

Statement
by
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on behalf of the Group of Member States
of the Non-Aligned Movement Parties to
the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons
at the First Session of
the Preparatory Committee for
the 2015 Review Conference of the Parties to
the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons
on Cluster 1 Specific issue:
"Nuclear disarmament and security assurances"
Vienna, 4 May 2012

Mr. Chairman,

1. I am honored to speak on behalf of the Group of Member States of the Non-Aligned Movement Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.
2. The Group reaffirms the Movement's principled positions on nuclear disarmament, which remains its highest priority, and stresses that efforts aiming at nuclear non-proliferation should be parallel to simultaneous efforts aiming at nuclear disarmament. The Group stresses its concern at the threat to humanity posed by the continued existence of nuclear weapons and of their possible use or threat of use. The Group also reaffirms that the total elimination of nuclear weapons is the only absolute guarantee against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons.
3. The Group reiterates its strong call for a full implementation of Article VI of the Treaty as well as the unequivocal undertaking by the nuclear-weapon States at the 2000 Review Conference to accomplish the total elimination of their nuclear arsenals leading to nuclear disarmament, which has also been reaffirmed by the 2010 Review Conference of the Treaty. That undertaking should be demonstrated without further delay through an accelerated process of negotiation and through the full implementation of the 13 practical steps to advance systematically and progressively towards a nuclear-weapon-free world as agreed to at the 2000 Review Conference, and reaffirmed by the 2010 Review Conference.
4. In this connection, the Group emphasizes in particular the prime importance of and the urgent need for full and prompt implementation of the commitments by the nuclear-weapon States under action (5) of the 2010 Review Conference "action plan on nuclear disarmament". In this context, the Group further recalls that the nuclear-weapon States committed to accelerate concrete progress on the steps leading to nuclear disarmament.

5. In this regard, the Group calls upon the nuclear-weapon States to submit comprehensive substantive report about their undertakings under action (5) of the 2010 Review Conference “action plan on nuclear disarmament” to the Preparatory Committee meetings, in order to enable the 2015 Review Conference to take stock and consider the next steps for the full implementation of Article VI of the Treaty in realization of the objective of the total elimination of nuclear weapons.
6. The Group expresses deep concern at the continued lack of progress in the field of nuclear disarmament, which could undermine the object and purpose of the Treaty. The Group also deeply regrets the continued inflexible postures of some nuclear-weapon States that have prevented the Conference on Disarmament from establishing an ad hoc committee on nuclear disarmament. The negotiations of a phased programme for the complete elimination of nuclear weapons within a specified time frame, including a nuclear weapons convention, is necessary and should commence without any further delay. In that regard, the Group reiterates its call to establish, as soon as possible, and as the highest priority, an ad hoc committee on nuclear disarmament within the context of an agreed, comprehensive and balanced programme of work.
7. In connection with the entry into force of the New START Treaty between the Russian Federation and the United States, the Group expresses concern that the domestic commitments to nuclear weapon modernization undermines the minimal reductions agreed therein. The Group further stresses that reductions in deployments and in operational status cannot substitute for irreversible cuts in, and the total elimination of, nuclear weapons and accordingly calls on the United States and the Russian Federation to apply the principles of transparency, irreversibility and verifiability to such cuts, and to further reduce their nuclear arsenals, both warheads and delivery systems.
8. The Group also emphasises that the indefinite extension of the Treaty does not imply the indefinite possession of nuclear arsenals, and that any such assumption is incompatible with the object and purpose of the Treaty, its integrity and sustainability, as well as with the broader objective of maintaining international peace and security.
9. The Group remains deeply concerned by strategic defence doctrines of the nuclear-weapon States and NATO that set out the rationales for the use of nuclear weapons, and strongly calls for the complete exclusion of the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons from their military doctrines.
10. The Group firmly believes that, pending the total elimination of nuclear weapons, the nuclear-weapon States shall seriously refrain, at any circumstances, from the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons against any non-nuclear-weapon State Party to the Treaty, as such acts would be in violation of the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the International Law, in particular, International Humanitarian Law.

Mr. Chairman,

11. On security assurances, the Group of Non-Aligned States Parties to the Treaty stresses that it is the legitimate right of all non-nuclear-weapon States Parties to the Treaty that have given up the nuclear-weapon option to receive effective, non-discriminatory and unconditional legally binding security assurances against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons. The Group expresses deep concern that the "security assurances" against the use of nuclear weapons to non-nuclear-weapon States Parties to the Treaty, provided in the unilateral statements by each of the nuclear-weapon States, are very limited, conditional and insufficient.
12. The Group reaffirms that, pending the total elimination of nuclear weapons, all non-nuclear-weapon States Parties to the Treaty should be effectively, unconditionally and non-discriminately assured by the nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons through the urgent conclusion of a universal and legally binding instrument on security assurances.
13. The Group expresses concern that despite long standing request by non-nuclear-weapon States Parties to the Treaty to receive legally binding security assurances, no tangible progress has been achieved in this regard in the Conference on Disarmament since the establishment in 1998 of an Ad Hoc Committee. In this connection, the Group calls for commencing, without any further delay, negotiation for a universal and legally binding instrument on unconditional, non-discriminatory and irrevocable negative security assurances.
14. The Group further believes that legally binding negative security assurances within the context of the Treaty would provide an essential benefit to the States Parties to the Treaty and to the credibility of the Treaty regime. The Group also is of the view that pending the conclusion of a universal and legally binding instrument on negative security assurances for all non-nuclear-weapon States Parties, all nuclear-weapon States shall fully respect their existing commitments with regard to security assurances and shall extend these to all non-nuclear-weapon States Parties to the Treaty.
15. The Group reiterates that, in the context of the nuclear-weapon-free zones, it is essential that the nuclear-weapon States provide unconditional, non-discriminatory and concrete legal assurances against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons to all States of the zone concerned. In this regard, the Group strongly calls for the withdrawal of any related reservations or unilateral interpretative declarations that are incompatible with the object and purpose of such treaties. The Group further calls upon the nuclear-weapon States to fulfil their obligations towards the achievement of the objectives of the Treaties to establish nuclear-weapon-free zones and their protocols.
16. In this regard, the Group calls for the establishment of a subsidiary body for further work to consider legally binding negative security assurances by the five nuclear-weapon States to all the non-nuclear-weapon States Parties to the Treaty.
17. Finally, I would like to draw attention to the relevant Working Papers submitted by the Group, which contain the Group's detailed position.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

