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STATEMENT
by the Deputy Director-General of the
Directorate General for Armaments Control
and Military-Technical Cooperation of the MFA of Ukraine
Mr. Ruslan Nymchynskyi
at the First Committee General Debate
of the 65th Session of the United Nations General Assembly

(October 7, 2010)

Mr. Chairman,

Allow me at the outset to congratulate you and the other members of the Bureau on your well-deserved election. We are confident that your leadership will steer our work to a successful conclusion. In this regard you may be assured of my delegation’s full support and cooperation.

Mr. Chairman,

Distinguished delegates,

The important ideas that emerged so far during this general debates have confirmed the essential role of the United Nations in the world affairs. The main task before us is to enhance the effectiveness of the Organization, bring the world community together to confront new and existing threats and to ensure international security.

Over 16 years ago Ukraine voluntarily renounced world’s third largest nuclear arsenal, thus having made a significant contribution to nuclear disarmament and the strengthening of regional and global security.

It is encouraging that many political leaders are coming out in support of the clear and vital goal of a nuclear weapon-free world. We support all practical steps to reduce nuclear threat, consistent and irreversible elimination of nuclear weapons as well as other weapons of mass destruction. Governments must begin now to think how they will design their countries’ future security without nuclear weapons.

Ukraine welcomes positive outcome of the 2010 NPT Review Conference held under the skillful leadership of distinguished representatives of Philippines, Zimbabwe, Ukraine and Japan. The NPT is one of the most important disarmament treaties of our time. We also continue to work towards universal accession to the NPT and call upon those States, which are not yet Parties to it, to join the Treaty.

We would like to reiterate the vital importance of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty’s universalization. Ukraine is confident that entry into force of the CTBT will tangibly help to realize the noble objective of a safe and peaceful world free of nuclear weapons. We very much welcome the announcements by Indonesia, Papua New Guinea and Guatemala of their commitment to ratify the CTBT soon.
Ukraine greatly values regional approaches to nuclear disarmament. Confidence-building measures, including establishment of nuclear-weapon free zones, can contribute significantly to disarmament. We welcome all existing nuclear-weapon-free zones and call for the establishment of similar zones in South Asia, the Middle East and other parts of the world.

We vigorously support the idea that the security assurances for the states which renounced their nuclear arsenals, as well as for the states which are non-members of any military alliances, have to be reflected in a legally binding international document. Ukraine is convinced that such an international document with a clear mechanism of its implementation could substantially enhance the nuclear non-proliferation regime, improve mutual trust and overall stability.

We stress the need to continue to strengthen actions in countering the uncontrolled proliferation of small arms and light weapons (SALW) and their ammunition. Ukraine is a devoted advocate of the efforts within the UN system and at the regional level to address the SALW issue in all its aspects. Being a firm supporter of practical steps on national level to ensure effective implementation of the UN PoA Ukraine attaches particular importance to destruction of excessive stockpiles of this kind of weapons and related ammunition.

Another important instrument of both disarmament and international humanitarian law is the Mine Ban Treaty. Ukraine renders a great importance to the proper implementation of the MBT that includes mine clearance, victims' assistance and stockpiles destruction. It is evident that without deepening international cooperation it would be very difficult to reach a paramount goal of the Treaty. Ukraine remains ready to intensify efforts with its partners in order to ensure timely and proper implementation of its MBT obligations.

Ukraine deeply regrets the continuing deadlock over resumption of activities of the Conference on Disarmament on the issue of the Fissile Material Cut Off Treaty. We support the immediate commencement and early conclusion of negotiations on this Treaty, while urging all States possessing nuclear weapons to declare and maintain a moratorium on the production of fissile material for weapons purposes, to declare voluntarily fissile material that is no longer required for military purposes and to place such material under International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards or other relevant international verification.

As a State Party to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW) with the amendment and all its five Protocols, Ukraine is fully committed to a proper compliance with them. My country shares the need of strengthening the effectiveness of the CCW and its Protocols, which are currently in force, as the important instruments aimed at reducing the negative consequences coming both from conventional warfare operations and on their aftermath, both to combatants and to civilians. We believe that the CCW provides an effective basis for international actions on major problems arising from use of existing conventional weapons as well as those still to come. Regarding possible enlargement of the CCW scope to other kinds of conventional weapons, we would like to stress the importance of taking into account all positions of Convention’s Parties before final decision is taken. At the same time we are confident that effectiveness of new binding measures can be fully achieved only under condition of their universal application and result-oriented international cooperation.

With regard to the issue of regulating global trade in conventional arms, Ukraine supports the initiative on the elaboration of the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) which could become a comprehensive instrument for establishing common standards in this field thus preventing conventional arms proliferation. At the same time introduction of new rules should not hamper the legitimate defense needs of participating states.

Mr. Chairman,

This is the brief revision of the Ukrainian position on the main issues of disarmament agenda.

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