EU Statement

By

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Third Session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2015 Review Conference of the States Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

Cluster 2

United Nations
New York

1 May 2014

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Mr Chairman,

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union.

The Candidate Countries the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*, Montenegro*, Iceland† and Serbia*, the countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidates Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova and Georgia, align themselves with this statement.

Mr Chairman,

1. The European Union remains fully committed to effective multilateral action against the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

2. With the outcome of the 2010 Review Conference, States Parties reaffirmed their shared commitment to comply with their obligations, and to fulfil the goals of the NPT and towards its universal accession. Ensuring the implementation of the 64 actions in the Action Plan is a collective responsibility shared by States Parties. The European Union calls on all States Parties to implement, without delay and in a balanced manner, these actions designed to strengthen the three pillars of the Treaty.

3. The EU emphasizes the importance of universalizing the NPT and calls on States that have not yet done so to join the Treaty as non-nuclear weapon states and, pending their accession to the Treaty, to adhere to its terms and pledge commitments to non-proliferation and disarmament.

Mr Chairman,

4. The world continues to face major proliferation threats to international peace and stability. They must be addressed in a resolute way in order to maintain the credibility and effectiveness of the NPT regime. In this context, we underline the primary responsibility of the UN Security Council for the maintenance of international peace and security, including in cases of non-compliance.

5. The EU strongly condemns all DPRK nuclear tests and satellite launches using ballistic missile technology in blatant violation of its international obligations under UN Security Council Resolutions 1718, 1874, 2087 and 2094. We remain seriously concerned about the latest developments in DPRK’s nuclear program, in particular the DPRK’s uranium enrichment programme and the resuming of activities at the Yongbyon site including the ongoing construction of a Light Water Reactor. The DPRK is bound by its international obligations, as set out in several UN Security Council resolutions and by its IAEA Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement under the NPT. The EU condemns the provocative launches of Short Range Ballistic Missiles in May 2013 and in February and March this year, as well as the recent firing of medium-range ballistic missiles. We call on the DPRK to return to full compliance with the NPT and to comply with all its international obligations fully, unconditionally and without delay. We further call on DPRK to abandon all its existing nuclear activities.

* The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.
† Iceland continues to be a member of EFTA and the European Economic Area.
nuclear and ballistic missile programmes in a complete, verifiable and irreversible manner, and to refrain from any further provocative actions and statements.

6. In the case of Iran, the EU’s objective remains to achieve a comprehensive, negotiated, long-term-settlement, which would restore international confidence in the exclusively peaceful nature of the Iranian nuclear programme, ensuring that Iran is in compliance with all its obligations under the NPT, as well as relevant UNSC and IAEA Board of Governors resolutions, while respecting its right to the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. The EU welcomes the agreement on the Joint Plan of Action (JPA) reached on 24 November, 2013 in Geneva, as a result of talks on the Iranian nuclear programme between the E3+3 and Iran, chaired by the EU High Representative. The measures agreed under the JPA are being implemented as planned, confirmed to date by the IAEA Director General in his monthly reports to the Board of Governors. The EU also welcomed the discussions between Iran and the IAEA under the Framework for Cooperation, aimed at resolving all present and past issues, including those related to the possible military dimensions (PMD) to the Iranian nuclear programme. We consider the agreement reached at the talks in Tehran in February on additional seven practical measures to be implemented by Iran by 15 May, to be a further step in the right direction. We look forward to Iran delivering substantive progress on this issue. Resolution of all outstanding issues will be essential to achieve a long-term settlement.

7. We deeply regret that, despite the resolution of the Board of Governors of the IAEA of 9 June 2011, the Syrian pledge to the Director General to respond positively and without delay to the Agency's request to resolve all outstanding questions, and in addition the renewed calls by the Director General, Syria has yet to provide the necessary cooperation. Syria remains responsible for urgently remedying its non-compliance with its Safeguards Agreement, and to conclude and bring into force an Additional Protocol as soon as possible.

8. The EU continues to strongly support the outcome of the 2010 NPT Review Conference on the Middle East and reaffirms its full support for the establishment of a zone free of weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems in the Middle East. We regret that it has not been possible so far to convene a Conference on the establishment of such a zone to be attended by all States of the region. We continue to fully support the ongoing preparations for a successful Conference and commend the Facilitator and his team for their tireless efforts in this regard. We find the recent informal meetings in Glion encouraging and call on all States in the region to urgently and proactively engage with the Facilitator, the co-convenors and each other with the aim of enabling the Conference to be convened as soon as possible, on the basis of arrangements freely arrived at between the States of the region.

