



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

CLUSTER TWO DEBATE

H.E. Deborah Geels

Permanent Representative, Vienna

1 May 2014

As delivered

Mr Chairman

An effective international non-proliferation regime is a prerequisite for a world free of nuclear weapons. Critical to such a regime are transparency and accountability which are underpinned by the NPT's safeguards system. This system provides assurances of compliance and creates the stable international environment necessary to allow for the full realisation of the Treaty's goals.

The integrity of the International Atomic Energy Agency's (IAEA) verification activities is fundamental to the assurances New Zealand seeks that nuclear activities undertaken by states are solely for peaceful purposes.

New Zealand believes that an Additional Protocol should always feature as a condition of new supply arrangements for nuclear and associated material. New Zealand encourages all countries that have not yet done so – particularly those with significant nuclear activities – to conclude and bring into force an Additional Protocol with the IAEA without delay.

We welcome the IAEA Secretariat's recent paper on the State-Level Concept as part of the Agency's efforts to enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of safeguards implementation so that it can address new challenges with the finite resources available.

With no nuclear weapons, no nuclear energy generation, no nuclear reactors and no production of uranium or other relevant material, New Zealand conducts only very minor activities subject to safeguards. New Zealand's comprehensive safeguards agreement with the IAEA came into force in 1972, and our Additional Protocol in 1998. We continue to look for opportunities to strengthen the application of safeguards in New Zealand. We were pleased to sign up to the modified Small Quantities Protocol earlier this year and have recently joined the Asia-Pacific Safeguards Network to further facilitate the sharing of best practice in the region.

New Zealand also emphasises the important role that effective export controls play in the wider international non-proliferation framework and the assurances that support it. New Zealand applies export controls to materials and dual-use goods which can be used in a nuclear weapons programme and co-ordinates and strengthens these measures with other members of the Nuclear Suppliers Group. Consistent with New Zealand's commitment to strengthening global non-proliferation efforts in November 2013 New Zealand joined the Zangger Committee.

Mr Chairman

We reaffirm that all States Parties have a duty not only to live up to their own safeguards obligations but to address compliance issues wherever they arise. The international non-proliferation regime continues to face a number of compliance challenges.

The concerns that New Zealand shares with the international community regarding Iran's nuclear programme are long-standing and complex. We recognise that a final resolution of these concerns will be as difficult as it is necessary. New Zealand has welcomed recent progress in international efforts to resolve outstanding safeguards concerns in Iran and was pleased to make a financial contribution to the Agency for the implementation of the Joint Plan of Action agreed between Iran and the E3+3.

We call on Iran to continue its recent cooperation with the IAEA and to faithfully implement the measures in the IAEA Framework for Cooperation and the Joint Plan of Action. Doing so will enable the Agency to take another step toward addressing all outstanding issues and providing credible assurances that all nuclear material in Iran is in peaceful activities.

Mr Chairman,

North Korea continues to seriously undermine the international non-proliferation regime to which New Zealand is strongly committed. New Zealand is disappointed that there is no evidence of any positive change in North Korea's defiance of the international community and multilateral institutions with respect to its nuclear programme. We share the concerns of the international community about the DPRK's continuing operations at Yongbyon, repeated missile launches and breach of both Security Council and IAEA Board resolutions. New Zealand calls on North Korea to abandon its nuclear and missile programmes, and instead to focus its energy and attention on improving the lives of its people and engaging constructively with the international community.

Mr Chairman

New Zealand is a strong advocate of nuclear-weapon-free zones and the role they play in promoting and safeguarding regional and international peace and stability, supporting global disarmament and non-proliferation efforts, and reinforcing the NPT itself.

That 60% of the world's states are covered by nuclear-weapon-free zones, including all states of the Southern Hemisphere, is a singular achievement. It is a powerful demonstration of the collective will that can exist at a regional level to rid the world of nuclear weapons. We look forward to increasing cooperation among existing zones and to the creation of further zones.

In this connection, as a firm advocate of nuclear-weapon-free zones, we welcomed the reaffirmation at the 2010 NPT Review Conference of the 1995 Resolution on the Middle East and the agreement to convene a Conference in 2012 on the establishment of a zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East.

It remains the case that by convening a Conference participants can start to lay the groundwork for a robust agreement that includes all states of the region, and that lives up to the expectations of 1995.

New Zealand would like to note our strong support for the initiative to convene the Conference and for the significant efforts undertaken so far by the Finnish government and Under-Secretary Laajava.

We regret that the Conference has not yet taken place, and we continue to call on the convenors, the facilitator and the States of the region to work constructively and diligently so that we might live up the expectations of 1995.

Mr Chairman

We recognise the fundamental role of the NPT in global nuclear non-proliferation efforts and are pleased to play a part in supporting its achievement of our shared objectives in nuclear safety, security, safeguards and peaceful uses.

Thank you.