EU Statement

By

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at the

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- CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY-
I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union.

The Candidate Countries the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*, Montenegro* and Iceland†, the countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidates Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova, align themselves with this statement.

The Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) remains the cornerstone of the global nuclear non-proliferation regime, the essential foundation for the pursuit of nuclear disarmament in accordance with its Article VI and an important element in the further development of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. In view of current proliferation risks we are convinced that today the NPT is more important than ever. We must strengthen its authority and integrity. We emphasize the importance of universalizing the NPT and call on States that have not yet done so to join the Treaty as non-nuclear weapon states and, pending their accession to the Treaty, to adhere to its terms and pledge commitments to non-proliferation and disarmament.

The EU reiterates the priority of upholding the NPT. Our objective for the whole NPT Review Cycle is to strengthen the international nuclear non-proliferation regime and achieve tangible and realistic progress towards the goals enshrined in the NPT. With a view of attaining this goal, the EU will continue to promote a comprehensive, balanced and substantive implementation of the forward-looking 2010 NPT Review Conference Action Plan - which is our common roadmap to the 2015 Review Conference. Earlier this year, we witnessed the successful convening of the second session of the Preparatory Committee of the NPT in Geneva. We express our gratitude to the Chair of the meeting, Ambassador Cornel Feruta of Romania for his able leadership leading to a successful outcome. We are aware of the challenges ahead and we stand ready to work with the Chair of the next PrepCom, Ambassador Roman-Moray of Peru.

The EU strongly supports the outcome on the Middle East of the 2010 NPT Review Conference and has made concrete efforts aimed at its implementation. In addition to sponsoring two seminars on a Weapons of Mass Destruction Free Zone (WMDFZ) in the Middle East in 2011 and in 2012, we stand ready to further support the process. We regret the postponement of the Conference on the establishment of a WMDFZ in the Middle East, which was scheduled to take place in 2012. The EU continues to fully support the ongoing preparations for a successful Conference and in particular the tireless efforts of its Facilitator, Ambassador Laajava of Finland, and his team. We call on all States in the region to urgently and proactively engage with the Facilitator and the co-conveners with the aim of enabling the Conference to be convened as soon as possible this year, on the basis of arrangements freely arrived at between the States of the region.

We fully support the IAEA’s comprehensive system of safeguards as a fundamental component of the nuclear non-proliferation regime and indispensable for the implementation of the NPT. Measures contained in the Additional Protocol form an integral part of the IAEA Safeguards system and Comprehensive Safeguards Agreements, together with Additional Protocols, constitute the current IAEA verification standard. The EU also encourages the evolution of Safeguards to a state-level concept applicable to all states. This approach will enable the IAEA to focus its efforts where the risks of proliferation are greatest. We call on all states that have not yet done so to conclude a comprehensive safeguards agreement and an additional protocol with the IAEA and put them into force as soon as possible.

The Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty is of crucial importance to nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation and remains a top priority for the European Union. Recent events in the DPRK demonstrate clearly the urgent need for this Treaty’s earliest possible entry into force. We reaffirm our strong support for its rapid entry into force and we will continue to promote it through our diplomatic and financial

* The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Montenegro continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.
† Iceland continues to be a member of EFTA and the European Economic Area.
engagement. Pending its entry into force, we expect all States, including the DPRK to abide by a moratorium on nuclear test explosions and to refrain from any action contrary to the provisions, object and purpose of the Treaty. The European Union once again calls on all States that have not done so, in particular the remaining Annex 2 States, to sign and ratify the Treaty as soon as possible.

The international community continues to be faced with major proliferation challenges by the DPRK, Iran and Syria: these must be addressed in a resolute way. In this context, the EU underlines the primary responsibility of the UN Security Council for the maintenance of international peace and security, including in cases of non-compliance.

The EU strongly condemns the third nuclear test conducted by the DPRK on 12 February 2013, which is an outright violation of its international obligations under UN Security Council Resolutions 1718, 1874 and 2087. The EU deplores the DPRK's decision to choose the ill-advised path of provocation and isolation, in defiance of the international community's united condemnation of its use of ballistic missile technology on 5 April and 12 December 2012 in direct violation of UN Security Council resolutions. We remain seriously concerned about the DPRK's uranium enrichment programme, and the ongoing construction of a Light Water Reactor at the Yongbyon site. The EU stresses that the DPRK is bound by its international obligations, as set out in several UN Security Council resolutions and by its IAEA Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement. We urge the DPRK to comply with them fully, unconditionally and without delay. The EU demands that the DPRK abandons all its existing nuclear and ballistic missile programmes, including its uranium enrichment programme, in a complete, verifiable and irreversible manner, and refrains from any further provocative actions and statements. These activities represent not only a regional but also an international threat to peace and security.

The EU remains deeply concerned about Iran's nuclear programme. The recent report by the IAEA DG illustrates once again that Iran persists in violating IAEA Board of Governors and UNSC resolutions by, inter alia, continuing to expand significantly its enrichment capacity, continuing to accumulate enriched uranium and continuing its heavy water activities. At the latest meeting of the IAEA Board of Governors, the EU expressed its deep concerns that due to the continued failure by Iran to cooperate fully with the Agency to resolve all outstanding issues, in particular those related to the possible military dimensions, the agency was unable to provide credible assurance about the absence of undeclared nuclear material and activities, and therefore was not able to conclude that all nuclear material in Iran was in peaceful activities. It noted that November 2013 will mark two years since the Director General's PMD Annex and Resolution GOV/2011/69, and will be an important juncture to assess progress on substance on this issue and what further action could be needed from the Board should no progress have been made by that point. In this context, we take note of the remarks by the Iranian president related to greater cooperation and hope to see this translated into concrete actions. Our objective remains to achieve a comprehensive, negotiated, long-term settlement, which would build international confidence in the exclusively peaceful nature of the Iranian nuclear programme, while respecting Iran's legitimate rights to the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, in conformity with the NPT, and in compliance with UN Security Council and IAEA Board of Governors resolutions. The EU fully supports the ongoing efforts of the E3+3 led by the High Representative to seek a diplomatic solution to the Iranian nuclear issue. Following substantive E3+3 discussions with Iran on 15-16 October in Geneva, the EU hopes Iran will seize this diplomatic chance to make progress in nuclear talks aimed at building confidence.

