from the failed 2005 Review Conference demonstrates that unless we achieve a shared framework for approaching the Review Conference in advance, our prospects for successful and substantive results are compromised. We cannot afford to let this happen for the 2010 Review Conference.

This PrepCom gives us an opportunity to explore where common ground might emerge and be built upon over the next two years. The New Agenda Coalition submitted a working paper to the First PrepCom which identified seven areas as requiring urgent attention during the current review cycle. Those areas were universality, nuclear doctrines, reductions in nuclear forces, security assurances, nuclear-weapon-free zones, negotiation of a treaty on fissile material, and a prohibition on the testing of nuclear weapons. The action required on them is no less relevant in 2008 than it was in 2007. We will submit a further paper to this PrepCom which builds on these elements, and offers additional reflections on ways forward for nuclear disarmament work in the lead up to 2010. We will introduce this second working paper on the Coalition's behalf during the PrepCom's deliberations on nuclear disarmament.

Mr Chairperson,

The past year has seen some positive signs of engagement towards addressing the transparency deficit within the NPT. Increased efforts from some nuclear-weapon States regarding the provision of information relevant to the fulfilment of

Article VI commitments should make a positive contribution to the way in which nuclear disarmament obligations are approached within the Treaty's framework. All States Parties will need to work together to ensure that reductions in nuclear arsenals are progressed in a transparent, verifiable, and irreversible manner.

The New Agenda Coalition welcomes indications from some nuclear-weapon States that further cuts in nuclear arsenals are being advanced. However, the Coalition remains seriously concerned that intentions to modernise other nuclear forces seem to persist. The Coalition reiterates that States should not develop new nuclear weapons or nuclear weapons with new military capabilities or for new missions, nor replace nor modernise their nuclear weapon systems, as any such action would contradict the spirit of the disarmament and non-proliferation obligations of the treaty.

In addition, some nuclear-weapon States have recently continued to advocate the doctrine of nuclear deterrence, thereby reinforcing the perception that nuclear weapons will continue to remain a strategic component of national security. The consistent attempt to treat nuclear weapons as a unique security enhancer perpetuates the mistaken perception that nuclear weapons are an essential component of a modern military force, and provides greater prominence and status to these weapons at a time when the international community repeatedly discourages their presence and calls for their total elimination.

An integral component of efforts to strengthen the Treaty's implementation must be to pursue further progress towards its universalisation. The Coalition continues to call upon all States Parties to spare no effort to achieve the universality of the NPT, and urges India, Israel and Pakistan, which are not yet Parties to the Treaty, to accede to it as non-nuclear weapon States promptly and without conditions.

The New Agenda Coalition reiterates the importance of abiding by all commitments previously undertaken. We recall in particular the importance of the Decisions and the Resolution on the Middle East adopted at the 1995 Review and Extension Conference which were an integral part of the decision to indefinitely extend the treaty. We also recall that States Parties unanimously agreed at the 2000 Review Conference on thirteen practical steps for systematic and progressive efforts towards nuclear disarmament.

Mr Chairperson,

As we work on developing areas of convergence within the framework of the current review cycle, we need to remain aware of complementary opportunities to progress nuclear disarmament objectives. The New Agenda Coalition continues to support the immediate commencement of negotiations in the Conference on Disarmament on a treaty banning the production of fissile

material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices. We maintain that for such a treaty to be effective, it should include a verification mechanism and cover existing stocks. While strongly supporting efforts currently being exerted, the Coalition is deeply concerned that the Conference on Disarmament has not yet been able to commence work on this issue, and urges all members of the Conference to exercise the flexibility required to get negotiations underway.

In conclusion,

As NPT States Parties, we must look for ways to move forward collectively, with the objective of a common approach to the 2010 Review Conference. It is clear that this process will require a shared vision of the future, and also due recognition and implementation of the commitments we have negotiated together in the past. Constructive engagement on measurable and practical objectives in the field of transparency would provide a useful confidence building dynamic on which to take our work forward, particularly in the implementation of Article VI commitments. The New Agenda Coalition will do all it can to assist in producing a successful outcome to this review cycle.