EU Statement

By

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General Debate
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

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

The Candidate Countries the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*, Montenegro† and Iceland‡, the EFTA country Liechtenstein, member of the European Economic Area, as well as Ukraine, align themselves with this statement.

1. Let me first congratulate you, Mr. Chairman, for taking up the important duty of presiding over the last session of the Preparatory Committee before the Review Conference of the Treaty in 2015. We are aware of our collective responsibilities and confident that under your leadership we will be able to contribute to a successful Review Conference next year. You can count on our full support to this end.

2. The EU continues to regard the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) as the cornerstone of the global nuclear non-proliferation regime, the essential foundation for the pursuit of nuclear disarmament in accordance with Article VI of the NPT and an important element in the further development of nuclear energy applications for peaceful purposes. In view of current proliferation risks, we are convinced that today the NPT is more important than ever. We must strengthen its authority and integrity. We reaffirm our full support for all three pillars of the Treaty and the implementation of commitments undertaken during previous Review Conferences.

3. The EU will continue to promote a comprehensive, balanced and substantive implementation of the forward-looking 2010 NPT Review Conference Action Plan which is our common roadmap to the 2015 Review Conference. Reaffirming the importance of universalizing the NPT, we continue to call 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.

4. The EU remains firmly committed to the rule of law in international relations, including in the field of disarmament and non-proliferation. In this context, we strongly condemn the clear violation of Ukrainian sovereignty and territorial integrity by acts of aggression by the Russian armed forces on the territory of Ukraine and the illegal annexation of Crimea and Sevastopol to the Russian Federation. These actions are in clear breach of the UN Charter and the Helsinki Final Act, as well as of Russia's specific commitments to respect Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity under the Budapest Memorandum of 1994 on security assurances in connection with Ukraine's accession to the NPT as a non-nuclear weapon state. The EU welcomed the meeting held in Geneva on 17 April 2014 on the situation of Ukraine with the participation of the EU High Representative and the Foreign Ministers of Ukraine, Russia and the US which agreed on initial concrete steps to de-escalate tensions and restore security for all citizens, and calls for and reemphasizes the importance of the immediate and full implementation of those steps.

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* The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Montenegro continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.
† Iceland continues to be a member of EFTA and the European Economic Area.
5. We remain committed to the pursuit of **nuclear disarmament**, in accordance with Article VI of the NPT.

6. We have supported the significant steps taken by the two nuclear-weapon European Union Member States. We underline the need for further concrete progress in nuclear disarmament and arms control processes, especially through an overall reduction in the global stockpile of nuclear weapons, in accordance with Article VI of the NPT, stressing the special responsibility of the states with the largest arsenals.

7. With reference to the implementation of the New START Treaty, the EU encourages the United States and the Russian Federation to seek further reductions in their nuclear arsenals, including strategic and non-strategic, deployed and non-deployed weapons. With regard to non-strategic nuclear weapons, the European Union encourages the US and Russia to include non-strategic nuclear weapons in the next round of their bilateral nuclear arms reduction, while agreeing on the importance of further transparency and confidence-building measures in order to advance the nuclear disarmament process. In this context, we welcome the proposals made by US President Obama in June 2013 in Berlin, to reduce deployed strategic nuclear weapons by one-third and to seek bold reductions on US and Russian non-strategic weapons in Europe. The EU would welcome such bilateral voluntary reduction as a contribution to full implementation of article VI as a standing treaty obligation upon all NPT states.

8. The EU encourages the five Nuclear Weapon States to continue their meetings, and welcomes the latest one held in Beijing in mid-April, to help build trust and transparency between them and discuss the implementation of commitments they made at the 2010 NPT Review Conference. We await with interest the reports by the nuclear-weapons States to this PrepCom in particular in accordance with Action 5 of the 2010 NPT Final Document.

9. The Comprehensive **Nuclear-Test-Ban** Treaty is of crucial importance to nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation and its entry into force and universalization remain top priorities for the EU. We will continue to promote this objective through our diplomatic and financial engagement. Pending the entry into force of the Treaty, the EU calls on all States to uphold a moratorium on nuclear weapon test explosions or any other nuclear explosion, to refrain from any action that would defeat the object and purpose of the Treaty. We reiterate our call on all States that have not done so, in particular those listed in Annex 2 of the Treaty, to sign and ratify the Treaty. We stand ready to continue our work with the CTBTO and all our international partners to follow up on the outcome of the 2013 CTBT Article XIV Conference.

