UNITED KINGDOM


General Statement

Introduction

1. I congratulate you, Mr. Chairman on your appointment and assure you of our support in your efforts to ensure a successful outcome to this Preparatory Committee.

2. I would now like to add some remarks on behalf of the Government of the United Kingdom.

PrepCom and the NPT

3. We are at the halfway point of this Review Cycle, half way to the 2015 Review Conference. The big success of the 2010 Review Conference was the consensus outcome on a cross pillar action plan, and a clear commitment from all states parties to the grand bargain of the NPT. We must continually remind ourselves of that achievement and strive to replicate that success in this PrepCom and the rest of this review cycle.

4. The 2012 PrepCom got us off on a business like and constructive start, under the expert Chairmanship of our esteemed colleague from Australia. We should build on that positive start, and including throughout this PrepCom and continue to focus on implementing the Action Plan that we all signed up to in 2010.

5. My government is clear in its wish to strengthen the international non-proliferation architecture, with the NPT at its core. But the NPT continues to face pressures and challenges, the nuclear ambitions of the DPRK and Iran, the risk of a nuclear terrorist attack, the spread of sensitive nuclear technology as more countries seek to embark on a civil nuclear path.

6. We must work together to ensure that the NPT is strengthened across its 3 pillars during this review cycle, to ensure that it can remain fit for purpose, and continue to bring benefits to all its states parties, in terms of enhanced security and co-operation on civil nuclear energy.

7. We see this PrepCom as an opportunity to take stock of the progress that we have made since 2010, and to take stock of the clear challenges ahead, if we are to deliver a successful, consensus based outcome in 2015. This PrepCom is also an opportunity for States Parties to reaffirm their unconditional support for the NPT and their commitment to implement the 2010 Action Plan.

The challenges ahead

8. The challenges ahead are clear:
• How to create confidence and understanding between nuclear weapons states and non-nuclear weapons states?

• How to build the conditions that will allow for further nuclear disarmament?

• How to tackle withdrawal and non-compliance?

• How to remove the incentives and opportunities for proliferation, whilst protecting the inalienable right to peaceful uses of nuclear energy?

**The 3 Pillars**

9. The UK will discuss each of its priorities and objectives for each of the three pillars, under our national statements under each cluster.

10. On disarmament, we will set out what the UK has been doing to contribute to disarmament, including through our work on verification and transparency. We will also discuss the multilateral co-operation aspect of disarmament and the P5 process.

11. On non-proliferation, we are committed to strengthening the non-proliferation architecture and combat programmes of concern. We will set out our concerns about the DPRK and Iran in greater detail. And of course, we will make clear our commitment and support for making progress on nuclear weapons free zones, including in South East Asia and Central Asia, and also our support for the Facilitator’s tireless efforts on the Middle East Weapons of Mass Destruction Free Zone.

12. On peaceful uses, we remain fully committed to the promotion of safe nuclear energy by those who wish to use it – in line with Article IV rights. And we will set out our support for the IAEA safeguards regime and the multinational approaches to the nuclear fuel cycle.

**Conclusion**

13. We, the UK, are firm believers in, and staunch supporters of the NPT. The Non-Proliferation Treaty offers our best chance of getting the balance right between achieving our long-term goal of a world free of nuclear weapons and allowing the peaceful use of nuclear energy. But recent events in the DPRK and the situation with Iran make it clear that there is more work for the international community to do. The PrepCom gives us all an opportunity to see what progress signatories have made in the past year to contribute to this most crucial of goals.

14. And finally, a shameless plug. We will host a side-event with our partners, Norway, on the work we have been doing on verification on Thursday 25 April, and I hope colleagues will be able to join us.