

Постоянное
представительство
Российской Федерации
при Организации
Объединённых Наций



Permanent Mission
of the Russian
Federation
to the United Nations

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**STATEMENT
OF THE DELEGATION OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION**

**AT THE HIGH-LEVEL MEETING OF THE 68TH SESSION OF THE
UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT**

**DELIVERED BY DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT FOR
SECURITY AFFAIRS AND DISARMAMENT
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION
ALEXEY KARPOV**

New York, September 26, 2013

Mr. Chairman,

Russia believes that one of the most important tasks in the field of international security is to free the world of the threat posed by nuclear weapons. We are consistently making our contribution towards this goal, and undertaking specific steps aimed at limitation and reduction of nuclear weapons, enforcement and strengthening of the essential international legal regimes in the field of arms control and non-proliferation.

Our approach to nuclear weapons reduction and limitation is based on the realistic and pragmatic principles. We consider disarmament as a way to strengthen international security and stability. We prefer to act in this field on the basis of international treaties and agreements, which ensure that the steps taken can be verified and are irreversible. We are confident that a responsible gradual approach is the most effective way to strengthen stability and reduce the nuclear danger.

The NPT Treaty is definitely the central element of such agreements. This Treaty has substantially contributed to the progress in the limitation and reduction of nuclear weapons over the recent decades. We are convinced that today the efforts of the international community should be focused on the priorities in the area of nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament and peaceful use of nuclear energy established by the NPT Treaty. We believe that these are the most important tasks, and we encourage everyone to work on them in the framework of implementation of the Action Plan adopted at the 2010 NPT Review Conference.

The practical contribution made by Russia in the limitation and reduction of nuclear weapons is well-known. We can list among our achievements the Soviet-American Treaty on the Elimination of Intermediate-range and Shorter-range Missiles (INF Treaty), which opened the way for nuclear disarmament; the Treaty on the Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms (START) of 1991; the Moscow Treaty on Strategic Offensive Reductions of 2002; the Treaty between Russia and the United States on Measures for the Further Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms (Prague, April 8, 2010).

The entry into force of the Russian-American new START treaty was a very important event in the area of nuclear disarmament. The thresholds for the warheads established by the Treaty are by one third lower than those of the Moscow SORT Treaty, and for the means of delivery – one half lower as compared to the earlier START. It means that the nuclear arsenals of both countries will be reduced to the lowest levels since the early 1960s.

We view the issues of non-strategic nuclear arms reductions in the broad context of general disarmament efforts. Back in the early 1990s, under the so-called "presidential initiatives", we significantly reduced by three-quarters the arsenal of these weapons, and the remaining non-strategic nuclear weapons have been removed from combat duty, undeployed and concentrated in centralized storage sites on the Russian territory.

As the first step to continue the dialogue on this issue, we have repeatedly called on the North Atlantic Alliance to return all non-strategic nuclear weapons to the territory of the owner-countries, completely eliminate foreign infrastructure for their rapid deployment and abandon the practice of "nuclear sharing", which envisages, in particular, the involvement of non-nuclear members of the Alliance in the possible use of nuclear weapons.

Russia's priorities regarding the further progress towards nuclear disarmament remain unchanged. We presume that, before launching new major actions in the field of nuclear disarmament, it is necessary first to enforce the new START Treaty, to make sure that it is effective and viable. Negotiations on further reductions of strategic offensive arms are only possible if all the factors influencing global strategic stability are duly taken into account. First of all, it concerns the plans of unilateral deployment of a strategic missile defense system; development of non-nuclear SOA; potential deployment of weapons in outer space; increasing quantitative and qualitative imbalances in conventional weapons amidst persistent, or emerging regional conflicts; uncertainty over the entry into force of the CTBT etc.

It is important that the Preamble of the START Treaty reflects the goal of expanding the gradual process of reduction and limitation of nuclear weapons in the future, including the goal of making it multilateral. We came very close to the threshold, where we need to take into account the arsenals of all the States with military nuclear capabilities. Another pressing issue is how to get all countries that possess nuclear weapons, but are not the NPT members involved in such a dialogue.

We respond constructively to those who call for a serious and responsible dialogue on "general and complete" nuclear disarmament: the main efforts should be focused on creating conditions that enable phased movement towards nuclear disarmament, while strengthening the strategic stability on the basis of principles of equal and indivisible security for all States without exception

Without such conditions it is hard to imagine that nuclear disarmament would have any prospects.

Thank you.