

OPENING SPEECH

**by H.E. Mr. Volodymyr Yelchenko,
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to the International Organizations in Vienna,
Chairman of the Second Session of the Preparatory Committee
for the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the
Non-proliferation of Nuclear Weapons**

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**Excellencies, distinguished delegates,
Ladies and gentlemen,**

First of all I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the delegations of the NPT States Parties for confiding in me and electing me Chairman of the Second session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. To me, as representative of Ukraine – the country which voluntarily renounced its huge nuclear arsenal having thereby made invaluable contribution to strengthening the NPT, it is a great honor to preside over the current event.

Since its appearance in the international legal system the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) has played a vital role in containing the spread of nuclear weapons worldwide and has therefore contributed immensely to bolstering international peace and security for many years ahead. I would like to remind you that this year will mark the fortieth anniversary since the NPT opening for signature.

Nowadays, just as decades ago, the NPT keeps staying at the heart of the global non-proliferation regime, despite all tremendous challenges confronted by the Treaty these days.

Here it should be stressed that a multilateralist approach is the best way to tackle challenges facing the NPT and the global security. In this

regard the 2010 Review Conference and its Preparatory Committee sessions provide ^{us} another opportunity to take concerted action to remedy the fragile situation currently witnessed in the field concerned. The roadmap toward the progress in this direction has been charted by the decisions and the resolution adopted at the 1995 NPT Review and Extension Conference as well as by the Final Document of the 2000 NPT Review Conference. Our task now is to find the ways of how to combat present challenges and of how to reach the fuller implementation of the mentioned roadmap. This task should be viewed in a broader context of our common responsibility to fulfill the mandate of the Preparatory Committee meeting as set out in the 1995 Decision on Strengthening the Review Process for the Treaty and the 2000 Final Document.

Distinguished delegates,

This Second PrepCom session is exactly the right time to devote ourselves to seeking the needed solutions on substance. After all, this is in our common interests.

In doing our job all of us should first and foremost drop the feeling of pessimism brought about by the previous review cycle. Let me remind you in this regard that not all the past review conferences were successful. In fact, only some of them were able to produce agreement on substantive issues. These were often hard-won decisions made against the backdrop of a complicated situation in the field of nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament.

In addition, we have to take a positive perception of the newly started review cycle, including this Second Preparatory Committee session. We should build upon the positive trends which may be witnessed today. They include *inter alia*:

- slow but steady progress in the ratification of the CTBT and of the IAEA Additional Protocol;

- progress made in implementing the Six Parties' agreement on the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsular;
- considerable efforts exerted by the CD member states to agree upon its program of work;
- agreements recently reached by the two major nuclear powers in the field of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation;
- recent statements of intent to further reduce the strategic nuclear arsenals by another NPT nuclear-weapon state;
- an array of initiatives in the field of multilateral approach to the nuclear fuel cycle etc.

On such a high note I will close my remarks. I will only add that as Chairman I will do my utmost to ensure smooth and fruitful proceedings. However, the substance, as well as the results of the session, largely depends upon the stance of the delegations in terms of their readiness to compromise and of their eagerness to reach a specific goal. Therefore I ask for your support and constructive position during the session in order to build a consensus on the outstanding-procedural and substantive issues and to produce a qualitative result to lay the solid basis for the rest of the review cycle.

Thank you.