



# **NEW ZEALAND**

**PREPARATORY COMMITTEE FOR THE 2015 REVIEW CONFERENCE OF  
THE PARTIES TO THE TREATY ON THE NON-PROLIFERATION OF  
NUCLEAR WEAPONS**

**GENERAL DEBATE**

**STATEMENT BY H.E. DELL HIGGIE  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE TO THE UNITED NATIONS IN GENEVA**

**30 April 2012**

*CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY*

Mr Chairman

It is a pleasure to see Australia – a fellow Antipodean – in the chair for this important meeting. In true ANZAC spirit, you can be assured of the support of the New Zealand delegation as you guide us in our work over these two weeks.

New Zealand is pleased to associate itself with the statement which will be delivered by South Africa on behalf of the New Agenda Coalition, and with the statement by Australia on behalf of the Vienna Group of 10.

Mr Chairman

New Zealand welcomed the outcome of the 2010 Review Conference. The agreement in the 2010 Action Plan represented a valuable recognition by all the States parties that there is much to be gained from a collective strengthening of the implementation of the NPT. Whether the 2010 Action Plan does indeed work to do this, however, will depend on our collective efforts to implement it in this current review cycle.

The Action Plan provides us with a reference by which we can measure our collective efforts to implement the Treaty. This Preparatory Committee is the first opportunity to begin to do so, and to chart further the necessary implementation activities which will lay the basis for a successful Review Conference in 2015.

Mr Chairman

We must collectively insist upon the fulfilment of all elements of the Action Plan, by all States parties, across all three pillars of the Treaty. This must be our goal if we are to avoid the disappointment that followed the unrealised commitments and expectations arising from the 1995 and 2000 outcomes.

A key aspect of the 1995 outcome was the Resolution on the Middle East. The lack of progress in implementing that Resolution has been of significant concern to the States of the region and beyond. New Zealand, like others, welcomes the steps that have been taken towards realising the actions contained in the 2010 Action Plan for a process leading to the full implementation of the 1995 Resolution. We do not underestimate the difficulties of establishing a Middle East zone free of weapons of mass destruction, but we offer our full support for the initiative to do so. We look forward to the successful convening of the 2012 Conference as an important contribution to the realisation of the 1995 Resolution.

Mr Chairman

The 2010 Conference rightly highlighted the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of any use of nuclear weapons. The reaffirmation by the Conference of the need for all States at all times to comply with applicable international law, including international humanitarian law, was significant. This outcome usefully reinforces the Treaty's preamble which explicitly recognises the devastating consequences for humanity of a nuclear war.

As the Treaty's provisions make clear, averting that danger requires not only nuclear disarmament but also constraining the spread of nuclear weapons. It remains New Zealand's strong view that nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation are mutually reinforcing. And so while we continue to urge the nuclear-weapon States to take greater efforts to decrease the role of nuclear weapons in their military doctrines and security policies and ultimately to eliminate totally their nuclear arsenals, we are no less committed to nuclear non-proliferation.

Transparency and accountability, through the Treaty's safeguards system, are an essential underpinning of an effective non-proliferation regime. Equally critical is the fulfilment by all States of their safeguards obligations under the NPT. The role of the IAEA is central to this endeavour, but all States have a national responsibility to comply with their obligations, and to act collectively to hold to account any State party not living up to its commitments.

Mr Chairman

New Zealand recognises the inalienable right of all States parties to use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. But in exercising that right New Zealand firmly believes that the strongest possible safety and security standards must be adhered to throughout the nuclear fuel cycle.

However and wherever nuclear technology is used, nuclear safety and security are of concern to us all – the consequences of a nuclear accident or a deliberate act of nuclear terrorism would not be confined to national boundaries. New Zealand therefore strongly supports the Nuclear Security Summit process which provides indispensable impetus to the effort to secure nuclear and radiological materials around the world.

The tragic Fukushima accident highlighted the importance of a robust, global nuclear safety regime. All States have a stake in ensuring that that regime is further strengthened, and New Zealand will play its part in the process underway to do so.

Mr Chairman

2015 marks the fiftieth year since negotiations began on the NPT which is now our "cornerstone of the nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime". 2015 will therefore be no ordinary year. If we are to ensure that the 2015 Review Conference will genuinely fulfil the aspirations of the drafters of our Treaty, the time to act is now.