



NORWAY

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STATEMENT

BY

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PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE

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Mr. President,

Multilateralism in disarmament and non-proliferation is under growing stress. The 2005 Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference failed in producing a substantive outcome. The World Summit could not agree a text on how to deal with grave proliferation challenges. The entry into force of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty seems to be more distant than ever. The Conference on Disarmament is still caught in an long-lasting impasse. The United Nations Disarmament Commission has not delivered any recommendation for years.

This grim situation is unfortunate in view of all the pressing security challenges we are facing, such as the risk of proliferation of weapons of mass destruction to new States and terrorist groups, illicit trafficking in nuclear technology, the existence of a large amount of unsecured nuclear material, the growing fear that nuclear weapons might be given a more prominent and additional role in security policies, and insufficient progress in nuclear disarmament.

Mr. President,

A new course in multilateral arms control diplomacy is achievable.

As is well known, Norway, together with six other countries from different regions of the world, tabled concrete texts for the Summit Outcome Document. The initiative was well received. Regrettably, the proposal did not command the required consensus.

This cross-regional initiative on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation demonstrated that countries from different groups and with different perspectives, could set aside past differences and reach agreement. The seven countries made a deliberate choice to be guided by the spirit of compromise.

Norway will take up the challenge laid out by the UN Secretary-General and will continue to seek consensus and concrete results. We will do this within the group of seven countries and together with all the countries that have supported our efforts.

Mr. President,

Compliance is a pre-condition for the credibility of arms control treaties. Non-compliance is a challenge to multilateralism. Regrettably, the international community has been confronted with serious compliance matters.

Since October 2003, good progress has been made in correcting the breaches of Iran's obligations under its safeguards agreement. However, there remains a confidence deficit that hampers a political solution. We therefore urge Iran to heed the Agency's plea for transparency measures that go beyond the formal requirements of the Additional Protocol, in order to bring the investigations to a conclusion as soon as possible.

It is up to Iran to allow diplomacy to do its job in removing our justified concerns about its nuclear programme. We must avoid steps that might escalate the situation. It should be in the interest of all parties to pave the way for resumption of negotiations.

Norway welcomes the agreement reached in the Six-party talks concerning the denuclearisation of the Korean Peninsula. We expect all parties to live up to their commitments and to take coordinated steps in line with the principle of commitment for commitment, action for action, aimed at implementing the 1992 joint Declaration of the de-nuclearisation of the Korean peninsula.

Mr. President,

Despite set-backs in key areas of multilateral disarmament and non-proliferation diplomacy, there are more hopeful developments. Let me highlight the most important:

- We welcome International Convention on the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism and the amended Convention of Physical Protection of Nuclear Material. Our next challenge is to make these two instruments universal.
- It is equally encouraging that an increasing number of countries are concluding IAEA Additional Protocols. But progress is too slow. We must seek universal implementation of this improved verification instrument.
- The nuclear arms reductions as stipulated by the Strategic Offensive Reduction Treaty (SORT) is a positive contribution to fulfill the NPT disarmament obligations. We need, however, irreversible cuts beyond the SORT.
- Norway also welcomes the newly negotiated instrument on tracing and marking of small arms. The General Assembly must now adopt the proposed instrument and should also give directions on how to deal with the question of ammunition. We also expect the General Assembly to give a mandate for a

Governmental Group of Experts, to explore ways of enhancing international co-operation on combating illicit brokering of small arms and light weapons.

- The Mine Ban Treaty remains a strong evidence of constructive multilateralism and that it is possible to work in innovative ways.
- Norway is pleased that a the new protocol on Explosive Remnants of War to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons is gathering increased support. The Norwegian Parliament has approved ratification of the ERW protocol. But we need to develop even more effective instruments for preventing human sufferings caused by the use of certain sub-munitions.
- We also welcome the continued progress in the implementation of the G8 Global Partnership Against the Spread of Weapons and Materials of Mass Destruction. Norway is actively contributing to this Partnership through our programmes in Northern-Western Russia.
- Norway is pleased that the Proliferation Security Initiative has wide-spread support. This is an important instrument in fighting international terrorism.
- We appreciate that more countries are signing up to the Hague Code of Conduct against Ballistic Missiles Proliferation. We must work for universal adherence to the Code.

Mr. President,

While achieving progress in some fields, we are still facing serious challenges.

This General Assembly should therefore send a forceful message to the relevant multilateral bodies that they must get down to real business.

At the same time this Committee should reaffirm the relevance of the NPT and the close interlinkage between disarmament, non-proliferation and peaceful use.

This Committee should reiterate the impatience by the international community for an early entry-into force of the CTBT. This was clearly demonstrated some few weeks ago here in New York at the Conference on Facilitating the Early Into Force of the CTBT.

It is equally important that this Committee supports the Chemical Weapons Convention and the Biological and Toxins Weapons Convention and calls for steps to further strengthen these two vital treaties.

To conclude Mr. President,

The proliferation challenges facing us are serious. We must overcome our disappointment with the NPT Review Conference and the World Summit. We must bring greater determination to our efforts to forge a new global disarmament and non-proliferation consensus. We must mobilise the necessary political will to make multilateralism work. We have a choice. Let us use it for the sake of international peace and security.