Check against delivery

European Union

Statement on Cluster I issues

Preparatory Committee for the 2020 NPT Review Conference of the Parties to the
Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT)

First session, Vienna, 2-12 May 2017

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

Mr. Chairman,

2. For the European Union, the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) remains the cornerstone of the global nuclear non-proliferation regime, the essential foundation for the pursuit of nuclear disarmament in accordance with Article VI of the NPT and an important element in the future development of nuclear energy applications for peaceful purposes.

3. At the start of this important review cycle, our priority is to strengthen the implementation of the NPT in order to uphold and preserve its role as a key multilateral instrument for reinforcing international peace, security and stability and to promote its universalisation. We call upon States that have not yet done so to join the Treaty as non-nuclear weapon States. We reiterate the EU’s strong and resolute support to all three pillars of the Treaty which are equally important and mutually reinforcing and can contribute to a safer world. We call on all State Parties to implement all the obligations and commitments assumed under the NPT or undertaken during previous Review Conferences. The EU will continue to promote comprehensive, balanced and full implementation of the 2010 Action Plan designed to strengthen the three pillars of the Treaty. The concrete, equally important and mutually reinforcing steps on nuclear disarmament, non-proliferation and peaceful uses of nuclear energy contained in the 2010 Action Plan remain valid and will contribute to the objective of achieving a world without nuclear weapons. It is of utmost importance that all parties contribute to improving the strategic context for arms control and disarmament. The EU 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.
a moratorium on nuclear weapon test explosions or any other nuclear explosion, and
to refrain from any action that would defeat the object and purpose of the Treaty. The
EU will continue to provide strong diplomatic and financial support to the Treaty,
including enhancing the verification capabilities of the International Monitoring
System. The EU has hosted a dedicated side-event during this Preparatory
Committee session to highlight the importance of the CTBT. We welcome the
reaffirmation of the importance of the CTBT through UN Security Council Resolution
2310.

10. The EU remains united and committed to treaty-based nuclear disarmament and
arms control and stresses the need to renew multilateral efforts and revitalize
multilateral negotiating bodies. We reiterate the necessity, more than ever, to
overcome the longstanding deadlock of the Conference on Disarmament and recall
our commitment to its enlargement. We continue to 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. We welcome the establishment of the
High Level Expert Preparatory Group, whose mandate is to make recommendations
on substantial elements for a future Treaty, without prejudice to national positions in
future negotiations. In the meantime, we call on all States possessing nuclear
weapons that have not yet done so to declare and uphold an immediate moratorium
on their production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive
devices. We welcome the action by some nuclear weapon States, in particular by the
two EU Member States, which have declared relevant moratoria and dismantled or
converted such facilities and call on others to follow suit. Through its continued
financial support to the G7 Global Partnership and to the International Science and
Technology Centre (ISTC), the EU has significantly contributed to international
efforts to destroy and eliminate stockpiles of weapons of mass destruction and fissile
material, and to re-direct scientific and technical expertise for peaceful purposes.

11. The EU and its Member States supported the 2016 General Assembly Resolution
on Nuclear Disarmament Verification and we welcome the establishment of the
Group of Governmental Experts to consider the role of verification in advancing
nuclear disarmament. While verification is not an aim in itself, further development of
the multilateral nuclear verification capabilities will be required for the achievement
and maintenance of a world without nuclear weapons.

12. Promotion of gender equality, gender consciousness and empowerment of
women remains another key priority for the EU, including in the area of disarmament
and non-proliferation. The EU is committed to the full implementation of Resolution
1325 and all other relevant resolutions of the UN Security Council aimed at
advancing the women, peace and security agenda.

13. The EU recognizes the legitimate interest of non-nuclear weapon States in
receiving unequivocal security assurances from nuclear weapon States as part of a
binding and agreed security arrangement. The EU calls on all nuclear weapon States
to reaffirm existing security assurances noted by UN Security Council Resolution 984
(1995) and recalled in UN Security Council Resolution 1887 (2009) and Resolution
2310 (2016). The EU recalls that Russia has specifically committed to refraining from
the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or sovereignty of Ukraine