

## **NEW AGENDA COALITION**

STATEMENT BY  
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Mr. Chairman,

I am honored to take the floor on behalf of Egypt, Ireland, Mexico, New Zealand, South Africa, Sweden and Brazil.

At the outset, I wish to express our warm congratulations on your election as Chairman of this year's session of the First Committee of the General Assembly. Please accept our best wishes and the assurance of our cooperation.

We welcome the appointment of Undersecretary-General Nobuyasu Abe and look forward to cooperate with him and his team at the Department of Disarmament Affairs.

Mr. Chairman,

In 1995, the States parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons renewed their commitment to pursue negotiations in good faith on effective nuclear disarmament. They agreed that the objective of universal adherence to the NPT is an urgent priority. At the 2000 NPT Review Conference the States parties to the Treaty agreed on a program of action - "the 13 Steps" -, which provides the requisite blueprint to achieve nuclear disarmament. The nuclear weapon States at that time made an unequivocal undertaking to accomplish the total elimination of their nuclear arsenals. They also recognized the principle of irreversibility, to apply to all nuclear disarmament and nuclear reduction measures.

In the context of these commitments, the New Agenda Coalition is deeply concerned at the lack of progress in the implementation of the thirteen steps on nuclear disarmament to which all States parties to the Treaty on the Non-

Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons agreed at the 2000 NPT Review Conference. Each article of the NPT is binding on the respective States parties, at all times and in all circumstances. All NPT States parties must be held fully accountable with respect to the strict compliance of their obligations under the Treaty. The implementation of undertakings therein on nuclear disarmament remains the imperative.

The New Agenda Coalition is also concerned by the challenges faced by the nuclear non-proliferation regime.

The New Agenda Coalition views it as a priority to achieve universal adherence to the NPT and to promptly have India, Israel and Pakistan joining the Treaty, as non-nuclear-weapon States.

Of deep concern for us is the announcement by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea of its intention to withdraw from the NPT, and related developments, as well as ambiguities regarding the implementation by States of their respective safeguards obligations towards the International Atomic Energy Agency. Another particular disturbing development are the emerging approaches to the broader role of nuclear weapons as part of security strategies, including rationalizations for the use and the development of new types of nuclear weapons. There is a disturbing trend to erase the distinction between conventional weapons and non- strategic nuclear weapons. This trend is among the many horizontal and vertical pressures, which are extending the range of nuclear and the related threats we face.

The New Agenda Coalition welcomes recent developments in the Conference on Disarmament, which would allow the CD to move from impasse to an agreement on a comprehensive program of work.

Mr. Chairman,

The New Agenda will submit two draft resolutions. The first of these draft resolutions, entitled "Towards a nuclear weapon free world: a new agenda", builds on the previous work of the New Agenda Coalition at the 2000 Review Conference of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and at the Preparatory Committee's meetings of the 2005 NPT Review Conference.

Our second draft resolution, entitled "Reductions of non- strategic nuclear weapons", builds on Resolution 57/58 and is an effort to highlight different aspects of the particular threat posed by tactical nuclear weapons. Reductions of non- strategic nuclear weapons should be accorded a higher priority, as an important step towards the elimination of nuclear weapons.

It is our view, Mr. Chairman, that our draft resolutions have the necessary operational flexibility to meet the concerns of all States for whom a nuclear-weapon-free world is a sincere aspiration. We invite all of them to support our two draft resolutions in a spirit of shared global concern and of collective action in relation to nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation and to the goal of a nuclear- weapon-free world.

Mr. Chairman,

A nuclear-weapon-free world is an aspiration and a common responsibility of the entire international community. To attain a nuclear-weapon-free world, it is vital to prevent nuclear proliferation, and at the same time it is imperative to promote nuclear disarmament. The New Agenda Coalition firmly believes that nuclear non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament are mutually reinforcing processes and that there can be no lasting progress in non-proliferation efforts in the absence of commensurate developments in the field of nuclear disarmament.

To ensure the sustainability of the nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime, States must refrain from any action that could lead to a new arms race or that could impact negatively on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation.

It is also our firm belief that, as long as nuclear weapons continue to play a role in security policies, the risk of proliferation will not cease to haunt us.

Any possibility that nuclear weapons could be used represents a continued risk for humanity. The recent international debate on weapons of mass destruction has only highlighted that the sole guarantee against the use of any weapon of mass destruction anywhere, including nuclear weapons, is

their total elimination and the assurance that they will never be used or produced again.

Mr. Chairman,

International peace and security is a collective concern requiring collective engagement and the participation of the international community as a whole is central to the maintenance and enhancement of peace and security.

Multilateralism is the collective will of all countries to act together. In the arena of nuclear disarmament, multilateralism can be undermined by those who choose not to fulfill their non-proliferation obligations. It can also be undermined by those under an obligation to disarm and to demonstrate leadership and progress but yet fail to do so, and by those States that continue to remain outside the NPT.

The New Agenda Coalition hopes that this Committee will be able to foster a constructive and forward-looking approach to pressing issues in the area of disarmament.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.