STATEMENT
OF THE DELEGATION OF UKRAINE
AT
THE GENERAL DEBATE OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE
OF THE 66TH SESSION OF THE
UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

New York, October 7, 2011
Mr. President,
Distinguished delegates,

It is a true pleasure for me to take part in the work of the First Committee, which is called upon to lay the ground for a fruitful discussion of the problems in the field of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation within the United Nations General Assembly.

My delegation considers the issue of disarmament to be critical to global peace and development and believes that general and complete disarmament is the cornerstone of international security. Ukraine consistently supports multilateral approach to disarmament and other security matters. While recognizing present impasse in disarmament efforts, we fully reaffirm our commitment to strengthening current disarmament machinery and deepening cooperation in order to reinforce disarmament and non-proliferation regime.

Recent events at the international fora give us hope that other States share this approach. The Washington Nuclear Security Summit, signing of the new START Treaty between the United States of America and the Russian Federation, and the 2010 NPT Review Conference are the milestone undertakings that set the tone for future activities.

We fully support these developments and continue making our own contribution to the process. The most recent one is our commitment to get rid of all of the stocks of highly-enriched uranium. This decision was announced by the President of Ukraine Viktor Yanukovych at the Washington Nuclear Security Summit. Our underlying message is clear – Ukraine takes nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament seriously.

Ukraine’s initiative to convene the High-Level Meeting “Kyiv Summit on Safe and Innovative Use of Nuclear Energy” is yet another step on the path of implementation of the Washington Nuclear Security Summit commitments. Namely, to promote the idea of conversion of highly enriched uranium (HEU) fuel nuclear reactors to low enriched ones as well as to secure rights of non-nuclear states to nuclear materials and technology for peaceful purposes in accordance with the requirements of the NPT. The Kyiv Summit also served as an integral part of a broader preparatory agenda to the next Nuclear Security Summit scheduled for April 2012 in South Korea.

Mr. President,

Ukraine attaches a particular attention to finding ways of unblocking the negotiation process within the Conference on Disarmament which remains one of the world’s most important multilateral forums. Ukrainian side considers that the CD is capable of resolving pressing issues of comprehensive disarmament, provided there is a will to unify all efforts. We are convinced that even despite the protracted period of dragging, the CD’s potential has not exhausted yet.
An effective work of this forum, in our opinion, would not be possible without strict adherence to the rule of consensus, which allows taking into consideration the legitimate security concerns of each state. This rule must be respected for as long as all member-states are equally interested in providing an adequate national security. The latest work of the CD demonstrated that member-states are often not willing to make concession of their own interests in favour of reaching a compromise, which hampers a proper work of the CD. Working on compromised solutions and reaching points of consensus, that could unite the efforts of all participating states, becomes ever more important.

Ukraine is convinced that elaboration of a well-balanced agenda with due consideration the interests of all states – is the only way out from the CD’s deadlock.

Mr. President,

It goes without saying for Ukraine that States must not use their nuclear weapons or threaten to use them against non-nuclear-weapon States. Neither can they abuse their nuclear status in order to assist, encourage or induce in any way the use or threat of use of force in international relations or exert any kind of pressure on the non-nuclear-weapons States in order to subdue their sovereign rights.

A practical tool of ensuring this is to further endorse and develop negative security assurances. Therefore, Ukraine believes that the assurances outlined in the United Nations Security Council Resolution 984 (1995) should be once again reaffirmed in a relevant multilateral legally binding document. We have consistently advanced this principle and will continue to do so.

In particular, this was the major underlying idea of Ukraine’s participation in the establishment of the Working Group «Effective International Arrangements to Assure Non-Nuclear-Weapon States Against the Use or Threat of Use of Nuclear Weapons».

Mr. President,

Elimination of nuclear weapons is the only guarantee that they will never be used. However, mere declarations are insufficient for achieving this goal. It requires a set of practical steps.

One of them is to put an end to the production of fissile materials. Thus, the Fissile Material Cut-Off Treaty would be a tremendous step towards global nuclear disarmament. The FMCT would also close a number of windows of opportunities for the terrorists to obtain nuclear materials, which can be used for creating nuclear weapons.

Therefore, Ukraine deeply regrets the continuing deadlock over resumption of activities of the Conference on this issue and stands for immediate launch of negotiations on the FMCT.

Another vital step towards nuclear disarmament would be universalizing the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty. It is crucially important that the norms set forth by the Treaty are observed worldwide. We strongly hope that the renewed commitment of key States regarding ratification of the Treaty will finally pave the
way to its entry into force.
In the meantime, the moratorium on nuclear tests or any other nuclear explosions should be maintained. We call upon all States to ratify the CTBT, observe obligations under it and refrain from any actions, contrary to its objectives.

Mr. President,
Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty is the cornerstone of the global nuclear non-proliferation regime. Ukraine is fully committed to the implementation of the NPT in all of its three mutually reinforcing pillars.
In this context, we welcome the outcomes of the 2010 NPT Review Conference. Ever since 2000 the Conference managed to reach consensus on the Final Document that outlines realistic steps towards creating the world free of nuclear weapons. The Final Document also contains other important provisions in the field of non-proliferation, compliance, disarmament, peaceful use of nuclear energy and effective international arrangements aimed at securing non-nuclear-weapon States. Undoubtedly, they are of crucial importance for strengthening universal security architecture.

Ukraine is an active player in the field of outer space. Please be assured, in this regard, that we adhere to the relevant principles of international law and ensure full transparency of our actions.

Mr. President,
To conclude my statement, I would like to emphasize that it is the responsibility of the nuclear-weapon states to set a vivid example and demonstrate a proactive approach in the sphere of nuclear disarmament. It is my high expectation, that eventually Ukrainian example will set the pattern to follow for not only highly-developed, but also for highly-conscious states.

Thank you for your attention.