Second Session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2015 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT)

Statement

By

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To the United Nations Office in Geneva

Geneva, 22 April to 3 May 2013

Please Check Against Delivery
Mr. Chairman,

At the outset I wish to congratulate you and members of the bureau upon your election to guide the work of this Preparatory Committee. You can count on Uganda’s full support and cooperation.

Mr. Chairman,

The indefinite extension of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear weapons (NPT) in 1995 signified the international community’s resolve to advance the three primary goals of the NPT relating to nuclear disarmament, nuclear nonproliferation, and the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. The NPT remains the cornerstone of the global nuclear non-proliferation regime. We reiterate the need to ensure implementation of all NPT pillars in a balanced and non-discriminatory way and to work towards the universality of the Treaty. The outcome of the 2010 NPT Review Conference reaffirmed the shared commitment of States Parties to preserving the integrity and importance of the Treaty.

My delegation welcomes the outcome of the 1st Session of the PrepCom for the 2015 NPT Review Conference which provided an opportunity for assessing the implementation of the Treaty. This second session of the Preparatory Committee gives us yet another opportunity to take stock of the progress made in implementing the NPT, identify the gaps and challenges, and devise more effective strategies, drawing on national, regional and international experiences. It is our conviction that the PrepComs for the 2015 NPT Review Conference will enlighten the overall strategy for the full implementation of the action plans adopted at the 2010 NPT Review Conference.

Mr. Chairman,

We underscore the importance of full compliance by all States with their nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation obligations and their undertaking to work towards general and complete disarmament.
Uganda supports efforts aimed at establishing nuclear weapon free-zones. In this regard we welcome and commend the nuclear weapon free-zones in Latin America and the Caribbean, South Pacific, Southeast Asia, Africa and Mongolia as critical developments towards a nuclear free world. We encourage more regions to emulate these positive developments.

We welcome the conclusion and entry-into-force of the New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START) between the United States and Russian Federation. We also welcome the Nuclear Weapons States follow-up meetings to the NPT Review Conference as well as initiatives of EU Non-nuclear Weapons States aimed at promoting the implementation of the 2010 NPT Review Conference final outcome. We urge nuclear-weapon States to fulfil in good faith the obligations under article VI of the NPT.

Mr. Chairman,

It is widely recognised that, availability of reliable, cost-effective and environmentally friendly energy is a critical factor for industrialization and economic development. Many developing countries including Uganda face severe energy deficits. We therefore underscore the importance of developing further international cooperation in promoting the use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. It is paramount that non-nuclear states are supported to develop and utilize nuclear energy, while taking into account safety considerations, for a wide range of peaceful uses including in Medicine, Agriculture, water management and research.

We acknowledge the indispensable role of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in verifying States' compliance with their nuclear non-proliferation obligations. To that end, achieving universal conclusion of safeguards agreements and additional protocols in order to strengthen the IAEA verification regime is essential. Uganda has put in place an institutional framework to facilitate the use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. In October 2008, the Atomic Energy Law was enacted and an Atomic Energy Council is now operational. We
call for enhanced support and capacity building for the developing countries in the field of nuclear energy.

Mr. Chairman,

We reiterate our support for the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) goals and objectives aimed at banning all nuclear explosions in all environments, for military or civilian intentions. The importance of achieving universal adherence to the CTBT, bearing in mind the special responsibilities of Nuclear Weapon States, cannot be overemphasised.

My delegation expresses great concern at the growing risk of linkages between terrorism, nuclear weapons and weapons of mass destruction. The danger of nuclear terrorism is real; it is one of the grave threats to our global security. The risk of nuclear attacks has increased considerably over the years, because radioactive and nuclear materials that can be acquired through illicit means and the capacity to be used in the construction of nuclear weapons exist in many countries. It is therefore essential to ensure improved accounting, control and physical protection systems for nuclear and other radioactive materials and substances. In this regard we welcome the role of the IAEA in monitoring and inspecting nuclear facilities and urge concerned countries to ensure full observance of IAEA safeguards at all times.

Mr. Chairman,

In Conclusion, as a State Party to the NPT, Uganda reiterates its support for the NPT as the cornerstone of the global nuclear non-proliferation system, the critical foundation for the pursuit of nuclear disarmament in accordance with its Article VI and a significant element to enhance development of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. The proliferation of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction poses a serious threat to the world today more than ever before. The current security threats and proliferation risks signify the urgency and need for adequate implementation of the NPT. The 2010 NPT Review Conference
consensus outcome should be a common road map to the 2015 Review Conference.

I thank you