



**PERMANENT MISSION OF SLOVENIA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY !

Statement by Ondina Blokar Drobič, Deputy Permanent Representative, Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Republic of Slovenia at the Third Session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2020 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons
New York, 29 April to 10 May 2019

Mme Chair,

I would first like to kindly ask you to convey our congratulations and assurances of our cooperation to the Chair of this Prepcom. We of course wish to do the same to the other members of the Bureau.

I wish to first align myself with the statement of the EU as well as the statement on progressive approach, and offer some additional points in my national capacity.

Mme Chair,

Preserving the values of multilateralism and promoting the rules-based international order is the core of the UN Charter. The future of multilateralism depends on the political will of the member states of this organization. The use of multilateral decision-making and diplomacy should prevail especially when global challenges need global solutions.

The NPT is an important legal instrument of the global security governance. Slovenia is fully committed to preserving effective, treaty-based international arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation as key elements of security for Europe and beyond.

We were encouraged by the press statement of the Security Council reaffirming its commitment to advance the goals of the NPT and the viability and mutually reinforcing character of all the commitments taken under the treaty. This commitment came in the times when the non-proliferation and disarmament architecture is being eroded.

It is Slovenia's firm belief that we need to achieve our common goal of a world free of nuclear weapons progressively, through the full implementation of the TPT. For US the NPT remains the cornerstone of nuclear disarmament, non-proliferation and the development of nuclear energy applications for peaceful purposes.

We believe that progress has been made in all three areas.

With the 2020 NPT Review Conference approaching, Slovenia calls for full implementation of the 2010 Review Conference Action Plan, including in accordance with its Article VI on disarmament, to which we are all committed.

To this end Slovenia calls on all states, particularly those listed in Annex II, to sign and ratify the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) without delay and without preconditions.

As an observer to Conference on Disarmament we encourage countries to upgrade the discussions on a *treaty banning the production of fissile material for use in nuclear weapons by starting negotiations on it*. We also encourage *the nuclear and non-nuclear states to continue cooperating in the area* of nuclear disarmament verification, as well as in the area of ballistic missiles (HCoC), decreasing the operational readiness of nuclear weapons, negative security assurances, establishing and maintaining nuclear weapons free zones (NWFZ), etc

Slovenia regrets that no agreement could be reached so far to preserve the INF Treaty and we call on Russia to return to full and verifiable compliance with its INF treaty obligations. We also encourage the United States and the Russian Federation to extend the New START Treaty beyond 2021.

We have to work towards upholding existing non-proliferation, disarmament and arms control agreements and commitments. We should remain open to future negotiations to strengthen or create new agreements which must be mutually verifiable as stipulated in Article VI of the NPT.

Slovenia will continue to offer our international fora and venues, like Bled Strategic Forum, to promote NPT.



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Mme Chair,

As one of the thirty states with an operating nuclear power reactor, Slovenia attaches great *importance to the work of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)*. We acknowledge the significant contribution of the Agency to the implementation of the NPT, including by monitoring and verifying Iran's on-going implementation of its commitments under the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, which Slovenia supports.

We welcome the separate summit talks between the Republic of Korea, US as well as the Russian Federation and the DPRK, to achieve the complete, verifiable and irreversible de-nuclearisation of the Korean Peninsula. We call on DPRK to return to NPT and IAEA safeguards system and sign and ratify CTBT. Until such we call on all states to fully and effectively implement the restrictive measures in force.

Mme Chair,

The IAEA also promotes global nuclear safety and security framework in Member States to protect people, society and the environment from the harmful effects of ionizing radiation. Nuclear safety and nuclear security have been among priorities for Slovenia within the IAEA. We all benefit from the peaceful uses of nuclear technology for medical, industrial, agricultural and research purposes..

Mme Chair,

Let me conclude by saying that by implementing NPT we have achieved so much already and we should not stop now. The anniversary next year should be additional motivation for us to reach universality and upgrade implementation of NPT and contribute to the world without nuclear weapons. Slovenia will contribute to this ultimate goal.

Thank you.

