



NEW ZEALAND

Statement by

H.E. Dell Higgin
Ambassador for Disarmament and Permanent Representative of
New Zealand to the Conference on Disarmament, Geneva

On behalf of the New Agenda Coalition

at the

2015 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the

Madam President,

New Zealand. At the outset, the NAC wishes to congratulate you on your assumption of
the Presidency of the 2015 Pacific Council of Ministers of Education, Youth and Sport.

lack of progress following the unequivocal undertaking made by the nuclear weapon States to eliminate their nuclear arsenals, the NAC cannot accept the same pattern of inaction with respect to the commitments made in 2010, or to those we expect will be

made here.

Madam President,

The NAC regrets that in 2015 we continue to face reluctance by the nuclear weapon

States to fulfil their legal obligations, undertakings and commitments with respect to nuclear disarmament. This reluctance is obvious in attempts to defend the modernisation of nuclear arsenals and to praise the purported effectiveness of nuclear deterrence – not, in some cases, in spite of the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons but because of them. It is also manifested in the entrenchment, for the indefinite future, of nuclear weapons in the military budgets and security doctrines of the nuclear weapon States and their regional alliance partners. The NAC wonders at what

Madam President,

The NAC shares also the ICRC's belief that States parties should make this NPT Review Conference a turning point for decision-making and progress in nuclear disarmament. In Working Paper 9 we call for this Conference to explore the legal approaches available to advance the "effective measures" relating to nuclear disarmament as required by Article VI. We also call for decisions to advance "effective measures" and for appropriate follow-

up actions in all disarmament fora as well as in the United Nations General Assembly.

Madam President,

Pursuing the complete elimination of nuclear weapons, the NAC also considers that more

must be done to reduce the risks of nuclear weapon detonations, whether intentional or

Madam President,

We can no longer afford a selective approach to the implementation of the NPT's provisions – this is something that weakens the nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation regime, reinforces inequalities under the Treaty and undermines its credibility. States parties must accelerate implementation of all agreements and

undertakings made at successive NPT Review Conferences.

The NAC urges all States parties to seize the opportunity of this Review Conference to

begin work in earnest on the construction of a comprehensive legally binding instrument for the achievement and maintenance of a world without nuclear weapons, whether that is pursued through the negotiation of a standalone agreement or a framework of mutually supportive instruments. This should include clearly defined benchmarks and timelines, and be backed by a strong system of verification.