

Statement by

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Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons**

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- Check against delivery -

Madam President,

Let me start by expressing, on behalf of the Slovak Government and myself, our sincere condolences to the people of Nepal and to all those affected by the disastrous earthquake that hit the country.

I would like to congratulate you on your assumption of the Presidency of this Review Conference. I wish you all the success in your endeavor in steering the negotiations in the coming weeks. I also assure you of Slovakia's full support in fulfilling your responsible and challenging tasks.

We have heard about the decision of the *UN High Representative for Disarmament Affairs* to conclude her mission on this post soon after the current NPT Review Conference. Nevertheless, we continue to rely on you to help steer us also through this crucial event which will significantly affect further developments in global security.

Madam President,

Slovakia fully associates itself with the statement which will be delivered on behalf of the European Union in the course of our discussion. Nevertheless, I would like to stress few comments in my national capacity.

We have gathered here to put the Treaty, which represents a key element of global security, into scrutiny. The Non-Proliferation Treaty remains a unique and irreplaceable framework for maintaining and strengthening international peace, security, and stability. We must therefore arm ourselves with high ambitions and expectations. Yet, at the same time, we must remain realistic and pragmatic.

We face serious deterioration of security situation around the world which is a matter of a serious concern. We need to generate a momentum to protect the Treaty and to maintain our forward course that we have put in place by the 2010 Action Plan.

We see growing differences among NPT Member States on some areas and issues. It will be a challenge, but at the same time absolute necessary, to establish a common ground across the NPT. We need to keep a balanced approach to the Treaty in its all three pillars.

We need to work together and focus on finding a consensus in order to take our multilateral efforts forward. However, the efforts to reach a consensus should not lead to ignoring or omitting issues relevant in the NPT context. Such an approach would jeopardize the basic aim of the Conference.

Madam President,

Nuclear disarmament is a key pillar of the Treaty. Advancing on the full implementation of all commitments and undertakings in this area is a vital element and the main tool towards strengthening the Treaty and the non-proliferation regime as a whole.

A vision of a world without nuclear weapons remains a driving force in this regard. Elimination of nuclear arsenals is an integral part of a nuclear-weapon-free world and one of the building blocks that are essential for its creation.

There is no doubt that the elimination goes hand in hand with the reduction. The reduction-associated efforts must indeed be driven by a genuine intention of eliminating nuclear weapons with

We understand that the Conference on Disarmament does not operate in a vacuum. It is affected by the external environment, developments therein and interactions of its players. One of the major aspects of the current deadlock with the Conference lies outside the 'sick body'.

That brings me to a dilemma whether we should try to put such a 'body' on a course of 'outside treatment' in order for it to be able to deal with issues inside the 'body' or we should focus on outside treatment of inside issues?

Many are also exploring whether a 'shock therapy' would help.

I believe that we need to resuscitate the 'body' and to revive its potential to deliver on pressing issues of the disarmament and non-proliferation agenda. However, we need to do it swiftly in order to reaffirm the relevance of the Conference to address current security needs. The revitalization of the Conference on Disarmament and its negotiation role is in vital interest of the non-proliferation regime and the Non-Proliferation Treaty as its cornerstone.

Madam President,

Slovakia fully supports peaceful use of nuclear energy. The Article IV of the NPT, which is a crucial part of the comprehensive bargain accomplished under the Treaty, has its leading role in this regard.

However, trust and confidence are the key elements for the development of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, if we want to take full advantage of it. It must be realized hand in hand with the highest safety and security standards as well as non-proliferation conditions.

Slovakia recognizes the role of the International Atomic Energy Agency in promoting safe and secure use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. It can make a valuable contribution to meet the social-economic needs and sustainable development all over the world.

Madam President, let me conclude by wishing the Conference constructive deliberations and a positive outcome – in the interest of all of us.