

## **Te Māngai o Aotearoa**

ONE UNITED NATIONS PLAZA 25<sup>th</sup> FLOOR NEW YORK, NY 10017-3515, USA  
~~TELEPHONE (212) 963 1960~~ FACSIMILE (212) 758 0827 HOME PAGE:

### **2005 REVIEW CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE TREATY ON THE NON-PROLIFERATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS**

#### **GENERAL DEBATE**

**STATEMENT BY  
HON MARIAN HOBBS  
MINISTER FOR DISARMAMENT AND ARMS CONTROL, NEW ZEALAND**

**On behalf of**

**THE NEW AGENDA COALITION - BRAZIL, EGYPT, IRELAND, MEXICO,  
SOUTH AFRICA, SWEDEN AND NEW ZEALAND**

**2 MAY 2005**

Mr President,

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

Mr President, on behalf of the New Agenda, I wish to warmly congratulate you on your election as President and thank you for leading our work at this important moment in the history of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). Your task is an onerous one. On the strength of your dedicated and meticulous preparations and your leadership we are hopeful of a successful outcome.

The NPT was concluded amongst fears of a nuclear Armageddon. The persuasive power of the Treaty's call in its first preambular paragraph to *consider "the devastation that would be visited upon all mankind by a nuclear war and the consequent need to make every effort to avert the danger of such a war"*, convinced many possibly nuclear capable States to join the NPT and forego the nuclear weapon option in the pursuit of a safer and more secure world.

The NPT is the essential bedrock within our global security regime. The three pillars of the NPT – non-proliferation, nuclear disarmament and peaceful uses – have been indispensable in attracting its near universal membership. Indeed, without each one of those pillars there would not have been a treaty.

The New Agenda Coalition continues to press for a world security order where nuclear weapons would have no role, as envisaged in the NPT. We call on all parties to the Treaty to fulfil and implement their obligations. Moreover, we call on China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom and the United States to honour their obligations towards nuclear disarmament. Nor will we spare any effort to achieve the universality of the Treaty. The long-term success of the Treaty is dependent on the delivery of all of its objectives.

Mr President, as this Conference knows, the New Agenda sees the pursuit of nuclear disarmament as a fundamental tool in addressing the international community's deep concern about proliferation. Nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation are mutually reinforcing processes. It is not simply the case that what does not exist cannot proliferate. It must also be evident that systematic and progressive efforts to implement the obligation in Article VI to pursue negotiations on effective measures on nuclear disarmament will help to address misguided ambitions to develop nuclear arsenals.

Thirty-five or more years ago the international community agreed that "effective measures" would be undertaken to achieve nuclear disarmament. Measured in terms of their promise, we had high hopes for the agreed outcomes of the last two Review Conferences. In terms of the fulfilment of those outcomes we are greatly disappointed.

**Nevertheless, we are** willing to give credit where credit is due. We acknowledge the reductions in non-strategic and strategic nuclear arsenals over the last decade, that three of the nuclear-weapon States have ratified the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT), one nuclear-weapon State has taken all its nuclear weapons off high-alert and another has closed down all of its fissile material production facilities. Towards the practical end of disarmament, collective efforts are being made by the nuclear-weapon States and others to secure the vast amounts of nuclear material that remain world-wide.

But, we have yet to realise "the cessation of the manufacture of nuclear weapons, the liquidation of all existing stockpiles, and the elimination from national arsenals of nuclear weapons and the means of their delivery", the desire **expressed** so resoundingly in the Preamble to the NPT. Indeed, according to the latest estimates the number of existing nuclear warheads today amount to upwards of 30,000. This is a figure that is almost as high as the estimated number of warheads that existed when the Treaty entered into force in 1970. Even today's stocks of fissile material are enough to produce thousands more nuclear warheads.

We continue to be far from the implementation of the "programme of action" towards implementation of Article VI contained in the Principles and Objectives for Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament agreed in 1995 and the "practical steps for... systematic and progressive efforts to implement Article VI" agreed in the year 2000.

The CTBT has not yet entered into force, negotiations for a treaty banning the production of fissile material have not begun, a subsidiary body on nuclear disarmament has not been established, the majority of weapons reductions are not irreversible, transparent, or verifiable, and the role of nuclear weapons in security policies has not been diminished - to give but a few examples of the lack of implementation of the 1995 and 2000 agreements.

When we highlight current realities, we do so because in foregoing the development of such weapons we have a right to do so. Indeed, given the horrendous devastation of which these armaments are capable, we have a duty to do so.

