

**Check against delivery**

**Statement by H.E. Mr. Rayko Raytchev, Director-General for Global Affairs,  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Bulgaria, General Debate, 2015  
NPT Review Conference, 29 April 2015**

**Mme President,**

**Distinguished delegates,**

On behalf of the people of Bulgaria, I express our heartfelt condolences and sympathy to the people of Nepal affected by the horrific earthquake which took many lives and caused severe destruction. We are with you in those difficult times.

**Mme President,**

Let me begin by congratulating you on assuming this important position. You can count on Bulgaria's full cooperation and support in the fulfillment of your important and responsible task to ensure a successful outcome of the Conference.

My country aligns itself with the statement of the European Union delivered yesterday by the High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Federica Mogherini. In addition, I would like to further elaborate on some issues which in our view are of particular significance.

This year marks the 45th anniversary of the entry into force of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. The Treaty has been and remains the cornerstone of the global non-proliferation regime and the framework for nuclear disarmament, non-proliferation and peaceful uses of nuclear energy. With 191 States Parties the Treaty is by far the most adhered to in the field of disarmament and non-proliferation. It has made an unparalleled contribution to making the world a safer and more secure place. However, in order to affirm its validity, a lot remains to be done by all of us.

This Review Conference is taking place in a very complex security environment - the world is much different from five years ago, and now it is ever more important not to miss the opportunity presented to us to renew our commitment to the full implementation of the NPT and to further strengthening its regime.

For Bulgaria the 2010 Action Plan remains valid and it is the responsibility of all States Parties to ensure its implementation in all three pillars. We recognize that the progress is not as fast as we would have wanted it to be but it is up to us to speed it up, for the implementation of the 2010 Action Plan is our collective responsibility.

Advancing nuclear disarmament requires our joint efforts. A common understanding on the necessary steps can be built through an inclusive and comprehensive discussion only,

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with the substantive participation of the nuclear weapon states. All these steps that we need to embark on will strengthen the NPT regime, in line with the obligations under Art. VI, and will contribute towards achieving the Treaty's ultimate goal - a world without nuclear weapons. There is no alternative path or a shortcut to reaching this goal. We need to act in a sustainable, realistic and responsible manner. Creating conditions for world without nuclear weapons requires that both humanitarian and security considerations are taken into account. In this regard, we support the statement to be made by Australia later today on the issue of humanitarian consequences.

Bulgaria supports a constructive and realistic, gradual approach, based on practical and implementable measures, building-blocks that will strengthen the international disarmament and non-proliferation regime. Such practical steps could be: overcoming the impasse in the Conference on Disarmament, including through its enlargement; starting negotiations on a Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty, bringing into force the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty. We remain convinced that the earliest possible entry into force of the CTBT is a crucial step for furthering the nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime.

Furthermore, all obligations related to the NPT Regime should be implemented in good faith. In this context, the breach of the 1994 Budapest Memorandum which guarantees the territorial integrity of Ukraine was a serious blow to the negative security assurances that are key to the viability of the NPT, and must be restored.

As for the non-proliferation aspect, Bulgaria welcomes the political understanding reached by E3+3 and Iran on 2 April 2015 and we hope that a mutually acceptable, long-term comprehensive solution will be reached by June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2015.

Unfortunately, DPRK's nuclear and ballistic missile programs remain a source of serious concern for Bulgaria. We urge DPRK to abandon its nuclear weapon program and to return to the NPT and IAEA Safeguards as soon as possible.

We are convinced of the need for tightening of the withdrawal provisions of the Treaty, so as to prevent abuse by states that have been found to be in non-compliance. The international community should be alerted that some countries might misread Art. X and feel encouraged not to fulfill their obligations under the Treaty.

### **Mme President,**

Despite the complex situation in the Middle East, efforts for convening a Conference on the establishment of a zone free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East should continue. In this context Bulgaria welcomes the tireless efforts of the facilitator, Ambassador Laajava of Finland.

Being the cornerstone of the world's non-proliferation regime, the NPT is operational through the safeguard system of the IAEA. Bulgaria acts and will continue to act in full

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support of the Agency. I take this opportunity to call upon all states who have not done so, to negotiate and ratify an Additional Protocol with IAEA as soon as possible.

Bulgaria also reaffirms its support for the inalienable right of all Parties to the Treaty to develop research, produce and use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. We have been developing nuclear energy for peaceful uses for over 40 years in line with the highest safety, security, and non-proliferation standards and has ratified all major international conventions in this field.

We welcome the 'Vienna Declaration on Nuclear Safety', adopted at the 2015 Vienna Diplomatic Conference of the Contracting Parties to the Convention on Nuclear Safety. It aims at strengthening nuclear safety and increasing transparency and we urge all Parties to the Convention to implement the objectives of the Vienna Declaration.

An important element for the development of the nuclear applications for peaceful purposes is the international nuclear non-proliferation regime. Therefore the NPT State Parties have to demonstrate a consensual approach in recommending to the Review Conference specific measures for ensuring responsible development of peaceful uses of nuclear energy, under the best safety, security, and non-proliferation conditions.

Finally, Bulgaria trusts that the Ninth NPT Review Conference has the potential to bring us closer to the ultimate goal – world free of nuclear weapons. The progressive elimination of nuclear weapons and their components, driven by the political will of all NPT States Parties, will create a better and safer world for our children and for the next generations. Let us demonstrate that the political will is there!

Thank you, Mme President!