We deeply regret that, despite the resolution of the Board of Governors of the IAEA and the Syrian pledge of May 2011 to the Director General to respond positively and without delay to the Agency's request to resolve all outstanding questions and in addition renewed calls by the Director General, Syria has yet to provide the necessary cooperation. The EU calls upon Syria to fully comply with the resolution. We are deeply concerned that the Agency has had to postpone the 2013 physical inventory verification and urges Syria to
enable the Agency to carry out the verification as soon as possible. The Syrian authorities remain responsible, as required by the Board's resolution, for urgentlyremedying their non-compliance with their Safeguards Agreement and for cooperating urgently and transparently with the Agency to clarify matters with regard to Dair Alzour and the other sites, and to conclude and bring into force an Additional Protocol as soon as possible.

The EU is very concerned by the risks caused by the proliferation of missiles that could be used to deliver WMDs including ballistic missiles of increasingly great range and sophisticated technologies. A number of tests of medium and intermediate-range missiles conducted over the last years outside all existing transparency and pre-notification schemes and in violation of UNSC resolutions, especially by the DPRK and Iran, deepen our concern.

We attach great importance to the development of internationally recognized nuclear weapon free zones, established on the basis of agreements freely arrived at among States of the regions concerned, in line with the guidelines set out by the UN Disarmament Commission in 1999. The European Union offered support with regard to the implementation of the Pelindaba Treaty and the establishment and work of the African Commission of Nuclear Energy (AFCONE). We welcome ongoing in-depth consultations in accordance with the UNDC guidelines on protocols to nuclear weapons free zones in South Eastern and Central Asia between the NWS and the states of these regions in order to make it possible for NWS to sign them as soon as possible. The EU supports the parallel declarations signed by the NWS with Mongolia on the country's nuclear weapon free status in September 2012.

We remain committed to the pursuit of nuclear disarmament, in accordance with Article VI of the NPT and supported the significant steps taken by two European Union Member States. We underline the need for concrete progress in nuclear disarmament and arms control processes, especially through an overall reduction in the global stockpile of nuclear weapons, in accordance with Article VI of the NPT. We welcome the considerable reductions made so far taking into account the special responsibility of the states that possess the largest arsenals.

The EU welcomes the increased transparency shown by some nuclear weapon States (NWS), in particular the two EU Member States, on the nuclear weapons they possess, and encourages continued efforts by all NWS in this respect. In light of the indications of progress, the EU encourages the United States and Russia to implement the New START Treaty and to seek further reductions in their nuclear arsenals, including strategic, non-strategic, deployed and non-deployed weapons. We also encourage them to include non-strategic nuclear weapons in the next round of their bilateral nuclear arms reduction, while agreeing on the importance of further transparency and confidence-building measures in order to advance the nuclear disarmament process.

The EU encourages the five nuclear weapon States to continue their meetings, such as that held in London in 2009 and those in Paris in 2011, in Washington in 2012 and in Geneva in April 2013 on the implementation of the commitments they made at the 2010 NPT Review Conference on all three pillars of the NPT, including confidence-building, transparency, verification and discussions on reporting.

The CD, in accordance with its mandate, has a crucial role to negotiate multilateral treaties. Its ongoing stalemate remains deeply troubling. Adopting and implementing a Programme of Work is more urgent then ever. We express our hope that the informal working group establishment in accordance with CD/1956/Rev.1 will lead to concrete and tangible results in this regard.
For the European Union, the immediate commencement and early conclusion of the negotiation in the Conference on Disarmament of a Treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices, on the basis of document CD/1299 and the mandate contained therein, remains a clear priority. Such a treaty constitutes an urgent necessity in the nuclear disarmament field as a complement to the NPT and the CTBT. All EU Member States supported resolution 67/53 entitled “Treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices”. We are looking forward to the meetings of the group of governmental experts established by this resolution to take place in 2014 and 2015.

Last year, two other initiatives were launched in the UN General Assembly concerning nuclear disarmament negotiations, including its decision to convene a High Level Meeting on nuclear disarmament which took place in New York last month and its resolution 67/56 entitled “Taking forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations” establishing an open ended working group.

Reiterating again the priority the EU attaches to the NPT process, we stress that all such initiatives and efforts should contribute to the full implementation of the Action Plan unanimously agreed in 2010 and to a successful Review Conference in 2015.

Strengthening nuclear security is also a longstanding EU priority: it remains an important element in facilitating international co-operation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. The nuclear security summits laid an important groundwork aimed at strengthening nuclear security, reducing the threat of nuclear terrorism and securing all vulnerable nuclear material in the coming years. Strengthening nuclear security requires a continuing effort, political will and global coordination and the EU remains committed towards these goals. In this context, we fully recognize the leading role the IAEA has played in strengthening the nuclear security framework and highly value its work done so far. We welcome the ministerial declaration adopted in Vienna at the Nuclear Security International Conference and we are looking forward to the follow up Conference in 2016.