EU Statement

By

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to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

Cluster 1

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

The Candidate Countries Turkey, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*, Montenegro* and Iceland+, the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate Albania, as well as Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova, align themselves with this statement.

1. The EU reaffirms its commitment to the pursuit of nuclear disarmament, in accordance with Article VI of the NPT.

2. The European Union continues to contribute actively to global efforts to seek a safer world for all and to create the conditions for a world without nuclear weapons in accordance with the goals of the NPT, in a way that promotes international stability, and based on the principle of undiminished security for all.

3. 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.

4. 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.

5. Following the increased transparency shown by some Nuclear Weapon States, in particular the European Union Member States on the nuclear weapons they possess, the EU encourages continued efforts by all NWS in this respect.

6. 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 further bilateral voluntary reduction as a contribution to full implementation of article VI as a standing treaty obligation upon all NPT states.

* 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.
7. 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 are studying with interest the reports by the five nuclear-weapon States to this PrepCom in particular in accordance with Action 5 of the 2010 NPT Final Document.

8. The European Union recognizes the legitimate interest of non-nuclear-weapon States in receiving unequivocal and legally binding security assurances from nuclear-weapons States. It recalls UN Security Council Resolution 984 of 1995 noting the unilateral statements by each of the NWS in which they give security assurances against the use and the threat of use of nuclear weapons to NNWS parties to the Treaty.

9. The EU recalls that Russia has specifically committed to refrain from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or sovereignty of Ukraine under the Budapest Memorandum of 1994 on security assurances in connection with Ukraine's accession to the NPT as a non-nuclear weapon state.

10. The EU welcomes the decision by the nuclear weapon states including the two European Union nuclear weapon states to sign the Protocol to the Treaty on the Nuclear Weapon Free Zone in Central Asia during this PrepCom. The EU is committed to promoting further consideration of security assurances and notes the respective adjustments in the nuclear postures of some Nuclear Weapon States.

11. We continue to attach great importance to the development of internationally recognized nuclear weapon free zones, established on the basis of agreements freely arrived at among States of the regions concerned, in line with the principles set out by the UN Disarmament Commission in 1999. In this context, the European Union has continued to offer support with regard to the implementation of the Pelindaba Treaty and the establishment and work of the African Commission of Nuclear Energy (AFCONE). We hope that outstanding issues concerning nuclear weapon free zones can be resolved soon on that basis.

12. The Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty is of crucial importance to nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation and its entry into force and universalisation remain top priorities for the EU. We note the establishment of a group of eminent persons in this regard. We will continue to promote this objective through our diplomatic and financial engagement which amounts to more than EUR 15.5 million transferred to the CTBTO since 2006. Pending the entry into force of the Treaty, the EU calls on all States, including the DPRK, to abide by 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. The EU also calls on all States hosting monitoring stations to fully co-operate in ensuring that stations are installed and certified fully, providing real time data.
13. 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.

14. 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. Such a Treaty would form an essential element of any framework for the achievement and maintenance of a world without nuclear weapons, in accordance with the goals of the NPT. 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.

15. Last year, several initiatives were adopted through resolutions in the UNGA concerning nuclear disarmament, including one to convene a Follow up to the High Level Meeting under resolution 68/32 and another concerning the open ended working group under resolution 68/46 entitled "Taking forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations". Respective positions were expressed through the explanation of votes by Member States.

16. The 2010 Review Conference expressed its deep concern at “the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of any use of nuclear weapons” and its reaffirmation of “the need for all States at all times to comply with applicable international law, including international humanitarian law”.

17. A variety of perspectives are being contemplated on the subject of humanitarian consequences. Some States may wish to address this further in their national statements.