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Statement

by

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to the United Nations

Third Session of the
Preparatory Committee for the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the
Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

UN Headquarters
(New York, 4 May 2009)

Mr. Chairman,

I am pleased to join the previous speakers in congratulating you on your assumption of the chairmanship of the 2009 NPT Preparatory Committee. I wish you success in your endeavors and promise you the full support of our delegation.

Mr. Chairman,

We gather in New York at an unusual moment in the history of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. It is a time when the NPT faces extraordinary challenges, arguably more severe than it has encountered since the treaty entered into force in 1970. At the same time, we should recognize a number of positive new international currents and seize upon the opportunities they present to move the nuclear disarmament and nonproliferation agenda forward. My delegation is convinced that we must utilize this meeting of the Preparatory Committee to revive and reinforce the spirit of cooperation and forward thinking about nuclear disarmament and nonproliferation that was most evident at the 2000 NPT Review Conference, but since then too often has been lacking in the NPT Review Process.

Toward this goal, Mr. Chairman, my delegation hopes that this Preparatory Committee session will contribute to the strengthening of the review process as envisaged by the 1995 NPT Review and Extension Conference and make possible a very successful Review Conference next year. My delegation is especially desirous that States Parties will be able to resolve in a timely fashion all relevant procedural issues in order that attention also can be directed to matters of substance relating to the implementation of the Treaty, Decisions 1 and 2 and the Resolution on the Middle East from the 1995 NPT Review and Extension Conference, as well the outcome of the 2000 Review Conference.

Mr. Chairman,

At the 1995 NPT Review and Extension Conference, the Kyrgyz Republic applauded the adoption without a vote of three interconnected decisions and a resolution on the Middle East. Five years later, my delegation also supported the adoption of the final document of the 2000 NPT Review Conference. This document presented a pragmatic, forward-looking set of objectives regarding disarmament and nonproliferation. Today, however, we must acknowledge that our initial high expectations from 1995 and 2000 remain, at best, only partially realized. Especially disappointing is the continued stalemate at the Conference on Disarmament, the failure to bring the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty into force, lack of visible progress in negotiating a verifiable Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty, and the demise – at least until recently – of both negotiated and voluntary reductions in strategic and non-strategic nuclear weapons. It is my delegation's hope that during this new cycle of the review process we will address the implementation of the practical steps toward

disarmament adopted at the 2000 Review Conference and discuss means to accelerate the reduction of all categories of nuclear weapons in a transparent and irreversible fashion. My delegation shares the views of those States Parties, who attach particular importance to the expeditious ratification and entry into force of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty. In this regard, I am pleased to note that the Kyrgyz Republic ratified the CTBT on 2nd October 2003.

Mr. Chairman,

One of the most promising approaches to disarmament and nonproliferation is the creation of nuclear-weapon-free zones. Today, nuclear-weapon-free zones cover nearly the entire Southern Hemisphere, in addition to the Antarctic, the seabed, and outer space. The important role played by these zones is recognized by the United Nations Disarmament Commission, which in 1999 adopted by consensus a set of guidelines for their establishment.

In 1995, the NPT review process first took note of the initiative of the Central Asian states to create a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region. My delegation is pleased to acknowledge the successful negotiation of the Central Asian Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone, which was signed on September 8, 2006, and its entry-into-force on March 21, 2009. The five Central Asian states are united in their belief that the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in our region, on the basis of arrangements freely arrived at among our states, and taking into account our region's special characteristics, is an important disarmament and nonproliferation accomplishment that will strengthen peace and security at the regional and global levels. Among the innovative features of the treaty are provisions that call for efforts to remediate the environmental damage in the region resulting from prior nuclear weapons activities and the requirement for parties to adhere to the IAEA Additional Protocol.

Mr. Chairman,

The Kyrgyz Republic always has regarded the NPT as the cornerstone of the nuclear nonproliferation regime, and it continues to do so. It also recognizes, however, that the world has changed significantly in recent years. New proliferation challenges have emerged and old ways of doing business will no longer suffice. In order for it to persevere, the Treaty and the broader regime must adapt to these changing circumstances, which include the growing risk of nuclear terrorism. My delegation regards international safeguards and physical protection of nuclear materials and facilities as the first line of defense against nuclear terrorism. As such, the Kyrgyz Republic strongly endorses the International Atomic Energy Agency's efforts to strengthen the international safeguards system, including adoption of the Additional Protocol as the safeguards standard. The Kyrgyz Republic also supports efforts to strengthen the Convention on Physical Protection of Nuclear Material and to implement

United Nations Security Council Resolution 1540 in order to address the new proliferation challenges posed by non-state actors.

My delegation strongly supports the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism, initiated by the Russian Federation, and is convinced that this Convention can make an important contribution to combating nuclear terrorism.

Mr. Chairman,

Inadequate attention has been given in the past to the serious issue of mitigating the environmental consequences of nuclear weapons programs. As first articulated at the 1995 NPT Review and Extension Conference, and as noted in the consensus Final Document of the 2000 NPT Review Conference, there have been exceptional instances in which serious environmental consequences have resulted from uranium mining and associated nuclear fuel cycle activities in the production of nuclear weapons. This often overlooked environmental problem caused by nuclear weapons production and borne by the Kyrgyz Republic and other states is another reason why my delegation and others from our region attach great importance to the work of this Preparatory Committee. The Kyrgyz Republic would like to reiterate the call made at prior Review Conferences, for all governments and international organizations that have expertise in the field of clean-up and disposal of radioactive contaminants to consider giving appropriate assistance as may be requested for remedial purposes in these affected areas. In this regard, my delegation would like to call attention to an important meeting on this topic, which was held in Bishkek 21-24 April 2009. The Government of the Kyrgyz Republic in cooperation with the United Nations Development Programme and the Eurasian Economic Community organized the Regional Conference to discuss practical measures on solution of the uranium tailings problems. On 29 June 2009 the High Level International Forum on uranium tailings and other radioactive wastes will be held in Geneva.

My delegation also wishes to draw attention to another vital but often neglected issue – the role of education and training as tools to promote disarmament and nonproliferation. The Kyrgyz republic welcomes the recommendations of the UN Experts Group on the subject and shares the opinion expressed in UN General Assembly Resolution 57/60, adopted without a vote in fall 2002, that "the need has never been greater for disarmament and nonproliferation education." We appreciate the leadership shown by Japan, among other States Parties, in continuing to raise the issue of education and training in the NPT context, and we look forward to working with other interested member States in developing practical steps to assist the implementation of the measures called for by the UN study.

Mr. Chairman,

The Kyrgyz Republic welcomes the opportunity to find common ground on the most important disarmament and nonproliferation issues in order to ensure the long-term integrity, effectiveness, and relevance of the NPT. My delegation pledges to work with you to accomplish that outcome.