We believe that the broad support for the Coalition's UN General Assembly Resolution A/Res/59/75 entitled "Accelerating the implementation of nuclear disarmament commitments" reflects increasingly widespread concern and impatience with the unsatisfactory progress being made towards nuclear disarmament.

In the Final Document of the 2000 Review Conference all States Parties agreed to the unambiguous statement that: "...the total elimination of nuclear weapons is the only absolute guarantee against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons." In the current climate of high concern about the risks of nuclear proliferation to States as well as non-state actors, this has become a truism.

In the same way that we look to the nuclear-weapon States to set the example in disarming, so we equally expect all other States Parties to fulfil their own obligations under the Treaty.

In addressing proliferation concerns, we must not overlook long-standing tensions that remain unresolved. The New Agenda believes that transparent and verifiable disarmament processes both facilitate and expedite the resolution of regional conflicts. It cannot be the case that disarmament must await the resolution of tensions, for if such a proposition was always followed then a peaceful settlement more often than not might never come about.

In spite of recent positive efforts, tensions remain high in the Middle East Region. In this regard, we recall the resolution on the Middle East that was an integral part of the outcome of the 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the NPT. The New Agenda renews its support for the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction. We call on Israel to accede to the NPT promptly, without conditions and to place all of its nuclear facilities under comprehensive IAEA safeguards.

The New Agenda has also called for the establishment of a nuclear weapon free zone in South Asia. While we have welcomed the recent warming of relations between India and Pakistan, we call on those two States to remain engaged in meaningful dialogue, to pull back from their nuclear weapon programmes and accede unconditionally to the Treaty.

Turning now to more recent threats, the New Agenda is concerned by the possibility that terrorists could acquire nuclear weapons, and by activities such as those of the A.Q. Khan network. The United Nations Security Council's deliberations on weapons of mass destruction have proved to be salutary for nuclear-weapon States and non-nuclear weapon States alike.

The New Agenda welcomes the efforts that have been made in the context of the Six Party Talks. It is our hope that those talks will continue and address peace and stability in the Korean Peninsula. We call on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to reconsider its proclaimed nuclear weapons programme and re-engage in the Six Party Talk process.

We welcome the negotiations that are taking place between France, Germany and the United Kingdom, supported by the High Representative of the European Union, and Iran on a long-term arrangement to provide objective guarantees that Iran's nuclear programme is exclusively for peaceful purposes.

Such developments underscore the importance of the International Atomic Energy Agency's (IAEA) work in contributing to the effective functioning of the NPT regime. The New Agenda congratulates the Director General and his staff for the professional manner in which they have undertaken their work.

Nuclear-weapon-free zones demonstrate the determination of countries that nuclear **weapons** have no place in their **regions**. We **welcome** the **recent** initiative of **Mexico** in hosting the **Conference of Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones**. The entry into force of the Treaties of Tlatelolco, Rarotonga and Bangkok are valuable developments that we hope will provide impetus to the entry into force of similar treaties in other regions such as the Treaty of Pelindaba. Furthermore, we support the ongoing efforts by the five Central Asian States to establish a nuclear weapon free zone in that region, and Mongolia's international **nuclear-weapon-free** status.

We welcome Libya's decision to abandon its programmes for developing weapons of mass destruction and its cooperation with the IAEA and other relevant international organisations.

Despite the many efforts by the vast majority of States Parties to support the NPT, it is a Treaty that faces significant challenges. Those challenges underscore the importance of the New Agenda's objectives. We believe that a climate of nuclear disarmament, where effective measures are pursued in good faith to that end, would be more conducive to international peace and security than one in which nuclear weapons are aspired to.

The strength of this Treaty is dependent on the will of States Parties to engage in dialogue, listen to each other's concerns and take the necessary action to move forward together. If the Treaty's obligations are not met, it is not the Treaty's provisions that have failed, but it is rather a failure of collective will and leadership to implement them effectively.

The New Agenda at this Review Conference will address the increasing concerns about the lack of compliance and implementation of all commitments made in the context of the NPT regime. In particular, we will address the troubling development that some nuclear-weapon States are researching or even planning to develop new or significantly modify existing nuclear weapons. These actions have the potential to create the conditions for a new nuclear arms race and would be contrary to the Treaty.

We are determined to see that the strengthened review process finally fulfils its objectives. We are calling for a subsidiary body on nuclear disarmament, in which to take forward the past commitments to nuclear disarmament and the promise made by the nuclear-weapon States through the "unequivocal undertaking" to the total elimination of their nuclear weapons in the 2000 Final

Document. Our specific proposals will be set out in greater detail later in this Conference. Let me leave you in no doubt about our resolve to pursue them.

Thank you, Mr President.