

REPUBLIC OF MALTA



Statement by

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2015 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the
Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

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Madam President,

I would like to join other delegations that preceded me in extending sincere congratulations to you on your appointment as President of this important Review Conference, and to assure you of my delegation's full support and co-operation, in your endeavours to bring this Conference to a successful conclusion.

Malta aligns itself with the statement delivered on behalf of the European Union by the High Representative of the European Union and Vice President of the European Commission, Federica Mogherini, earlier this week.

Madam President,

The Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) remains the cornerstone of the nuclear non-proliferation regime. It is the bedrock upon which international non-proliferation efforts and the pursuit of nuclear disarmament and the development of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes are founded. As a State Party, Malta is committed to the fundamental objectives of the NPT. In this sense Malta reaffirms the importance of the universalisation of the NPT and calls upon States not yet Parties to adhere to its terms, while strongly encouraging them to join the Treaty as non-nuclear weapon States.

As the security environment becomes increasingly challenging, the implementation of all provisions of the Treaty and commitments undertaken during Review Conferences, becomes ever more urgent. Past NPT Review Conferences have delivered us with Action Plans aimed at strengthening the NPT through a gradual and balanced approach towards non-proliferation and disarmament. Malta welcomes progress registered on commitments agreed under the 2010 Action Plan. It underlines nonetheless that much more remains to be done. Malta therefore calls upon all States Parties to respect their obligations and commitments. We hope

that this Review Conference will provide us with the opportunity to assess implementation, and while recognizing progress, we look forward to renewed commitments and their successful implementation.

Madam President,

Nuclear disarmament continues to be a global priority and significant progress in nuclear disarmament is urgently needed. Malta welcomes the progress made in the pursuit of nuclear disarmament and the considerable reductions in arsenals registered by Nuclear Weapon States in accordance with Article VI of the NPT. In this context we welcome the signature of the New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START) by the United States of America and the Russian Federation. Malta commends these countries for their actions and strongly encourages them to seek further cuts in their nuclear arsenals, including strategic, non-strategic, deployed and non-deployed weapons.

The risk of nuclear proliferation continues nonetheless to threaten international peace and security. The challenges before us are unprecedented, both in terms of their nature and scope. The technology transfer required for the development of nuclear weapons has become easier, facilitating access to weapons of mass destruction by individuals or terrorist groups.

The proliferation of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction (WMD), and their delivery systems, could have immeasurable dire consequences with an impact not just on international security and stability. The use of nuclear weapons would have incalculable and devastating consequences on human health and on the environment, and the climate, among other areas. It is with this in mind that Malta, along with a number of other countries, joined the Austrian Pledge following its participation at the Vienna Conference on Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons, in December 2014. Malta firmly believes that it is imperative that nuclear weapons are never used again.

Madam President,

Non-Proliferation must continue to be addressed through peaceful and diplomatic means. Multilateral efforts shall remain the driving force towards the attainment of this objective. In this context Malta commends the IAEA for its continued work in safeguarding the system and in overseeing the implementation of the NPT. We call for the revitalisation of relevant multilateral disarmament machinery bodies, which to date continue to deliver very little. The current stalemate in the Conference for Disarmament is a source of concern. Malta also reiterates its call to States not yet Parties of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty to sign and ratify as soon as possible. The entry into force of the CTBT, which should finally ensure that nuclear tests will be permanently and universally abolished, remains a priority for my Government.

Malta welcomes the framework agreement agreed on 2 April in Lausanne, Switzerland by the E3+3 and Iran, and we continue to encourage all parties in these talks to continue building upon this important agreement to a final document envisaged by the end of June 2015 to ensure the peaceful nature of the Iranian nuclear programme and the comprehensive lifting of sanctions. We also welcome Iran's continued cooperation with the IAEA and other actors on all outstanding issues. In particular, we note the Framework Agreement's substantial detail on IAEA inspections and transparency modalities which are essential to the implementation of the Final Agreement currently being negotiated between the parties. Malta welcomes Iran's agreement to implement the IAEA's Additional Protocol, as well as Modified Code 3.1,

allowing greater access and information to the IAEA on its nuclear program. Success of these negotiations would represent another step in strengthening the NPT, and thus this Conference should provide added impetus to this process.

Malta joins previous speakers in calling on Syria to remedy its non-compliance with its Safeguards Agreement by cooperating fully with the IAEA to resolve outstanding issues and calls on Syria to sign, bring into force and implement in full the Additional Protocol with the IAEA as soon as possible.

We condemn the nuclear tests carried out by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) in February 2013 and the threat of further nuclear testing. This is a violation of the DPRK's international obligations, in particular under relevant UN Security Council Resolutions and we join others in urging the DPRK to abandon its nuclear weapons programme and return to the NPT and IAEA Safeguards.

Malta welcomes the signature by the nuclear-weapon states of the Protocol to the Treaty establishing a Nuclear Weapons Free Zone in Central Asia and its ratification by France and the United Kingdom. We look forward to seeing a similar Protocol that will establish a Nuclear Weapons Free Zone in the Middle East and call on all States in the area to bury their differences and to work with the facilitator, Finland's Undersecretary of State Jaakko Laajava, towards the common goal of achieving an NWFZ in the Middle East as was agreed at the 2010 NPT RevCon. Malta supports the aim of convening the Conference on the establishment of this zone as soon as possible, on the basis of arrangements agreed to by the States of the Region. In this regard we regret that the conditions have not yet been met for the Conference to be attended by all countries of the region and we commend the co-convenors, the Facilitator and the States of the region for their active engagement.

Madam President,

It is an inalienable right of all Parties to the NPT to research, develop and produce nuclear energy for peaceful purposes without discrimination and in conformity with the Treaty. It is nonetheless also the responsibility of all Parties embarking on such projects to ensure that they adhere to the strictest standards of safety and security. It is our collective responsibility to endeavour that such accidents are not repeated. The leading role played by the IAEA in strengthening the nuclear security framework is to be lauded.

Madam President,

Non-proliferation and disarmament is a topic which is at the heart of my country's foreign policy. Malta fully supports all actions aimed at ensuring the disarmament of nuclear weapons, their non-proliferation and actions ascertaining that nuclear facilities are only used for peaceful purposes. Since joining the Non-proliferation Treaty in 1970, Malta has considered this Treaty as indispensable for global peace and security and is a vocal supporter for its universalization calling on all States that are not yet party to this treaty to do so without delay.

A World Free of Nuclear Weapons is possible only if concerted efforts are made towards this aim. The attainment of this objective remains a distant prospect. Notwithstanding this Malta remains committed towards this objective. We encourage all States Parties to work towards a successful conclusion of this Review Conference and a world free of nuclear weapons.

Thank You.