



# NORWAY

## **General Assembly**

**62<sup>nd</sup> Session**

**Continuation of the thematic discussion on items  
and introduction and consideration of all draft  
resolutions submitted under items 88 to 105**

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## **STATEMENT**

**By**

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*[www.norway-un.org](http://www.norway-un.org)*

United Nations General Assembly 62 Session  
First Committee  
Thematic Debate on Nuclear Weapons  
Statement by Norway

Mr. Chair,

In our general statement last week my delegation highlighted the need to restore international consensus on a comprehensive approach where the three pillars of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) mutually support each other.

It is the firm view of my delegation that we can forge a new international consensus. The Seven Nation Initiative has demonstrated that countries with different perspectives can develop a common understanding on how to move the disarmament and non-proliferation agenda forward.

We must make full use of the NPT 2010 Review process. The first meeting of the Preparatory Committee held in Vienna this spring provided us with a good start. We expect that the next preparatory meetings will sustain and even strengthen a positive momentum up to 2010.

Mr. Chair,

Both nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation are essential in order to achieve our common objective of a nuclear weapons free world. Yet, we must refrain from artificial links. Necessary non-proliferation measures cannot be delayed due to a perceived lack of progress in the disarmament area. At the same time, a diminished role of nuclear weapons in security policies will contribute to reducing the attractiveness of acquiring such a weapon.

From a Norwegian perspective, there are a number of steps which should be taken to promote a robust non-proliferation regime and creating an environment conducive for disarmament.

1. We must resolve current proliferation challenges by diplomatic means. We find recent development in the Six party negotiations to dismantle the nuclear weapons programme of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea very encouraging. We urge the DPRK to make full use of this window of opportunity.

2. Likewise we must intensify efforts to make progress on the Iran dossier. To this end we urge Iran to meet the demands by the international community in order to facilitate a process to reach a diplomatic solution.

3. The IAEA comprehensive safeguards and the Additional Protocol constitute the verification standard. Only through the Additional Protocol will the IAEA be able to determine whether nuclear activities in a given country are for peaceful purposes solely. We call upon all states to ratify and implement the Additional Protocol without delay.

4. The Security Council resolution 1540 underlines the need for each member state to adopt and implement adequate national non-proliferation measures. It is vital that we all do our homework in this vital field. Norway has supported financially regional workshops organised by the UN to promote the implementation of Security Council resolution 1540.

5. A broader nuclear security and non-proliferation architecture must also cover credible efforts to combat nuclear terrorism. Norway fully supports the revised Convention on Physical Protection of Nuclear Material and the Convention on Suppression of Nuclear Terrorism. Likewise we must intensify efforts to minimise the use of Highly Enriched Uranium in the civilian sector.

Mr. Chair,

It is the firm conviction of my delegation that nuclear disarmament on the basis of irreversibility, transparency and verification is essential to remove the availability of nuclear weapons. Nuclear weapons which are dismantled cannot end up in the wrong hands.

We need an incremental disarmament agenda.

Firstly, we need further reductions in the nuclear arsenals. Some days ago the US delegation made a comprehensive presentation on steps taken to meet its article VI obligations of the NPT. Norway welcomes the considerable reductions which have taken place since the end of the Cold War. START will expire in 2009 and SORT in 2012. It is vital that these treaties are replaced by new agreements and lead to deeper and irreversible reductions. It is encouraging that consultations between the US and the Russian Federation have already started.

Likewise, we hope it will be possible to move forward on sub-strategic nuclear weapons.

Secondly, the US presentation demonstrated that steps are taken towards disarmament. Transparency on disarmament measures is essential to foster confidence that we are moving towards further reductions in the nuclear weapons stocks. We encourage all nuclear weapons states to exercise the fullest transparency possible.

Thirdly, we cannot attain total elimination of nuclear weapons unless we are able to prevent a new arms race. Norway attaches great importance to existing bilateral arms control treaties. But we also need multilateral treaties such as the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) and the Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty (FMCT) in order to cap any new arms race.

My delegation reiterates the importance of the CTBT. We welcome the unilateral test moratoria in place, but they cannot replace the fundamental value of a global and legally binding treaty. Norway urges full universalisation of the CTBT.

It is high time to start negotiations on a FMCT. We were close to an agreement on a programme of work in the Conference on Disarmament earlier this year. My delegation was deeply disappointed that some countries blocked such an agreement. Our view is that FMCT negotiations should be commenced without pre-conditions. However, during such negotiations, we hope that a common understanding will emerge that credible verification is both feasible and serve the cause of international security.

We also expect that the question of existing stocks will be addressed. Already today important steps are taken to remove stocks of fissile material no longer serving military purposes and converted to civilian use.

Fourthly, we consider nuclear weapons free zones as both important disarmament and non-proliferation instruments. Such zones, based on guidelines by the United Nations Disarmament Commission, provide an important avenue for attaining legally binding negative security assurances. More efforts should be mobilised to promote regional zones enabling the nuclear weapons states to sign and ratify the supporting protocols.

Fifthly, we remain convinced that continued efforts to reduce the operational status of nuclear weapons, as agreed in previous NPT Review Conferences, will generate more confidence and security. We welcome efforts taken so far, and encourage further steps.

Sixth, all nations have a responsibility to contribute to disarmament. Norway, for its part, allocates considerable financial resources for nuclear security and dismantlement of nuclear submarines in North Western Russia.

Seventh, we must engage civil society in promoting nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation.

Mr. Chair,

This year's session of the First Committee will take on a number of resolutions on nuclear weapons. Prior to this session our hope is that consultations as the one we are holding today will allow for fruitful deliberations, and moving positions closer to each other and thus contribute to consensus building.