Statement

by

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- In our view transparency is indeed a key element in dealing with risks associated with existing nuclear weapons and the best policy to reassure the public.

- The Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Initiative, in which Germany participates, tabled a proposal in May 2014 on how to increase transparency. In this proposal, the NPDI stated that “reporting is a practical and effective tool to achieve greater transparency.” Since the 1985 NPT RevCon, reporting has also been a method for strengthening accountability when the Preparatory Committee first invited the nuclear-weapon States to “provide information relevant to the implementation of various articles of the Treaty, including especially Article VI”. However, many cases were not as well documented as would have been ideal.

- Therefore, the 2010 NPT RevCon agreed on defining transparency together with irreversibility and verifiability as one of the three principles of its Action Plan while also recognizing that the principle of transparency underpins the principles of verification and irreversibility.

- At the same time, the most transparent states are being subjected to increased scrutiny precisely as a result of their provision of more information. This may appear as an additional and unexpected burden, but the expectation should be indeed that all NWS are induced to see the value of transparency and accountability measures as part of good and safe practice protocols.

- The reports submitted by the NPT NWS over the course of the last review circle provide important insights. They differ, however, quite considerably when it comes to the degree of transparency offered. Reporting should be continued and become still more comprehensive and detailed while respecting legitimate security concerns.

- In addition, increased transparency through regular reporting utilizing a standard reporting form like proposed by the NPDI is at the core of strengthening the Non-Proliferation Treaty review process. In this context, we expect the NWS continue to make regular reports and concentrate
themselves even more on promoting transparency. But also NNW states should submit regular reports on their fulfillment of their obligations and commitments under the provisions of the Non-Proliferation Treaty.

- At the same time, it goes without saying that it is also crucial to prevent that any piece of relevant information which might be used by criminals or terrorists is published or leaked.

- The actual reporting by the nuclear-weapon States that has often been criticized as insufficient can be understood in this sense considering the classification of documents by nuclear possessor states for the purposes of protecting nuclear secrets and national security. It is essential to find a balance between transparency and information security.