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STATEMENT

by H.E. Mr. Volodymyr Yel'chenko

**Head of the Delegation of Ukraine
at the Third Session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2010 NPT
Review Conference**

(4- 15 May 2009, New York)

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Mr. Chairman,

On behalf of the Delegation of Ukraine I would like to express my sincere congratulations on your assumption of the chairmanship of the Third session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2010 NPT Review Conference.

Mr. Chairman,

The delegation of Ukraine fully associates itself with the statement delivered by the Czech Republic on behalf of the EU. I would like to use this opportunity to address additionally some issues which are of considerable importance for Ukraine.

Ukraine is committed to the preservation of integrity and strengthening of the nuclear non-proliferation regime. This year Ukraine will mark the 15th anniversary of its accession to the NPT in November 1994. Ukraine's landmark decision to forswear its nuclear capability and to accede to the Treaty contributed significantly to the enhancement of the international nonproliferation regime and of the global security.

Ukraine is convinced that effective multilateral approach to security is the best way to maintain international order. As a concept of shared commitments and obligations, being duly respected and complied with by all States parties, multilateralism remains the only basis to ensure the NPT efficient implementation.

The Treaty needs more active mechanisms to provide an adequate response to today's challenges. In this regard, Ukraine notes a number of international initiatives, launched to strengthen adherence to nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament, *inter alia*, the initiative "Global zero", the so-called "Hoover Plan", proposals by the WMD Commission chaired by Dr. Hans Blix, the Norway's Seven Nations Initiative, as well as the five-point proposal of the UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon.

Ukraine welcomes the above initiatives and believes that realization of their provisions may greatly contribute to the strengthening of the regime, established by the Treaty.

Mr. Chairman,

Despite all tremendous challenges confronting the NPT, it continues to retain the status of a treaty most adhered to. This fact is highly commendable, but should not be misleading - as long as there are states outside the NPT, promoting universal adherence to the Treaty remains to be an urgent priority.

In this regard, we cannot but mention the North Korean recent missile launch, its decision to withdraw from the Six-Party Talks, to cease cooperation with the IAEA and to restore its nuclear facilities. Ukraine calls upon the Government of the DPRK to reverse its decision and to take steps that will facilitate lasting stability and the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula.

Our country, having renounced its nuclear capability, strictly complies with the NPT and the Missile Technology Control Regime obligations. We expect that other states, including North Korea, will follow our example.

Ukraine calls upon all states not party to the NPT to pledge commitments to nonproliferation and disarmament and to join the Treaty as non-nuclear-weapon states.

Mr. Chairman,

Ukraine stresses the need for general and complete disarmament. We agree that the absolute guarantee against the proliferation and the use of nuclear weapons is their total elimination. We believe that the pursuit of nuclear disarmament, including through the reduction of strategic and non-strategic nuclear weapons and their delivery systems and the overall reduction of the global stockpiles of nuclear weapons, should be based on the principles of irreversibility, transparency and verifiability. We welcome the increased confidence building measures and encourage all nuclear weapon states to further implement them.

Ukraine, whose role in nuclear disarmament can serve as an example, remains to be one of the strongest and consistent supporters of the standing international instruments in this field.

Ukraine welcomes the commitment by the United States and the Russian Federation to begin negotiations on a new comprehensive legally binding treaty to replace the START, which expires in December 2009.

We attach great importance to the universalization of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) and reiterate our call on the states, particularly those listed in Annex 2, to sign and ratify the CTBT without delay and unconditionally and, pending its entry into force, to abide by a moratorium on nuclear testing and to refrain from any action contrary to the obligations and provisions of this Treaty.

We welcome the recent signature of the CTBT by Timor-Leste and its ratification by Lebanon.

We also note with satisfaction the importance that the new US Administration attaches to the CTBT's entry into force. Ukraine welcomes the US President Barak Obama's intention to work towards ratification of the CTBT. We believe that the soonest realization of such intentions will constitute an important step towards CTBT entry into force and will give a strong positive signal to others.

Mr. Chairman,

Ukraine reaffirms its full support to the IAEA and commends its important work in implementing safeguards to verify compliance with the non-proliferation obligations of the Treaty. The Agency's international safeguards system constitutes a fundamental pillar of the nuclear non-proliferation regime. The Model Additional Protocol is an essential and indispensable tool for effective functioning of the IAEA safeguards system.

We express our support for the universalization of comprehensive safeguards agreements and Additional Protocols and establishing these two instruments together as the NPT verification standard.

In our view, the IAEA Safeguards together with the nuclear export control regimes should be regarded as a standard for any nuclear cooperation, without prejudice to the inalienable right for peaceful uses of nuclear energy under the NPT.

Mr. Chairman,

To our deepest regret, the deadlock over the resumption of the activities of the Conference on Disarmament (CD) has not been overcome yet.

We note with satisfaction the current CD Presidents' non-paper on the elements that could constitute a program of work. We believe that the proposed approach could help pursue further negotiations on all CD's matters of concern, in particular, on a Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty (FMCT).

Ukraine calls upon all delegations to the Conference on Disarmament to work towards achieving a consensus on the program of work in order to enable the Conference to start negotiations on a FMCT as soon as possible.

Mr. Chairman,

We are convinced that provision of the credible negative security assurances in the form of an international legally binding instrument will substantially enhance the nonproliferation regime. As this issue remains open, we encourage nuclear weapon states to reconsider their position regarding negative security assurances and agree on the development of a proper legal instrument.

Ukraine believes that the international community should continue to promote the establishment of new nuclear-weapon-free zones in accordance with the relevant guidelines of the United Nations.

We reaffirm the importance of the resolution on the Middle East adopted at the 1995 Review and Extension Conference and believe that this resolution remains valid until its goals and objectives were achieved.

Ukraine welcomes the recent establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Central Asia, the first zone, which previously had nuclear weapons on its territory.

Mr. Chairman,

Ukraine attaches great importance to the implementation of the UNSC resolution 1540. In order to strengthen ties between the United Nations and the Hague Code of Conduct Against Ballistic Missile Proliferation, Ukraine proposed to insert the reference to this resolution in the Code. We hope that this could be agreed at the next plenary meeting in Vienna.

In addition, Ukraine continues to take efforts to strengthen nuclear security on a national level. Taking this opportunity, I would like to thank donors for their contributions into the implementation of the Ukrainian projects in the framework of the G8 Initiative "Global partnership against proliferation of weapons and materials of mass destruction".

Mr. Chairman,

In conclusion, I would like to underline that the current review process provides all parties with the important opportunity to assess the implementation of each article of the Treaty and to facilitate elaboration of recommendations to the Review Conference 2010.

We hope that within this process it would be possible to reach progress on the following issues:

- Introduction of more transparency and relevant mechanisms for verified reduction of nuclear weapons and their means of delivery;
- Establishment of a subsidiary body on security assurances to elaborate a universal, non-conditional and legally binding instrument on negative security assurances to non-nuclear-weapon States;
- International cooperation in respect of the promotion of multilateralism in the nuclear fuel cycle and the supply of nuclear fuel;
- Consideration of additional measures to further strengthen the physical protection of nuclear materials and facilities in light of the heightened risk of nuclear terrorism;
- Additional measures to bring the CTBT into force;
- Responsive measures to withdrawal from the Treaty;
- Improvement of the NPT review process.

I hope that despite the numerous challenges facing the NPT regime, the current session of the Preparatory Committee will be able to finalize its third session with a strong impetus to the renewed disarmament and nonproliferation endeavors.

I thank you.