



THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA

SIXTY-EIGHTH SESSION
OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
HIGH-LEVEL MEETING
OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
ON NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT

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S T A T E M E N T

by

H.E. MR. IVAN MRKIĆ,
MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA

New York, 26 September 2013

At the outset, allow me to express special appreciation to you, Mr. President, for convening this Meeting. By being here today, all of us are reaffirming our readiness to contribute in an effective way to achieving concrete progress in the field of nuclear disarmament. My country shares the general view that it is necessary to invest additional and substantial efforts in order to improve and intensify the dialogue on this important issue.

Mr. President,

Despite its shortcomings, the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) remains a vital instrument in strengthening the international security and a cornerstone of non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament. As such, NPT should be further enhanced through full compliance by all State Parties. Adoption of the comprehensive and forward-looking Action Plan in 2010 and the progress made in its implementation by the State Parties have been crucial contributions to the strengthening of the international nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament regime and reaffirming of the continued importance of the Treaty.

As a responsible member of the international community, the Republic of Serbia is committed to the fulfillment of the obligations it has assumed under the NPT and we have undertaken comprehensive measures on the national level in this field.

Serbia is aligning itself with the nations that are strongly advocating entering into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT), as another important international instrument in reaching the objectives of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation.

Mr. President,

We strongly support the new START Treaty reached by the United States and the Russian Federation on further reduction of their nuclear arsenals. Also, we would like to underscore the importance of a considerable reduction in nuclear stocks undertaken by the other nuclear-weapon States.

Regretfully, we are faced with a prolonged stalemate in the work of multilateral disarmament machinery and in the negotiations on nuclear disarmament. We should remain committed to revitalizing multilateral negotiating bodies, in particular the Conference on Disarmament, in order to achieve concrete and effective measures that could contribute to positive results in this arena.

Furthermore, we hope that the member States of the Conference on Disarmament will finally, after 14 years, consider another essential issue that is of particular interest to my country and the other 38 observer states. It is the issue of enlargement of the Conference. Every one of us should be given an opportunity to participate in future talks on nuclear disarmament and take their share of responsibility. Serbia stands ready to play an active role in this regard.

I am strongly convinced that our Meeting will give considerable impetus to these future discussions that would hopefully help restore confidence among the members of the international community and bring us closer to achieving our ultimate goal of a nuclear-weapon-free world.

Thank you, Mr. President