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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 64<sup>th</sup> Session of the United Nations General Assembly**

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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 Sweden 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**. We fully reaffirm our **commitment to maintain and to strengthen current disarmament machinery**, mainly First Committee, Conference on Disarmament and Commission on Disarmament.

Ukraine as the country that has **voluntarily renounced world's third largest nuclear arsenal**, thus having made a significant contribution to nuclear disarmament and the strengthening of regional and global security, would like to use this opportunity to confirm its commitments to secure peace and stability.

The use of weapons of mass destruction and nuclear weapons in particular remains the most alarming issue of our time and the largest threat to humankind. We believe it is necessary to halt the proliferation of these weapons, while preserving and ratifying treaties aimed at total disarmament.

It is encouraging that many political leaders are coming out in support of the clear and **vital goal of a nuclear weapon-free world**. Governments must begin now to think how they will design their countries' future security without these weapons.

We also welcome the efforts of the United States and the Russian Federation to develop a new meaningful and verifiable START follow-up treaty. We respect the decision of the two biggest possessor states to develop a bilateral legally binding instrument which should represent a real progress in the process of nuclear disarmament.

Taking into account the fact that the two countries do not wish to extend the treaty in its current form we urge the United States and the Russian Federation to finalize the follow-up process before December 5, when START expires.

Mr. Chairman,

I would like to reiterate the vital importance of the **Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty'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 hope that the US President Barack Obama commitment to pursue United States' ratification of the CTBT will be fulfilled soon.

Meanwhile, 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,

Next year the 2010 Review Conference of the **Non-Proliferation Treaty** will take place. Ukraine regards the 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.

In this context, we hope that implementation of the recently adopted UNSC resolution 1887 (2009) will make considerable contribution towards successful outcome of the 2010 NPT review cycle.

Ukraine, having voluntarily renounced world's third largest nuclear arsenal and having acceded to the NPT as a non-nuclear state simultaneously becoming a party to the STAR Treaty, welcomes and supports these efforts of international community aimed at strengthening the non-proliferation regime.

We also welcome the fact that the Geneva-based **Conference on Disarmament (CD)** agreed this year on a program of work, ending almost 12 years of deadlock. It gives hope for further progress in a series of pressing disarmament and non-proliferation issues. Especially we are looking forward to start negotiations on the verifiable treaty banning the production of fissile material for use in nuclear weapons, or a Fissile Material Cutoff Treaty (FMCT).

The maintenance of a world free of nuclear weapons will require the underpinnings of a universal and multilaterally negotiated legally binding instrument or a framework encompassing a mutually reinforcing set of instruments.

We, on our part, will spare no efforts to pursue the objectives outlined above. We firmly hold that the determined and rapid preparation for the post-nuclear era must start now.

It cannot be denied that international security continues to be compromised and threatened, both globally and regionally, by the proliferation of **weapons of mass destruction** and their means of delivery, as well as by the risk of non-State actors gaining access to such weapons.

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.

Ukraine recognizes the essential and unique role of the **IAEA** in monitoring State's fulfillment of their nuclear non-proliferation undertakings and urges those states that have not yet done so to sign and bring into force their respective Safeguards Agreements and Additional Protocols.

In our view, the IAEA Safeguards together with the nuclear export control regimes should be regarded as a standard for any nuclear cooperation, without prejudice to the inalienable right for peaceful uses of nuclear energy under the NPT.

The **Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC)** and the **Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention (BTWC)** are important instruments aimed at comprehensive prohibition of the relevant two types of weapons of mass destruction. Despite the sensible progress on the way to the

universality of both instruments non-accession to these conventions of several countries continues to be the serious loophole in global security network. We commend continuous efforts by the states possessors of chemical weapons aimed at their timely destruction. Ukraine expects that this process will proceed in safe and efficient manner without negative impact to the environment and to the health of population in the areas adjacent to respective destruction facilities.

**Mr. Chairman,**

Let me stress that Ukraine continues to take an active part in the international efforts to combat illicit trafficking small arms and light weapons (SALW) as well as to restrain their uncontrolled proliferation.

