UNITED KINGDOM

STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR JOHN DUNCAN
TO THE FIRST PREPARATORY COMMITTEE FOR THE EIGHTH
REVIEW CONFERENCE OF THE TREATY ON THE NON-
PROLIFERATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS, HELD IN VIENNA

CLUSTER III – SPECIAL TIME:
WITHDRAWAL FROM THE TREATY

1. Along with many, if not quite all, States Party to the NPT, the United Kingdom was disappointed that we were unable, in 2005, to find consensus on increasing the cost of withdrawal from the Treaty. It is important that we now begin work on this issue. We must ensure that those who would wish to withdraw from the Treaty in order then to pursue a nuclear weapons programme are unable to benefit from the goods, technology and information, to which they had access through being a State Party.

2. Withdrawal in these circumstances is a serious threat to international peace and security. The United Kingdom believes all States Party should fully support the continuation and completion of work to strengthen the Treaty in this area during this Review Cycle.