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UKRAINE

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STATEMENT

by H.E. Mr. Yuriy Sergeyev

Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations

at the First Committee General Debate

of the 63rd Session of the United Nations General Assembly

7 October 2008, New York

Permanent Mission of Ukraine to the United Nations
220 East 51st Street, New York, NY 10022 tel. (212) 759 7003, fax (212) 355 9455
E-mail: uno_us@mfa.gov.ua <http://www.mfa.gov.ua/uno>

Mr. Chairman,

Allow me at the outset to congratulate you and the other members of the Bureau on your well-deserved election. We are confident that your leadership will steer our work to a successful conclusion. In this regard you may be assured of my delegation's full support and cooperation.

Mr. Chairman,

Distinguished delegates,

The delegation of Ukraine fully associates itself with the statement delivered by France on behalf of the EU. At the same time I would like to use this opportunity to address additionally some issues which are of considerable importance for Ukraine.

Ukraine consistently supports multilateral approach to **disarmament and international security agenda**. While recognizing difficulties in implementation of existing international treaties, in bringing into force of new ones as well as deadlock in disarmament negotiations, we fully reaffirm our **commitment to maintain and to strengthen current disarmament machinery**, mainly First Committee, Conference on Disarmament and Commission on Disarmament.

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. We will also continue to support the work of the **1540 Committee** which complements the global efforts against the proliferation of the WMD and their means of delivery.

The **Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC)** and the **Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention (BTWC)** are two important components of the global system against proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. Non-accession to these conventions continues to pose serious challenge to our global security. Once again, we reiterate our call for a wider adherence and an effective implementation of these conventions.

Ukraine regards the **Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT)** as the cornerstone of the global nuclear non-proliferation regime. We are fully committed to the implementation of the NPT in all its three mutually reinforcing pillars, namely, non-proliferation, disarmament and peaceful uses of nuclear energy. 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 recognizes the inalienable right of the NPT Parties to 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**, its safeguards system and stands for enhancement of its effectiveness.

We remain confident that all processes should go along with the overall improvement of international situation in other spheres, establishment and practical implementation of universal security guarantees, adherence by all States and international organizations to the norms and basic principles of international law, unconditional compliance with their obligations, consolidation of an atmosphere of mutual trust.

Ukraine welcomes positive outcome of the **Second session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2010 NPT Review Conference** held under the skillful leadership of Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the International Organizations in Vienna, Ambassador Volodymyr Yel'chenko. 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. This year the delegation of Ukraine intends to propose for consideration by the delegations draft resolution: "Towards the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons" the main purpose of which is to give some guidance and impetus for delegations in their deliberation at the third session of Preparatory Committee concerning the issues on which, as we believe, States may produce the agreed recommendation for the next Review Conference.

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.

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.

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 (ATT)** which could become a comprehensive instrument for establishing common standards in this field thus preventing conventional arms diversion. In this regard I would like to mention that the Ukrainian Governmental Expert was a member of the UN Governmental Group of Experts towards an arms trade treaty: establishing common international standards for the import, export and transfer of conventional arms, and we hope the outcomes reached by this Group will become the first step in this process.

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.