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**STATEMENT**

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THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF UKRAINE**

**AT THE GENERAL DEBATE IN THE FIRST COMMITTEE OF THE 58<sup>TH</sup>  
SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

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New York

First of all, I would like to extend my warmest congratulations to you, Mr. Chairman, on your assumption of the chairmanship of this Committee at this very important forum. I am confident that your diplomatic skills will lead our deliberations to successful outcome. In this regard you may be assured of my delegation's full support and cooperation. I would also like to express my appreciation to Under-Secretary-General Nobuyasu Abe.

**Mr. Chairman,**

The last years developments had significant implications on arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation. Some of them were encouraging as they charted positive trends while some have highlighted the fact that the security and stability of the international community continues to be challenged, both globally and regionally, by the risks associated with an uncontrolled spread of conventional arms, the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and the danger of WMD falling into the hands of aggressive non-state actors.

Alarming signs currently observed in the field of nuclear non-proliferation dictate an urgent necessity of strengthening the **Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT)** as the bedrock of the global non-proliferation efforts.

Since its accession to the NPT Ukraine has strictly fulfilled relevant Treaty obligations. Given a crucial contribution of the NPT to the preservation of international peace and security, we believe it particularly important to promote the universality of the NPT and to strengthen its viability through ensuring implementation of the Treaty in all its aspects by all Member States.

Ukraine welcomes the work done within the Second Preparatory Committee session held this spring in Geneva and calls on all states to do their best in order to make a success of the next PrepCom leading up to the 2005 NPT Review Conference.

In this context I would like to put a special emphasis on the necessity of adhering by all states parties to the NPT to the decisions of the 1995 and 2000 NPT Review Conferences including the 13 practical steps towards nuclear disarmament.

We have to admit that the progress in implementing the practical steps for the systematic and progressive efforts towards the nuclear disarmament as set forth in the Final Document of the 2000 NPT Review Conference remains to be far from desired. Prospects of the CTBT entry into force still look gloomy although it is this Treaty that is instrumental in advancing both non-proliferation and disarmament. As a full-fledged party to the CTBT Ukraine urges the states that still remain outside the Treaty to ratify or accede to it at an early date. We commend utmost restraint in conducting nuclear test explosions, exercised by the nuclear weapon states parties and non-parties to the CTBT. We hope that they will further keep in line with their commitment to maintain the global nuclear weapon test moratorium.

Uncertain security environment in the present world increases the importance of strengthening the **International Atomic Energy Agency's** capability to verify declared nuclear activities and especially to detect and deter clandestine nuclear activities. This can be accomplished through faithful and universal application of comprehensive safeguards agreements and additional protocols. Ukraine fully endorses measures envisaged by the Additional protocol. As of to date the preparatory activities for the ratification of the Protocol signed by Ukraine in 2000 have been underway.

Ukraine believes that legally binding security assurances by the nuclear-weapon-states to the non-nuclear weapon states parties to the NPT will significantly strengthen the nuclear non-proliferation regime by eliminating plausible incentives for pursuing nuclear capabilities. We strongly urge nuclear weapon states to review their policies in this respect and to confirm the validity of the relevant decisions made by the 1995 and 2000 NPT Review Conferences.

The nuclear disarmament and nonproliferation processes are closely interconnected and interdependent. Positive trends in the field of nuclear weapons reduction contribute substantially to strengthening the global nonproliferation regime and vice versa. That is why Ukraine after giving up its nuclear arsenal remains committed to attaining the goal of a nuclear weapon free world and that is why we share activities undertaken by the New Agenda Coalition group in this direction.

Ukraine welcomes efforts made by the United States of America and the Russian Federation with a view to bringing into force the **Strategic Offensive Reductions Treaty**. Ukraine highly appreciates those efforts and believes that implementation of the Moscow Treaty will pave the way to attaining the NPT disarmament goals. In its turn Ukraine as the state that has contributed essentially to the cause of nuclear disarmament within the START I framework hopes that the reductions in nuclear arsenals under the Moscow treaty will be irreversible.

In this connection let me underscore that on October 30, 2001 Ukraine completed fulfilling its obligations within the first stage of the START I implementation by destroying the last silo for the SS-24 Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles. As of to date we continue carrying out our START I commitments despite difficulties that we have recently faced with regard to receiving assistance in the liquidation of the loaded motor cases of SS-24 ICBMs.

