SLOVAKIA

STATEMENT

by

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to the United Nations

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

General Debate

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Mr. Chairman,

I congratulate you on your assumption of the chairmanship of this Committee's session and wish you all the success in your endeavors.

Slovakia fully associates itself with the statement delivered on behalf of the European Union. Nevertheless, let me make few comments that are of particular interest to my delegation.

Mr. Chairman,

The Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) stands at the very center of a landscape of non-proliferation and disarmament instruments available to the international community. It remains a unique and irreplaceable framework for maintaining and strengthening international peace, security and stability.

Its three mutually reinforcing pillars represent a system of communicating vessels whose balance must be preserved. We must be assured about the absence of activities not consistent with the NPT as much as we need guarantees that there is a real progress on nuclear disarmament towards total elimination of nuclear weapons thus generating further incentives for peaceful use of nuclear energy, importance of which continues to raise in many civilian applications and may help us to address many challenges we face in the sphere of energy, health, research and development.

Universal adherence to the norms and disarmament and non-proliferation commitments of the Treaty, which also provides opportunities for peaceful use of nuclear energy, represents a challenge to our global security. It remains one of long-term priorities for my country. We call on all States not parties to the Treaty to accede to it as non-nuclear weapon states.

Mr. Chairman,

Slovakia together with other countries has submitted the working paper on "Building Blocks for a World without Nuclear Weapons" (that is available in the document NPT/CONF.2015/PC.III/WP.23). This working paper should contribute to further discussion on nuclear disarmament in concrete and practical terms. A focus on such an approach foresees the possibility of parallel and simultaneous measures.

In this regard let me underline that my country, inter alia, continues to support immediate commencement of the negotiation on a treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons and other nuclear explosive devices, which would be a part of the architecture of a nuclear weapon free world. We consider such a treaty as an indispensable step towards achieving our final goal of a word free of nuclear weapons.

The 2010 Review Conference of the NPT expressed “deep concern at the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of any use of nuclear weapons”. This issue is an important element of a complex discourse on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, which includes humanitarian and security considerations. Slovakia believes that the total elimination
of nuclear arsenals would need a substantive and constructive engagement of states possessing nuclear weapons if banning them should deliver in terms of their elimination.

Mr. Chairman,

International community continues to face many challenges to international peace and security, including to the non-proliferation regime. The nuclear and missile programmes of the North Korea as well as the nuclear programme of Syria are matter of serious concern. In case of Iran we welcome recent developments and hope that more progress will be achieved to successfully address this issue. More recently new concerns have appeared: the violation of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine represents a challenge, which undermines principles of the non-proliferation regime. We should work together and concentrate our efforts with an aim to address and prevent them from happening and recurring again.

Slovakia supports the outcomes of the 2010 NPT Review Conference on Middle East. We regret that the Conference on the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction planned for 2012 has been postponed. Nevertheless, we are encouraged by recent informal meetings in Glion, and continue to fully support facilitator Ambassador Jaakko Laajava of Finland in his efforts and the ongoing preparations for a successful conference with the participation of all States in the region.

Mr. Chairman,

Slovakia fully supports peaceful use of nuclear energy. Peaceful use of atom could bring benefits in many areas – from healthcare to the production of energy.

Nuclear power has been providing electricity worldwide since the 1950s. Most significantly, nuclear power is a mature technology, which has very significantly improved safety and operational efficiency with each new generation of designs. It is the most efficient and cost-effective low emissions fit-for-service base-load electricity generation option. In addition to that for many years humanity has been benefiting from its other recognized advantages.

However, trust and confidence are the key elements for its development. They must go hand in hand with the highest safety and security standards as well as non-proliferation conditions. We believe that the full-scope safeguards of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the Additional Protocol constitute the current verification standard, which would enable to provide a confidence that nuclear energy is developed in the best non-proliferation conditions. We must work towards universalization and reinforcement of these instruments.

Nuclear energy is essential for meeting overall energy needs in Slovakia. Nuclear power plants cover for a substantial percentage of my country’s electricity production.

Slovakia has successfully commenced the European stress tests and incorporated the lessons learned into the National Action Plan. We encourage other countries to perform risk and safety assessments for nuclear power plants in operation and under construction in cooperation with the Agency.
We should reinforce our focus on nuclear safety and security and on maintaining nuclear power for peaceful applications.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.