STATEMENT

by the Delegation of the Russian Federation
at the Third Session of the Preparatory Committee
for the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties
to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

Security Assurances to Non-Nuclear-Weapon States

New York, 4-15 May 2009
Mr. Chairman,

The Russian Federation maintains that independence, territorial integrity and sovereignty of non-nuclear-weapon States can and must be safeguarded against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons. For this reason we consider provision and implementation of security assurances to non-nuclear-weapon States parties to the NPT to be one of the vital tasks of strengthening of the Treaty regime. We highlighted this both at the 2005 NPT Review Conference and past sessions of the Prepcom for the 2010 NPT Review Conference. Russia has consistently supported the non-nuclear-weapon states seeking to obtain such assurances. We believe that the attainment of this objective would contribute to the NPT universalization, building confidence and predictability in relations among the states.

We would like to remind that in 1995 Russia along with other nuclear-weapon states co-sponsored UN Security Council resolution 984, which provided positive security assurances, as well as took note of national statements of the nuclear-weapon states on negative security assurances.

The negative security assurances of the nuclear-weapon states have already acquired a legally binding nature pursuant to respective Protocols to the nuclear-weapon-free zone (NWFZ) treaties. Russia signed such protocols to the Treaties of Tlatelolko, Rarotonga and Pelindaba. This number will grow as new nuclear-weapon-free zones are being established. We are willing to contribute to these processes.

We welcome the decision of Central Asian states to establish a NWFZ in this region. We support the Treaty establishing the zone free from nuclear weapons in Central Asia, which has been concluded by these countries and has recently entered into force. Russia is prepared to address the remaining issues in regard to the Southeast Asia NWFZ Treaty within the framework of a dialogue between the nuclear powers and the ASEAN states.

A holdback in the efforts to establish a NWFZ in the Middle East is certainly cause for concern, especially given the fact that the military and political situation in the region continues to be complicated. We think that establishment of a nuclear-free zone in the South Asia remains relevant, as it would strengthen regional stability and security.

Russia encourages the efforts to establish nuclear-weapon free zones and views them as part of the task of strengthening the nuclear non-proliferation regime and building regional security. We support extending the geographical scope of the NWFZs in the context of resolving the issue of security assurances.

Mr. Chairman,

Russia consistently supports prompt elaboration of international convention on security assurances to non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons. We strongly believe that such convention should take in consideration
reservations concerning cases when nuclear weapons may be used in accordance with military doctrines and national security concepts of nuclear-weapon States.

We support implementation of the 1998 Conference on Disarmament’s decision to reestablish the Ad Hoc Committee on Negative Security Assurances with a negotiating mandate. We believe that, being a unique multilateral disarmament forum, Conference on Disarmament is best placed to develop a global arrangement on negative security assurances. The experience accumulated in the course of work of such subsidiary body taking in consideration today’s realities could be used by the Conference for elaborating the convention.

On the whole, we view development of negative security assurances for non-nuclear-weapon States parties to the NPT as an essential instrument of strengthening security and stability in the world. Russia will continue its active work to make progress in this area.

Thank you for your attention.