Statement by

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Mr. Chairman,

At the outset let me congratulate you, Mr. Chairman, on the election to the chair of the 3\textsuperscript{rd} session of the Preparatory Committee of the 2015 Review Conference. Mr. Chairmen, you can count on the full support of my delegation in your difficult task. Indeed, the success of the forthcoming Review Conference will very much depend on the work we will have to carry out under your able chairmanship.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to align myself with the Statements delivered by the European Union and the Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Initiative.

From Germany’s point of view, the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) remains the cornerstone of the international disarmament and non-proliferation architecture. This Treaty has greatly contributed to making the world a safer place! Germany calls upon all States still outside the NPT to join the Treaty as Non-Nuclear Weapon States.

In this context, Germany recalls that the so-called Budapest-Memorandum was instrumental in paving the way for Ukraine and other newly independent States to renounce nuclear arsenals inherited from the SU. It is regrettable that the Russian Federation has not honoured its obligations towards Ukraine enshrined in the Budapest memorandum as shown by recent events.

It is understandable that there is a tendency at preparatory meetings to focus more on the deficits of the Treaty regime
than on its benefits. Nevertheless, we should not forget that the Treaty facilitates, on a daily basis, peaceful cooperation in nuclear matters, mostly thanks to the IAEA. Furthermore, States in compliance with the NPT enjoy negative Security Assurances, which are meant to protect Non-Nuclear Weapon States. Negative Security Assurances should become part of a binding treaty-regime, and thus contribute even more than today to improving the security environment of an overwhelming majority of countries.

It is common knowledge that the three pillars of the NPT are intrinsically intertwined. The NPT-Action Plan from 2010 is also based on a similar comprehensive approach. Against this backdrop, Germany agrees: The Action Plan is implemented at a pace that is far too slow.

With regard to nuclear disarmament, Germany is convinced that further progress is needed to achieve the goal of a nuclear-weapon-free world in line with Article VI of the NPT.

While Germany is firmly committed to its obligations as member of the North Atlantic Alliance, it is resolved to help create the conditions for a world without nuclear weapons in accordance with the goals of the NPT. Within this context, a new disarmament round between the United States of America and the Russian Federation should begin as soon as possible and it should address substrategic nuclear weapons as well.
In line with the NPT Action Plan, all Nuclear Weapons States should increase transparency with respect to their arsenals. Germany would like to reiterate that the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty must finally enter into force. In the 21st century, there is no space for nuclear tests.

In this context we cannot but deplore North Korea's aggressive nuclear policy, including the specter of a fourth detonation of a nuclear device.

Besides, negotiations on a Treaty prohibiting the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons should begin in the very near future. As the Conference on Disarmament (CD) moves into its 18th consecutive year of stalemate, Germany is concerned about the CD's functionality as the sole permanent multilateral disarmament treaty negotiating body. The CD's ability to address the security needs of the international community is in serious doubt.

With regard to non-proliferation, Germany is actively involved in finding a diplomatic solution to the current proliferation crises, which could jeopardise the integrity of the Treaty. Germany welcomes the positive momentum with respect to the negotiations with Iran and hopes that a permanent solution can be found until this summer. This would underline the role of the NPT as an indispensible stabilizing element in international relations.

Germany commends the crucial and valuable work done by the IAEA and its safeguards-system. As of today, Germany is
the third largest contributor to the IAEA’s budget and is operating an IAEA support programme for more than 35 years. Germany also calls upon all States who have not yet done so to adopt the IAEA’s Additional Protocol. In this respect, while some progress has been achieved over the last years there is still room for improvement in terms of effectiveness and efficiency. Germany recalls the offer by the NPDI to provide advice upon a State’s request when implementing the Additional Protocol. It is active in the area of nuclear security and has joined all pertinent instruments designed to help preventing nuclear terrorism and reduce nuclear risks. Also, Germany stands ready to continue international co-operation with all interested partners on export control policies in order to close all remaining loopholes which allow illegal networks to traffic with proliferation-sensitive materials.

Finally, Germany deeply regrets that the Helsinki-Conference on a Zone free of weapons of Mass Destruction has not yet been convened. Germany is supporting the tireless work of the Facilitator and hopes that the Conference can be convened until the end of this year.

To sum up: the NPT is an indispensable Treaty, improving security and cooperation. Germany stands ready to work with all parties towards the goal of strengthening the Treaty.