Ukraine believes it important that the process of non-strategic nuclear weapons reduction be further pursued and the existing 1991-1992 regime be strengthened.

In view of the current security challenges stemming from the risk of WMD and related materials proliferation the issue of concluding the Fissile Material Cut-Off Treaty (FMCT) comes to the fore. During this year's annual session the **Conference on Disarmament** has witnessed an important cross-group effort to achieve an agreement on a programme of work. We express hope that this positive trend will result in practical measures.

One of the most positive events of the preceding year is the establishment of the **Global Partnership against the Spread of Weapons and Materials of Mass Destruction** launched at the G-8 Kananaskis Summit. We regard this step as an essential contribution to enhancing multilateral non-proliferation efforts and attach great importance to practical realization of the Kananaskis initiative and reiterate our readiness to actively participate in it.

**Mr. Chairman,**

Growing proliferation of WMD goes in parallel with the spread of ballistic missiles. To curb this negative trend Ukraine along with many other states signed the **International Code of Conduct against Ballistic Missile Proliferation** back in November 2002. Ukraine is convinced that the elaboration of legally binding international instruments on the missile related issues should take place within a multilateral, universal and non-discriminatory framework.

**Mr. Chairman,**

Ensuring proper implementation of the **Chemical Weapons Convention** is one of the key priorities of Ukraine in the sphere of non-proliferation and arms control. We strongly believe that a complete ban of chemical weapons and their destruction will greatly contribute to the elimination of threats to the international security, global and regional stability. Ukraine calls on all the countries that have not yet ratified or signed the Convention to do it as soon as possible. Efforts to strengthen the CWC and to support the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons must be continued.

Ukraine fully supports the purposes of the **Biological Weapons Convention** and strictly complies with its obligations under the BWC. Our country annually submits to the United Nations Secretariat necessary information on the BWC implementation within the framework of confidence-building measures. We welcome the decision of the Fifth BWC Review Conference to hold three annual meetings of the States Parties commencing in 2003 until the Sixth Review Conference with a view to elaborating new approaches to ensure full compliance with the Convention provisions.

**Mr. Chairman,**

The gravity of the problem of **small arms and light weapons** is clearly illustrated by the fact that these weapons cause more than 90 per cent of all casualties in armed conflicts. The Programme of Action adopted at the United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects in 2001 is a historic landmark representing the collective will of the international community to address such problems. We support conclusions made at the first biennial meeting concerning the necessity of enhancing the capacity of local authorities and communities

in crisis or post conflict situations to control illegal weapons and their traffickers and conducting systematic action-orientated research on the dynamics of the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons.

**Mr. Chairman,**

As the country that experienced significant human losses during the war times of its history Ukraine showed clear understanding and due attention to the problems of those countries that still suffer from a wide-scale use of mines.

Being the mine-affected country with enormous stockpiles of antipersonnel land mines inherited from the former Soviet Union Ukraine got actively engaged with its partners, particularly with Canada, in the project aimed at destruction of its APLs stocks. Following the Framework Arrangement between the Government of Canada and Government of Ukraine on APLs destruction in Ukraine and the Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of Ukraine and the NATO Maintenance and Supply Organization on Logistics Support Co-Operation the project on destruction of 400 000 APLs of PMN-type was started in Ukraine in July 2002. And it is with a great deal of appreciation that we welcome today the successful completion of the mentioned project. Although the PMN project is a positive achievement in our common efforts it should be kept in mind that PMN makes up only 7% of the overall Ukrainian APLs stockpiles.

**Mr. Chairman,**

The events of 11 September 2001 highlighted the importance of efficient **export control measures**. Ukraine finds it essential that all exporting States assume their responsibilities and take measures to ensure that exports of sensitive materials, equipment and technologies are subject to appropriate surveillance and control. In that context, we support the efforts of the Nuclear Suppliers Group, the Australia Group, the Missile Technology Control Regime and the Wassenaar Arrangement to prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and of their means of delivery and, in the case of the Wassenaar Arrangement, to promote transparency and greater responsibility in the transfer of conventional arms and of dual-use goods and technologies.

Before concluding, Mr. Chairman, my delegation wishes to pay the highest tribute to the Department for Disarmament Affairs under the effective leadership of Under-Secretary-General. We are confident that with Mr. Abe's guide the Department will continue to play a supportive role in the service of the States Members of this Organization.

**Thank you, Mr. Chairman.**