Closing remarks by the United Kingdom at the 2017 NPT PrepCom, Vienna, 5-12 May

Mr Chairman, I thank you and your team for all your efforts on our behalf.

Mr Chairman, were we asked to subscribe to your factual summary we would not be able to do so. There are various reasons for this, but in particular, I would stress that we were explicit in our opening statement that negotiating an international ban on nuclear weapons will not bring us closer to the goal of a world without nuclear weapons, nor would such a ban improve the international security environment or increase trust and transparency.

We are not, however, being asked to subscribe or agree to this document. Following precedent and in conformity with the strengthened review process agreed in 1995, the text is being issued in your own capacity and will have the status of a working paper.

Let me close by thanking you again, expressing the United Kingdom's enduring commitment to the NPT, and underlining our willingness to work with Ambassador Bugajski and his team in the coming year.