



CZECH REPUBLIC

Statement by

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at the General Debate

of the 2015 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty

on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

New York, 28 April 2015

Madam President,

Since I am taking the floor for the first time, allow me to express my delegation's sincere congratulations to you on your election as the President of this Review Conference, as well as to the members of the bureau. I am confident that under your able leadership this Conference will be a successful one. To that end, you can rely on our cooperation and support.

Let me join the chorus of those expressing their deepest sympathy to the people of Nepal. It is essential that the international community, including my country, renders Nepal all the assistance and help needed in these trying times.

As to the NPT Review Conference, the Czech Republic fully supports the statement to be delivered by the European Union later today. In addition, I would like to add the following remarks in my national capacity.

The Czech Republic is fully committed to seeing the 2015 Review Conference succeed. A positive outcome of this Conference will be crucial for ensuring future viability and credibility of the NPT. The Review Conference must go beyond simply taking stock of the progress achieved so far. We will push for the adoption of a concrete, balanced, and action-oriented final document outlining practical steps to promote implementation of all three pillars of the NPT.

The NPT Action Plan adopted by consensus in 2010 gave us a road map laying down concrete steps of how to achieve our shared-goal of a safer world. Hence, it is very important to implement this road map and use the step-by-step approach to meet its demands and not to deviate from it in any way. The implementation of the Action Plan is our collective responsibility.

The 2010 Action Plan covers all three pillars of the Treaty. As regards nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, the two are indispensable, together with a powerful verification regime, for achieving a world without nuclear weapons. Notably on the front of non-proliferation and verification, there is still much to be desired and there is a lot of work ahead of us.

Like the vast majority of UN Member States, the Czech Republic gives great priority to the commencement of the process within the framework of the Conference on Disarmament to produce a legally-binding treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons. We supported the establishment of a relevant Group of Governmental Experts, and a representative of the Czech Republic actively participated in the work of this expert group.

The Czech Republic, as the first European country to have ratified the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, would like to reaffirm its support to the process leading to the entry into force of the CTBT, which will significantly strengthen the international security architecture based on the NPT. We fully support the efforts of the Provisional Technical Secretariat to further develop the CTBT verification regime as a strong non-proliferation and confidence-building instrument.

We positively note the outcome of Lausanne meetings between the E3+3 and the Islamic Republic of Iran and hope that follow-up negotiations will eventually lead to a comprehensive agreement that will guarantee the exclusively peaceful character of its nuclear programme. At

the same time, it is paramount that Iran fully and without delay cooperates with the IAEA in resolving all outstanding issues so as the IAEA could ascertain that there are no clandestine activities in Iran.

Simultaneously, we strongly call on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to abandon its nuclear weapons programme and return to the NPT and IAEA safeguards and urge the DPRK to unconditionally comply with its international obligations, in particular as stated in the relevant UN Security Council resolutions, and honour the commitments of the September 2005 Joint Statement.

In this regard, we would like to point out that any abuse of Article X of the NPT could lead to further proliferation and as such should be reported to the UN Security Council. That is why we strictly insist on the return or dismantlement of all nuclear materials, technology and equipment provided by supplier states if requested in case of one's withdrawal from the Treaty.

Madam President,

The current review cycle provides an opportunity for all States Parties to renew and intensify their commitment to the NPT and look for further ways and means to strengthen the Treaty. We would like to offer more ideas and details how to achieve these ends during subsequent discussions on the floor of the Main Committees.

Let me conclude, Madam President, by repeating our sincere wish that we conclude this Conference as a successful one. I trust that all Parties gathered here are determined to strive for a world without nuclear weapons. But to achieve this long-term goal, a set of necessary pre-conditions, notably in non-proliferation and verification must be met to allow the process to advance.

Madam President, we therefore expect this Conference to make good progress on these crucial issues under your able leadership.

Thank you for your attention.