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UKRAINE

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STATEMENT

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**AT THE GENERAL DEBATE IN THE FIRST COMMITTEE OF THE 59TH
SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**8 October 2004
New York**

First of all, I would like to extend my warmest congratulations to you, Ambassador De Alba, on your assumption of the chairmanship of this Committee. I am confident that your diplomatic skills will lead our deliberations to the 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,

Trends, which are currently observed in the field of international security, had and will have significant implications for the prospects of arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation. In light of a growing and unpredictable threat posed by terrorists, the efforts to curb proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems gain additional importance.

At the same time, some specific steps should be taken to ensure the universality of existing international treaties in the field of WMD non-proliferation and disarmament as well as strict compliance of all states-parties with the provisions thereof. In this connection Ukraine welcomes a historic decision by the Libyan leadership to abandon programs for developing WMD and to accede to the major international treaties in this field.

Ukraine highly appreciates a more active involvement of the UN Security Council in addressing the threat of WMD proliferation through adoption of the resolution 1540. We strongly support the objectives of this resolution and believe that implementation of its provisions will essentially reduce the mentioned threat. In this connection I cannot but mention the progress in activities within the Proliferation Security Initiative (PSI).

I have the privilege to draw your attention to the fact that this year marks the 10th anniversary of Ukraine's accession to the NPT. By acceding to the NPT as a non-nuclear weapon state Ukraine facilitated significantly the enhancement of the international nonproliferation regime and of the global security, created favorable conditions for the indefinite extension of the Treaty.

Ukraine ensured reduction of all nuclear weapons inherited from the former Soviet Union. At the same time, as part of Ukraine's obligations under START I we still have to eliminate 5 thousand tones of solid propellant from SS-24 Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles. Despite the fact that recently Ukraine has adopted the state support program for the disposal of this considerable amount of dangerous material, there is an urgent need for additional financing by donor-countries. In this context we appeal to the international community to find the ways and means to provide assistance for this demilitarization project, which is considered to be an integral part of the nuclear disarmament in Ukraine.

Given a crucial contribution of the NPT to the preservation of international peace and security, we believe it is particularly important to promote the universality of this Treaty and to strengthen its viability through strict implementation in all its aspects by all Member States.

Ukraine takes note of the work done within the Third session of the NPT Preparatory Committee held this spring and calls on all states to make necessary efforts to reach the successful outcome of the 2005 NPT Review Conference.

It is with regret that we note the lack of progress in ensuring the entry into force of the CTBT. Ukraine strongly urges the states that still remain outside the Treaty to ratify or accede to it at an early date.

Uncertain security environment in the present world increases the importance of strengthening the capability of the IAEA in the field of nuclear non-proliferation. This can be accomplished through faithful and universal application of comprehensive safeguards agreements and additional protocols. As of today the preparatory activities for the ratification of the Protocol signed by Ukraine in 2000 have been completed and ratification is expected very soon.

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. In this connection encouraging also is the reaffirmation by many states of their support for the commencement of FMCT negotiations.

Establishment of the Global Partnership against the Spread of Weapons and Materials of Mass Destruction launched at the G-8 Kananaskis Summit was an important contribution to enhancing multilateral non-proliferation efforts. Since Ukraine attaches great importance to the implementation of the Kananaskis initiative we appreciate the recently adopted decision on Ukraine's participation in it.

Mr. Chairman,

Ensuring proper implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention is one of the key priorities of Ukraine. We are now getting ready to holding multilateral training exercises "ASSISTEX-2", which are to take place on the territory of Ukraine in 2005. Ukraine calls on all countries that have not yet ratified or signed the Convention to do this as soon as possible.

Ukraine fully supports the purposes of the Biological Weapons Convention and strictly complies with its obligations under the BWC. It is time to make decisive efforts to develop an appropriate verification mechanism for BWC.

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. As part of our efforts to fulfill 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 Ukraine, with the assistance provided through NATO PfP Trust Fund, expects to destroy 1,5 mln pieces of SALW and 133 thousand tons of surplus ammunition.

Ukraine attaches great importance to the urgent need to solve numerous problems associated with a wide-scale use of landmines. We are committed to the goals of the Mine-Ban Treaty. Nowadays Ukraine is in the process of completing preparatory activities necessary to provide the ratification of this instrument. Ukraine stands for enhanced consideration of the issue of providing additional technical and financial assistance not only for mine clearance but also for stockpiles destruction. In this connection, I would like to stress that Ukraine still faces the problem of destruction of the stockpiles of 6 million PFM-type antipersonnel landmines. In view of this we call upon the international community to provide the relevant assistance. On the first Review Conference of the Mine-Ban Treaty, which would take place in Nairobi in November this year, it would be an opportunity for the states to renew commitments towards a world free of anti-personnel mines.

Mr. Chairman,

In order to fulfill its mandate in changing security environment strengthening the functioning of the First Committee is an urgent task. Ukraine is committed to the reform of the First Committee

and we are ready to work closely with the Chair and other delegation to streamline our deliberations on this issue.

Mr. Chairman,

We highly appreciate the efforts of the UN Department for Disarmament Affairs with regard to holding meetings of the Group of Governmental Experts on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development and of the Group of Governmental Experts on the Issue of Missiles in All its Aspects. We commend successful outcome of the GGE sessions on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development. However, absence of consensus observed at the meetings of the GGE on Missiles points to the fact that this issue will require our utmost attention in the future. Proliferation of missiles destabilizes regional and global security. From this perspective The Hague Code of Conduct Against Ballistic Missiles Proliferation has to be firmly established as a universal and viable confidence-building measure.

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 guidance the DDA will continue to play a supportive role in the service of the States Members of this Organization.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.