

STATEMENT
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at the First Committee General Debate
of the 62nd Session of the United Nations General Assembly

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Mr. Chairman,

First of all, I would like to extend my warmest congratulations to you, Ambassador Badji, 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.

Mr. Chairman,

Distinguished delegates,

The important ideas that emerged from the general debate at this session of the General Assembly have confirmed the essential role of the United Nations in the world affairs. The main task before us is to enhance the effectiveness of the Organization, bring the world community together to confront new and existing threats and to ensure international security.

The international community continues to be challenged by the threats brought about by the risk of proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery. In today's changing global security environment the strengthening of international and national legal norms and instruments to prevent the WMD proliferation remains to be a top priority.

A broad and comprehensive concept is needed to counter effectively risks which may arise from the WMD proliferation. In this regard the European Security Strategy which embraces universalisation and reinforcement of multilateral agreements related to WMD, export controls regimes, criminalization of prohibited activities as well as enhancement of the relevant physical protection provides a good basis for consolidating efforts and transforming our aspiration into concrete actions.

The NPT continues to be the cornerstone of the global non-proliferation regime, the essential foundation for the pursuit of nuclear disarmament in accordance with its article VI, and an important element in the further development of nuclear energy applications for peaceful purposes. The Treaty is as vital as ever. We also continue to work towards universal accession to the NPT and call upon those States, which are not yet Parties to it, to join the Treaty.

Ukraine considers that comprehensive safeguards agreements, together with additional protocols, constitute the current verification standard of the International Atomic Energy Agency and are the essential means for the States Parties to demonstrate that they are fulfilling their obligations under the NPT.

We recognize the inalienable right of the NPT Parties develop research, production and use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes without discrimination and in conformity with articles I and II of the NPT. However, maintaining the balance between rights and obligations envisaged in the Treaty is essential. Ukraine recognizes the special role of the IAEA and stands for enhancement of its effectiveness. We do also believe that it is time to resume efforts to establish similar machinery within the framework of the Biological Weapons Convention.

We also support strengthening the role of the Security Council as the final arbiter of international peace and security in order that it can take appropriate action in the event of non-compliance with NPT obligations.

Ukraine welcomes positive outcome of the First Preparatory Committee meeting of the 2010 NPT Review Conference. We hope that the current NPT review cycle will produce tangible results that would enable realization of appropriate measures in order to strengthen the regime's integrity and implementation. Taking this opportunity I would like to inform the members of the Committee on the intention of H.E. Ambassador Volodymyr Yel'cherko, a current Chairperson of the II NPT Preparatory Committee meeting, to organize and to hold within this session of the First Committee open-ended informal consultations with all NPT State Parties' delegations to exchange views on a range of issues relevant to the next year Prepcom in Geneva.

I would also like to reiterate the vital importance of the CTBT's universalisation. We are confident that entry into force of the CTBT will tangibly help to realize the noble objective of a safe and peaceful world free of nuclear weapons. Ukraine, whose role in the nuclear disarmament can serve as an example, remains to be one of the strongest and consistent supporters of the standing international instruments in this field. We call upon all States, particularly those listed in Annex II of the Treaty, to adhere the CTBT without delay and unconditionally.

It is of the greatest importance that the integrity of the norms set by the CTBT is respected. Pending the Treaty's entry into force, the moratorium on nuclear tests or any other nuclear explosions should be maintained. We call upon all states to refrain from any action contrary to the Treaty and to further demonstrate their firm determination to observe the CTBT norms and keep to their commitments once the Treaty enters into force.

Mr. Chairman,

Ukraine greatly values regional approaches to nuclear disarmament. Confidence-building measures, including establishment of nuclear-weapon free zones, can contribute significantly to disarmament. We welcome all existing nuclear-weapon-free zones and call for the establishment of similar zones in South Asia, the Middle East and other parts of the world.

Ukraine is concerned with the intention of one State to suspend implementation of the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe (CFE). Confirming fundamental role the CFE Treaty is continuing to play as one of the most important multilateral documents on arms control we consider it as basic element of present and future military security, peace and stability in Europe and would like to stress our adherence to the idea of preserving the CFE Treaty regime. At the same time we acknowledge the fact that the CFE Treaty of 1990 does not correspond to the current security circumstances in Europe

We believe that international community and first of all CFE countries have to react quickly to overcome the situation which potentially may lead to the new dividing lines in Europe. In this context we warmly welcome efforts undertaken by the USA to start the parallel NATO and Russian process of actions that could create necessary conditions to overcome all existing problems. Ukraine is ready to contribute to these efforts any time and anywhere.

We stress the need to continue to strengthen action in countering the uncontrolled proliferation of small arms and light weapons (SALW) and their ammunition, in particular by the Transport Aviation. Ukraine is a devoted advocate of the efforts within the UN system and at the regional level

to address the SALW issue in all its aspects. Being a firm supporter of practical steps on national level to ensure effective implementation of the UN PoA as well as the OSCE Document on SALW, Ukraine attaches particular importance to destruction of excessive stockpiles of this kind of weapons and related ammunition.

Another important instrument of both disarmament and international humanitarian law is the Mine Ban Treaty. Ukraine renders a great importance to the proper implementation of the MBT that includes mine clearance, victims' assistance and stockpiles destruction. It is evident that without deepening international cooperation it would be very difficult to reach a paramount goal of the Treaty. Ukraine remains ready to intensify efforts with its partners in order to ensure timely and proper implementation of its MBT obligations.

As a State Party to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW) with the amendment and all its five Protocols, Ukraine is fully committed to a proper compliance with them. My country shares the need of strengthening the effectiveness of the CCW and its Protocols, which are currently in force, as the important instruments aimed at reducing the negative consequences coming both from conventional warfare operations and on their aftermath, both to combatants and to civilians.

We believe that the CCW provides an effective basis for international actions on major problems arising from use of existing conventional weapons as well as those still to come. Regarding possible enlargement of the CCW scope to other kinds of conventional weapons, we would like to stress the importance of taking into account all positions of Convention's Parties before final decision is taken. At the same time we are confident that effectiveness of new binding measures can be fully achieved only under condition of their universal application and result-oriented international cooperation.

With regard to the issue of regulating global trade in conventional arms, Ukraine supports the initiative on the International Arms Trade Treaty (IATT) which could become a comprehensive instrument for establishing common standards in this field thus preventing conventional arms proliferation. At the same time introduction of new rules should not hamper the legitimate defense needs of participating states.

Commemorating the tenth anniversary of Chemical Weapons Convention this year, we express our regret that it has not yet acquired universal status. We are confident that full achievement of the Convention goals, namely ensuring total liquidation of one of the WMD types, is possible only under the conditions of joining the Convention by all states. In its turn Ukraine would be ready to host, together with other interested parties to the Convention and under the support of the OPCW, an International Conference dedicated to the issues of joining the Convention by the states remaining outside the CWC.

Mr. Chairman,

Distinguished delegates,

To conclude my statement I would like to underline the urgency of consolidating international efforts to strive for achieving progress in the areas of disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control, in the UN and other fora, for the sake of our future generations.

Thank you.