

ПОСТОЯННОЕ ПРЕДСТАВИТЕЛЬСТВО
РОССИЙСКОЙ ФЕДЕРАЦИИ
ПРИ КОНФЕРЕНЦИИ ПО РАЗОРУЖЕНИЮ
В ЖЕНЕВЕ



MISSION PERMANENTE
DE LA FEDERATION DE RUSSIE AUPRES
DE LA CONFERENCE DU DESARMEMENT
A GENEVE

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STATEMENT

BY

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PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE
RUSSIAN FEDERATION
AT THE PLENARY MEETING OF THE
CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

Geneva, 23 June 2005

Mr. President,

Let me congratulate you on your assumption of the CD Presidency. I should like to wish you success and assure you of full support and cooperation of the delegation of the Russian Federation.

We see a good point in your initiative to have four consecutive formal plenary meetings of the Conference to consider the issues of nuclear disarmament, FMCT, prevention of an arms race in outer space, and security assurances to non-nuclear weapon States. We share the view that the agreement on these four issues could serve a basis for the long-awaited compromise on the CD program of work. We hope that the upcoming plenary meetings will be conducive to progress in reaching this objective.

With a good will, we stated that we would not object to eventual compromises on the CD program of work, proposed in the A5 initiative and the non-paper by Ambassador C.Sanders, although the establishment of an Ad Hoc Committee on PAROS with "to deal with" mandate was much less than we wanted. We would not object if dealing with the issues of nuclear disarmament becomes a part of the program of work as indicated in these initiatives. We should also like to mention that the Russian side has already engaged in a quite intensive and substantive consideration of the issues of nuclear disarmament within the framework of the NPT review process. Russia has made numerous detailed statements on these issues during the Seventh NPT Review Conference last month. Taking this opportunity, we would like to reiterate some of the key elements of our approach.

Mr. President,

The Russian Federation is committed to the goal of nuclear disarmament in compliance with Article VI of the NPT. In this regard, we proceed from the understanding that complete elimination of nuclear arms can only be achieved through gradual, phased movement towards the ultimate objective on the basis of a comprehensive approach, with participation of all nuclear powers and, certainly, with sustained strategic stability.

Russia observes all its commitments to the reduction of nuclear weapons. The process of these reductions – and this is quite a labor-intensive, technically difficult and costly task – is moving ahead successfully, coherently and continuously. Due to joint and concerted efforts of Russia and the United States we have less and less nuclear weapons remaining on Earth.

As far as Russia is concerned, since 1991 its entire nuclear arsenal has been reduced fivefold. The arsenal of non-strategic nuclear weapons of Russia has been reduced by three quarters. Under the Moscow Treaty, by the end of 2012 Russia and the US must further reduce the levels of their strategic warheads approximately three times against the final ceilings established by the START Treaty for the end of 2001. As President V.Putin has noted, we stand

ready to take further constructive steps in this field. In particular, Russia has stated numerous times that it is ready to continue the reduction of its strategic nuclear arsenal to even lower level than that envisaged by Strategic Offensive Reductions Treaty.

We are committed to the principle of irreversibility of nuclear weapon reductions. Russia attaches special importance to the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty. Having ratified CTBT in 2000, the Russian Federation pursues a consistent policy to ensure its earliest entry into force.

Another contribution to irreversible nuclear disarmament is the program of conversion into fuel for nuclear power plants of 500 tons of highly enriched uranium removed from Russian nuclear weapons. Half of this amount will be downblended by this autumn in cooperation with the United States.

Our steps toward nuclear disarmament are accompanied by relevant structural changes in the Russian nuclear weapons sector. We have reduced by half our defensive production capacities as redundant. In cooperation with the United States we are working toward shutting down the last Russian industrial uranium-graphite type reactors capable of producing weapon-grade plutonium. The material produced by those facilities is no more used for military purposes. Moreover, my country has terminated long ago the production of uranium for nuclear weapons purposes.

Russia supports the beginning of negotiations at the Conference on Disarmament on the FMCT treaty.

Russia properly ensures safety and secure storage of its nuclear weapons. I can repeat that all our nuclear weapons have been transferred to and consolidated at the centralized storage facilities, exclusively on the Russian territory. Russia has developed and applied a set of measures to counter terrorist actions. We carry out periodic comprehensive checks of all facilities which could pose nuclear and radiation risks to assure their safety and preparedness against terrorist actions.

Thus, Russia demonstrates its will to achieve real reductions of nuclear weapons and disarmament; and, more importantly, converts this will into practice. We call on all other nuclear nations to join in the process.

These are only some of essential elements of Russia's position on nuclear disarmament. We listen carefully to realistic and balanced views expressed by other states on this issue. We would be prepared, if necessary, to provide further relevant information in the eventual CD Ad Hoc Committee that will deal with nuclear disarmament issues.

Under the NPT, which is of unlimited duration, nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation represent, in a way, two sides of the same coin (naturally, we do not ignore cooperation in peaceful uses, but this, clearly, is the prerogative of NPT review process).

In this connection, a few words on the outcome of recent NPT Review Conference.

In spite of the lack of substantive recommendations for the future on strengthening the NPT, it is groundless to talk about the failure of the Conference. We believe it has accomplished quite a useful work. Obviously, the Conference has revealed a wide variety of opinions on the ways of implementation of the NPT obligations. This is only natural, given serious changes in the field of international security in recent years.

Nevertheless, matters of principle shared by all Parties to the Treaty have been reconfirmed. Nobody said that the Treaty was obsolete. No one suggested elaborating another instrument to replace NPT. All participants emphasized the vitality of the Treaty, and its importance as a basis for nuclear non-proliferation regime.

We believe that everything suggests that all recent challenges to the nuclear non-proliferation regime can and should continue to be neutralized on the basis of the NPT.

In our view, the four weeks of the Conference have provided an opportunity for an objective and balanced analysis of the Treaty in all its main aspects. All the Parties to the Treaty reaffirmed their commitment to the strict compliance with their obligations on non-proliferation, disarmament and cooperation in peaceful uses of atomic energy. A unanimous view was expressed for the need to strengthen the system of IAEA safeguards as an important element of enhancing confidence in the peaceful use of atomic energy and compliance with non-proliferation regime.

Finally, one more comment.

If it could help the compromise on the CD program of work, we would be prepared to study a possible package solution that envisage the consideration of security assurances to non-nuclear states in the framework of CD Ad Hoc Committee on nuclear disarmament. Such suggestions have been already made.

Thank you.