

*AS DELIVERED*



**EU Statement by**

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**General Debate**

**2015 Review Conference of the Parties to the  
Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT)**

**United Nations  
New York  
28 April 2015**

Let me start by expressing my condolences and solidarity to the people and the authority of Nepal. Our civil protection experts are on the ground to give all the possible support and as EU we allocated 3 million euros.

Madame President,

It's an honour for me to speak on behalf of the European Union. The Candidate Countries Turkey, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia\*, Montenegro\*, Serbia\* and Albania\*, the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova and Georgia align themselves with this statement.

Let me congratulate you, Madame Ambassador Feroukhi, on your appointment as the President of this important Conference. I am confident that your experience, expertise and dedication to multilateral solutions will contribute to its successful, comprehensive and balanced outcome. You can count on full and strong EU support in this regard.

Madame President,

Let me also start on a positive note. Less than one month ago in Switzerland, together with the Foreign Ministers of Iran, China, France, Germany, Russia, the UK and the US, we reached solutions on key parameters of a Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA). It has been a very important step in the process to ensure the exclusively peaceful nature of the Iranian nuclear programme and the comprehensive lifting of sanctions. Now we need to build on this foundation and finish the challenging task within the set timeframe. A comprehensive solution would enable Iran to fully enjoy its right to nuclear energy for peaceful purposes under the relevant articles of the NPT in conformity with its obligations therein.

An important element of the comprehensive solution will be the need for Iran to fully cooperate with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) regarding all the outstanding issues of concern, including those of the Possible Military Dimensions. The EU calls on Iran to implement the modified Code 3.1 of the Subsidiary Arrangements to its Safeguard Agreement and to bring into force its Additional Protocol. I'm hopeful that these developments will have a positive influence on the atmosphere and proceedings of this Review Conference. And we all know that we need a good Review Conference now more than ever.

Madame President,

The European Union is united in regarding the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) as the cornerstone of the global nuclear non-proliferation regime, the essential foundation for the pursuit of nuclear disarmament in accordance with Article VI of the NPT and an important element in the further development of nuclear energy applications for peaceful purposes. The EU is committed to upholding and preserving the NPT as a key priority, and as a multilateral instrument for reinforcing international peace, security and stability. It is important to

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\* *The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Albania continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.*

universalize the NPT: the EU calls upon States that have not yet done so to join the Treaty as non-nuclear weapon states and, pending their accession, to adhere to its terms.

Bearing in mind the current severe security environment, we reiterate the European Union's strong support for all three pillars of the Treaty and call for the implementation of all commitments assumed under it or undertaken during previous Review Conferences. The EU continues to promote a comprehensive, balanced and substantive full implementation of the 2010 Action Plan; we call for the assessment of its implementation to date across all three pillars. Ensuring the implementation of the 64 actions is a collective responsibility shared by all States Parties.

Madame President,

We reaffirm EU Member States' commitment to pursue nuclear disarmament, in accordance with Article VI of the NPT, and stress the need for concrete progress in this field, especially through an overall reduction in the global stockpile of nuclear weapons.

We welcome the considerable reductions made so far taking into account the special responsibility of the States that possess the largest arsenals. In this context, we also welcome their indications of progress in implementing the New START Treaty and strongly encourage them to seek further reductions in their nuclear arsenals, including strategic, non-strategic, deployed and non-deployed weapons. We welcome and encourage the holding of further P5 Conferences on the follow-up to the 2010 NPT Review Conference, including confidence-building, transparency, verification activities and discussions on reporting.

The EU remains committed to treaty-based nuclear disarmament and arms control and We stress the need to renew multilateral efforts and to revitalize multilateral negotiating bodies, in particular the Conference on Disarmament, looking in this regard into possibilities such as its future enlargement. Its ongoing stalemate is and remains a source for concern. We reiterate a call for the immediate commencement and early conclusion of the negotiation in the CD of a Treaty banning the production of fissile materials for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices on the basis of CD/1299 and the mandate contained therein. The entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty remains a top priority for the EU and we confirm our full support to the excellent work of the CTBTO.

The European Union notes the severe consequences associated with nuclear weapons use. All States share the responsibility to prevent the use of nuclear weapons. In this respect, we note the ongoing discussions on the consequences of nuclear weapons, in the course of which different views are being expressed, including at an international conference, in which not all EU Member States participated, organized by Austria.

Madame President,

The EU recognises the serious proliferation challenges which continue to be a threat to international security, and the need to find peaceful and diplomatic solutions to them, the international community needs to remain vigilant and to be ready to face up to these challenges

and to address them in a resolute way. The IAEA safeguards system is a fundamental component of the nuclear non-proliferation regime and plays an indispensable role in the implementation of the NPT. We underline the primary responsibility of the UN Security Council in cases of non-compliance.

The EU condemned the nuclear tests conducted by North Korea, as well as the DPRK's threat of another nuclear test in outright violation of its international obligations, in particular under relevant UN Security Council Resolutions that urge the DPRK to abandon its nuclear weapons programme and return to the NPT and IAEA Safeguards at an early date.

Syria has still to remedy its non-compliance with its Safeguards Agreement by cooperating as a matter of priority and in full transparency with the IAEA to resolve all outstanding issues; the EU calls on Syria to sign, bring into force and implement in full and as soon as possible an Additional Protocol with the IAEA as soon as possible.

The EU reaffirms the commitment to the establishment of a zone free of weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems in the Middle East; we regret that it has not been possible so far to convene a Conference on the establishment of such a zone to be attended by all States of the region. The EU strongly commends the co-conveners, the Facilitator and his team, and in particular the States of the region for their active engagement and for the progress achieved in the series of informal meetings held in Switzerland. We continue to support the aim of convening the Conference as soon as possible, on the basis of arrangements freely arrived at between the States of the region.

Madame President,

On the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, the EU reaffirms its support for the inalienable right of all Parties to the NPT to develop research, production and use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes without discrimination and in conformity with the Treaty. We hope that the 2015 Review Conference supports the concept of the responsible development of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy taking place under the best safety, security, and non-proliferation measures.

Strengthening nuclear security is a longstanding priority of the EU and remains an important element in facilitating international co-operation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. The Nuclear Security Summit process laid an important groundwork: we can and must strengthen nuclear security, reduce the threat of nuclear terrorism and secure all vulnerable nuclear material. The IAEA has a leading role in this and its work in strengthening the nuclear security framework is highly valued.

Following the tragic Fukushima accident, it is even more urgent that all States to engage in discussions about the safety objective of preventing nuclear and radiological accidents and, should an accident occur, mitigating its effects and avoiding off-site contamination.

Madame President

During the current review cycle the European Union together with its Member States supported the implementation of the 2010 NPT Action Plan not only through diplomatic means and

initiatives, but also through practical training and financial assistance, thus becoming one of the most important contributors to the strengthening of the Treaty.

The NPT remains for us one of the cornerstones of our policy of effective multilateralism, in accordance with our current Security Strategy. We are now starting a process of a wide-ranging strategic review but I would like to assure you that the EU's devotion to a treaty-based international system remains, and will remain, as firm as ever.

I would like to encourage all States parties of the NPT to work towards a successful conclusion and a substantial outcome to the 2015 Review Conference. The EU stands ready to contribute to this goal which, in these challenging times, is more important than ever.

Thank you for your attention.