Ukraine firmly adheres to the provisions of both the UN Program of Action and the OSCE SALW Document for their comprehensive approach to the issue of international arms transfers. We believe that implementation of the mentioned above documents as well as international instrument on tracing illicit SALW on national level is the most important aspect of efforts to counter illegal trade in SALW.

Ukraine attaches particular importance to ensuring effective export control procedures that meet all standing international requirements. Ukraine strictly adheres to the decisions taken by the UN Security Council, Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and Wassenaar Arrangement concerning SALW transfers.

I would like to underline that destruction of the decommissioned conventional armaments and ammunitions remains an issue of paramount importance for Ukraine. First of all it deals with heavy ammunitions, which pose the threat to human life, security and environment, not only for Ukrainians but also to the neighbouring countries.

In the framework of respective NATO/PfP Trust Fund Project, Ukraine takes measures to direct international assistance exactly for the purposes of heavy ammunitions disposal. Thus Ukrainian side highly appreciates the decision of the Trust Fund donors to focus on the heavy ammunitions destruction part of the Project. At the same time my country does its best to fulfill the obligations concerning small arms and light weapons (SALW) destruction.

Another pressing issue in the sphere of disarmament is antipersonnel landmines destruction. Inheriting one of the biggest mine stocks in the world, Ukraine attaches great importance to their safe destruction in accordance with the provisions of the Ottawa Convention, known also as the **Mine Ban Treaty (MBT)**.

We fully support endeavours of the MBT community to overcome the humanitarian crisis caused by a large-scale proliferation and use of the antipersonnel landmines and wishes to see the world free of this type of weapons. At the same time I couldn't but mention that by own resources Ukraine is capable to eliminate only the third part of its APL stockpiles in time. That is why Ukrainian side relies on the European Commission assistance in resolving this problem according to the EC obligations related to the ratification of the Treaty by Ukrainian Parliament in 2005. We are happy that in 2009 we've managed to renew the suspended dialogue with the EC in this sphere.

I would also like to underline that Ukrainian side is grateful to the United Nations Mine Action Service for the willingness to launch cooperation in the sphere of APL stockpile destruction in Ukraine.

Ukraine as a Party to the **Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW)** and all its Protocols considers this documents to be important instruments in the sphere of arms control and disarmament that plays a key role in resolving the humanitarian concerns caused by certain

conventional weapons. We call upon all States Parties to continue to further promote the universality and the efficiency of the Convention, including its Protocol V on Explosive Remnants of War.

Recognizing the serious humanitarian problems caused by cluster munitions Ukraine welcomes work of the CCW Group of Governmental Experts in terms of trying to reach consensus concerning new CCW Protocol on cluster munitions which would maintain a balance between military and humanitarian aspects of use of this kind of weapons.

Ukraine welcomes endeavors made by a number of states aimed at prohibiting the use of cluster munitions as means of war. At the same time, we believe that effectiveness of new binding measures to prohibit the entire class of weapons 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. We welcome the open and constructive exchange of views during the two sessions of the Open-Ended Working Group under the expert guidance, which were held in New York in March and July this year, and we are encouraged by the positive will to address the problem posed by the unregulated trade, transfer and activities in arms.

Ukraine supports the elaboration of the universal judicially binding instrument which shall establish general international standards in the field of arms trade. At the same time, it should not limit the lawful rights of states on the protection and self-defense as well as their right on the arms production and their legal trade.

**Mr. Chairman,**

**Space activities** are also an important security question, raising sensitive issues in respect of which we understand the concerns expressed by the number of States. The prevention of an arms race in the outer space is a prerequisite for the strengthening of the strategic stability and for the promotion of international cooperation and the use of outer space for peaceful purpose. As actors in the field of space, we are particularly sensitive to the issue of the security of the space activities for peaceful purposes and we urge all member states to refrain from taking actions likely to undermine it, especially by creating additional debris.

**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.**