Mr Chairman,

9. The European Union recognizes the importance of appropriate effective export controls, in compliance with UN Security Council Resolutions 1540, 1887 and 1977 and in accordance with Article III of the NPT. In this context, we fully support the activities of the international export control regimes, namely the Nuclear Suppliers Group, the Zangger Committee, the Australia Group, the Wassenaar Arrangement and MTCR and the full participation of EU Member States therein. The Zangger Committee and the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) continue to be important fora in this field to share experience and work effectively towards efficient export controls, thus contributing concretely to fighting proliferation. The EU particularly commends the agreement by the NSG on amendments to the NSG Part 1 Guidelines, including its Annexes, subsequently published by the IAEA. In 2012-2013, the
EU assisted third countries with around €5 million with a view to improve their legal framework and institutional capacities for the establishment and enforcement of effective export controls.

10. The Agency’s system of safeguards is a fundamental component of the nuclear non-proliferation regime and plays an indispensable role in the implementation of the NPT. The measures contained in the Model Additional Protocol form an integral part of the IAEA Safeguards system and Comprehensive Safeguards Agreements together with Additional Protocols constitute the current IAEA verification standard. The EU calls for their universalisation without delay. The EU notes that at the end of 2013 there were 44 states with operative Small Quantities Protocols (SQP) still to be amended. The EU urges those remaining states which have not yet amended their SQP to accelerate their efforts. From the beginning, the EU has firmly supported the IAEA Secretariat in its approach to Safeguards Implementation under the State Level Concept (SLC), which will allow it to improve its efficiency whilst maintaining and strengthening the effectiveness of its Safeguards Implementation. We welcome the fact that the IAEA continues to undertake Technical Meetings with Member States in order to enable an exchange of views and to provide clarifications on the SLC.

11. The EU is committed to strengthening and supporting the IAEA’s safeguards system and both the European Commission and EU Member States have safeguards support programme. The close cooperation between EURATOM and the IAEA results in effective and efficient safeguards and allows the EU’s Member States to demonstrate continuing respect for their international non-proliferation obligations. The EU and its Member States have contributed to modernizing the IAEA Safeguards Analytical Laboratory (SAL). The EU has also provided the Agency with technology and expertise from the European Commission’s Joint Research Centre and its Institutes.

Mr Chairman,

12. The EU strongly believes that the proliferation of missiles, especially those capable of delivering weapons of mass destruction, continues to be a serious concern to us all and a threat to international peace and security, as reaffirmed in UN Security Council Resolutions 1540, 1887 and 1977. A number of tests conducted over last years outside all existing transparency and pre-notification schemes and in violation of UNSC resolutions, especially by the DPRK and Iran deepen our concern. We believe that a multilateral response and international norms are the most adequate and effective way to address this issue. The EU strongly supports the MTCR and the Hague Code of Conduct. In that regard, the EU continues to pursue and support the HCOC in three aspects: universality, implementation, and enhanced and improved functioning.

13. The risk of non-state actors getting access to weapons of mass destruction represents a most serious threat to international security. In that respect, the EU and its Member States stress the need for compliance with obligations under UNSC resolutions 1540 (2004) and 1977 (2011) and call for improved nuclear security for high activity radioactive sources. The EU and its Member States have been actively contributing to the implementation of Security Council resolution 1540 and fully support the key role of the IAEA.
14. The EU participates in or contributes to other initiatives such as the Proliferation Security Initiative, the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism, as well as the Nuclear Security Summit process.
Mr Chairman,

15. UN Security Council Resolution 1540 requires that all States shall take and enforce effective measures to establish domestic controls to prevent the proliferation of WMD and their means of delivery, including controls over related materials and technology. To this end, the States shall also establish transit and brokering controls. The EU dual-use export control regime continued to be strengthened through a revised Council regulation setting up a Community regime that covers the control of exports, transfer, brokering and transit of dual use items. We will actively participate in the special meeting of the UN Security Council devoted to the tenth anniversary of the Resolution 1540 to take place in New York on 7 May this year.

16. The EU is among the main contributors to the IAEA Nuclear Security Fund, having provided around €40 million from EU funds to date, in addition to voluntary contributions made individually by some of its member states, to the benefit of around 100 countries. More than € 100 million has been allocated to the EU’s regional CBRN Centres of Excellence initiative. Its objective is to strengthen the institutional capacity to counter the CBRN risk worldwide.

17. We have submitted a working paper on EU efforts to strengthen nuclear security.

Thank you.