Statement of the Republic of Croatia
as delivered by the Ambassador and Permanent Representative
to the OSCE, UN and International Organizations in Vienna
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Preparatory Committee for the 2020 NPT Review Conference of the Parties
to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons
First session, Vienna, 2-12 May 2017
Mr. Chairman,

Let me begin by congratulating you on your assumption of the Chairmanship of the first Preparatory Committee of the 2020 NPT Review Conference, and assure you of my country’s full support to your efforts in the following days.

Let me also say that the Republic of Croatia shares views presented in the General Statement of the European Union. As the member state of the EU we stand united in support for the Treaty.

NPT enjoys Croatia’s firm support as we see Treaty’s contribution to international peace, security and stability, ever since it entered into force in 1970 as crucial, in achieving predictable and more secure world and in its role in developing nuclear energy applications for peaceful purposes.

Non-proliferation, nuclear disarmament and peaceful uses of nuclear energy are three equally important and mutually re-enforcing pillars of the NPT – we need to reach global acceptance and ensure its uncompromised implementation.

Today, as the new review cycle for the NPT starts, we recall the 2010 Action Plan and the important tangible measures pertaining to the three pillars of the NPT contained therein. Actions laid-out in this document are equally valid today and when implemented can and will bring us closer to the ultimate goal of a world without nuclear weapons.

Let me here also recall the central role played by the IAEA in strengthening the international security architecture. While article IV of the Treaty grants all NPT State Parties the right to use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes the role of the IAEA in strengthening States’ capacity to ensure that all the norms pertaining to safety and security are rigorously observed and implemented is of critical importance. Responsible development of peaceful uses of nuclear energy is still one of the major tasks we all should aim to fulfil.

Croatia fully supports the strengthening of effectiveness of the IAEA safeguards system, which plays essential role in the implementation of the non-proliferation commitments under the NPT. Comprehensive Safeguards Agreements and the Additional Protocols are the verification standard of today and we call for their universalisation.
Croatia welcomes the entry into force of the Amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material, and adds its voice to the call on all States with nuclear facilities to become contracting parties to the Convention on Nuclear Safety and the Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and Radioactive Waste.

Another instrument of global importance for nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation efforts, the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) and its entry into force and universalisation remain constant security priority for Croatia. We wish to add our voice to the global plea to States that have not yet done so, in particular those listed in Annex 2, to sign and ratify this Treaty.

CTBT’s invaluable monitoring and verification system is a success story of global non-proliferation and scientific cooperation, but continuing efforts are necessary to encourage the completion of this system and to achieve, at last, the entry into force of the Treaty.

Finally, we wish to join the international call for the immediate commencement and early conclusion of the negotiation in the Conference on Disarmament of a Treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices (FMCT), on the basis of document CD/1299 and the mandate contained therein.

Mr. Chairman,

The UNSCR 1540 and subsequent resolution adopted last year 2325 represent another important milestones in ongoing efforts to curb proliferation efforts. Allow me here to say few words on current proliferation challenges such as those posed by the DPRK which by its nuclear testing and missiles launching is testing the international order and posing a global threat. We call on the DPRK to comply with its international obligations and re-engage meaningfully with the international community.

As we are nearing the fiftieth birthday of the NPT, we need to remain united in determination to uphold and preserve this Treaty at the heart of our global non-proliferation, arms control and disarmament efforts.
We embark on the difficult road towards the 2020 Review Conference with the burden of unsuccessful 2015 Conference and additional responsibility that stems from that.

This time we must succeed.

Therefore we have to use time in front of us wisely and efficiently, and against this background Croatia recognizes today’s meeting as particularly important.

Thank you.