10. The EU remains committed to treaty-based nuclear disarmament and arms control and stresses the need to renew multilateral efforts and revitalize multilateral negotiating bodies, in particular the **Conference on Disarmament**, including through its enlargement. Its ongoing stalemate, including its
persistent failure to agree on a Programme of Work, as deplored by UNSG Ban Ki-moon in January, remains deeply troubling. In this prospect, the EU welcomes the decision of the conference to establish the Informal Working Group with a mandate to produce a programme of work, robust in substance and progressive over time in implementation and the adoption of a schedule of activities of the 2014 session to allow the CD to hold structured and substantive discussions in all the items listed in the agenda and we hope that will enable further progress.

11. The EU reiterates its call for the immediate commencement and early conclusion of the negotiation in the CD of a Treaty banning the production of fissile materials for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices on the basis of document CD/1299 and the mandate contained therein. This remains a clear priority. National security concerns, while legitimate, can and should be addressed as part of the negotiation process rather than as a prerequisite. Confidence-building measures can be taken immediately, without the need to wait for the commencement of formal negotiations. We call on all states possessing nuclear weapons to declare and uphold an immediate moratorium on the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices. We welcome the establishment of the Group of Governmental Experts which met the first time in Geneva some weeks ago to advance discussions on this important issue. We are looking forward to their next meeting in August and we hope that discussions will enable progress towards a better understanding of aspects of the Treaty and will lead to concrete recommendations.

12. 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.

13. 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 and ballistic missile programmes in a complete, verifiable and irreversible manner, and to refrain from any further provocative actions and statements.
14. 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.

15. 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.

16. 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.

17. 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. 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.
18. The European Union reaffirms its support for the inalienable right of all Parties to the Treaty to develop research, production and use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, without discrimination and in conformity with Articles I, II and III of the Treaty. The European Union is strongly committed to the objectives of Article IV. Through multilateral and bilateral cooperation programmes, the EU supports many peaceful and beneficial applications of nuclear technology, in particular in developing countries.

19. The European Union remains committed to ensuring the responsible development of peaceful uses of nuclear energy by countries wishing to develop their capacities in this field. In this regard, we stress the key role played by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and reaffirm that the IAEA Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement, together with the Additional Protocol, should be accepted universally as the international verification standard.

20. We encourage IAEA Member States to host peer review and follow up missions in the field of nuclear safety and security, such as Integrated Regulatory Review Service, Operational Safety Review Teams, and International Physical Protection Advisory Service to conduct national reviews on a regular basis.

21. The European Union remains firmly convinced of the benefits of multinational approaches to the nuclear fuel cycle. In line with the NPT conclusions on this matter, the EU welcomes the steps taken to establish an IAEA Low Enriched Uranium Bank. The EU continues to be committed to supporting the future LEU Bank under IAEA auspices: €20 million has been already transferred to the Agency. The EU stresses that further progress on this important initiative is needed and invites all parties concerned to engage constructively in this matter.

22. The European Union stresses the need to do everything possible to prevent the risks of weapons of mass destruction, nuclear or other radioactive material falling into the hands of terrorists. In this context, we stress the importance of compliance with obligations under United Nations Security Council Resolutions 1540 (2004) and 1977 (2011), and call for improved nuclear security.

23. We continue to see the need for strengthening the NPT through a common understanding of States Parties on how to respond effectively to a State Party’s withdrawal from the NPT, including by drawing attention to the potential implications for international peace and security of such a withdrawal. In this context, we stress the requirement for the UN Security Council to act promptly and address without delay any State Party’s notice of withdrawal from the NPT and promoting the adoption of measures in this regard.

24. Consistent with our engagement with civil society, via the European Union Non Proliferation Consortium, we support the establishment and strengthening of this network of European think tanks and research centres to encourage political and security-related dialogue. We also underline the
importance of disarmament and non-proliferation education to pave the way for broader public understanding of these issues.