



**STATEMENT BY
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PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRELAND**

**ON BEHALF OF
BRAZIL, EGYPT, MEXICO, NEW ZEALAND, SOUTH AFRICA,
SWEDEN AND IRELAND**

**TO THE
CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT**

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Mr Chairman

As this is the first time that I have taken the floor during your term as Chairman of the CD, let me congratulate you on taking up the position and wish you every success in your endeavours. I would also like to thank your predecessors as Chair this year for their efforts, most recently Ambassador de la Fortelle.

Mr Chairman

I am speaking today on behalf of Brazil, Egypt, Mexico, New Zealand, South Africa, Sweden and Ireland.

The New Agenda countries remain committed to pursuing their initiative aimed at securing a world free of nuclear weapons and will do so in all appropriate fora. That is why the New Agenda presented a position paper to the NPT Prepcom in April. We wish to present this paper also to the Conference on Disarmament. I have asked the Secretariat to circulate the position paper as an official document of the Conference.

The New Agenda countries restate our frustration at the lack of fulfilment of the thirteen steps towards nuclear disarmament agreed to at the 2000 Review Conference. Step four urged this Conference to establish a subsidiary body on nuclear disarmament.

Step three called for agreement in the Conference on a programme of work which included the immediate commencement of negotiations on a non-discriminatory, multilateral and international and effectively verifiable treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear devices, taking into consideration both nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation objectives.

This Conference has the primary role in the negotiation of a multilateral agreement or agreements, as appropriate, on the prevention of an arms race in outer space in all its aspects. The New Agenda countries believe that the Conference should complete the examination and updating of the mandate contained in its decision of 13 February 1992, and establish a subsidiary body as early as possible.

The New Agenda countries are concerned that the Conference has not begun to tackle the obligations placed on it by the 2000 Review Conference. The majority of delegations want this body to begin work and to establish a subsidiary body on nuclear disarmament. We ask the responsible parties to exercise the necessary flexibility so that this Conference can adopt a programme of work, and begin work on these important issues.

We note the significant agreement by the United States and the Russian Federation in the Treaty of Moscow to reduce the numbers of nuclear weapons deployed on alert status. However the New Agenda countries believe that such agreements can be no substitute for irreversible cuts in nuclear weapons to which all nuclear weapon states committed themselves at the 2000 Review Conference of the NPT. Furthermore, the nuclear weapons deployed and

stock-piled still amount to thousands, making it a continuing possibility that nuclear weapons could be used.

The New Agenda countries believe that the entry into force of the CTBT without delay and without preconditions is essential. Until that is achieved, it is vital to uphold and maintain the moratorium on nuclear weapon test explosions or any other nuclear explosions pending the entry into force of the CTBT. The CTBT's purposes, objectives and provisions must be strictly adhered to.

The New Agenda countries again wish to emphasise the importance we attach to the universality of the NPT. We are deeply concerned that those three states that operate unsafeguarded nuclear facilities continue to retain the nuclear weapons option. We reiterate our call on them to accede to the NPT without delay and without conditions.

The role of nuclear weapons in security and defence policies continues to be accorded paramount importance by some states. There are indications of the development of new generations of nuclear weapons. The New Agenda countries believe that such developments would be inconsistent with the unequivocal undertaking by the nuclear-weapon states to eliminate their nuclear arsenals.

We underline the necessity for multilaterally negotiated legally binding security assurances to be given by the nuclear weapon states to all non-nuclear weapon States parties to the NPT. The nuclear weapon states must fully respect existing commitments in this regard, pending the agreement of such assurances.

The New Agenda countries restate our view that any presumption of the indefinite possession of nuclear weapons by the nuclear weapons states is incompatible with the integrity and sustainability of the non-proliferation regime and with the wider goal of the preservation of international peace and security. We believe that this Conference should fulfill its responsibilities, particularly on nuclear disarmament, by agreeing on a programme of work and getting down to substantive negotiations with the aim of achieving a world free of nuclear weapons.

Thank you Mr Chairman