



Mission of Estonia  
to the United Nations

**Statement of the Republic of Estonia**

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**At the General Debate of the 2015 Review Conference of the States Parties  
to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT)**

**New York, 29 April 2015**

Madame President, Distinguished Delegates,

Let me first start by expressing, on behalf of the Estonian Government and people, our heartfelt condolences and sympathy to the people of Nepal and to all those affected by the disastrous earthquake that hit the country. We stand ready to assure our assistance and support in this grievous situation.

At the outset, allow me to congratulate you on assuming the position of the President of this important Review Conference and assure you of our firm support in your efforts to achieve a successful, comprehensive and balanced outcome. You can fully count on my personal support in my capacity as Vice-President of this Review Conference on behalf of the Eastern European Group.

Aligning ourselves fully with the statement made yesterday by the EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy H.E. Ms. Federica Mogherini on behalf of the European Union, we would like to highlight some specific issues to which Estonia attaches **particular importance at this Review Conference.**

Madame President,

For Estonia, the **Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT)** is indeed the cornerstone of the **global efforts** to pursue nuclear disarmament, non-proliferation and peaceful uses of nuclear energy. This year we mark the 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this unique multilateral instrument, witnessing its vitally important role in keeping our world more secure and less armed and paving the way to creating conditions **for a nuclear weapons free world, which we all dream about**. Bearing in mind the current severe security environment, there are no shortcuts, no simple solutions, no alternatives to this forum.

We reaffirm our full support for of all three pillars of the Treaty and for the implementation of all commitments assumed under it, or undertaken during previous Review Conferences. Estonia continues to promote the full implementation of the 2010 Action Plan, which includes concrete actions across all three pillars of the Treaty and we truly believe, that **all States Parties to the NPT without exception have a shared responsibility** in ensuring the implementation of the Action Plan and contributing constructively to strengthening each pillar of the Treaty. The 2015 Review Conference provides us with an opportunity to take stock of the Action Plan and of the remaining challenges we face, **focusing on concrete measures aimed at strengthening the Treaty**. In this regard, we all have both an opportunity and responsibility to renew our commitments.

Madame President,

The three pillars of the NPT, namely disarmament, non-proliferation and the peaceful use of nuclear technology, stand for peace, security and trust. Aggressive actions taken by the Russian armed forces against Ukraine have jeopardized all of those three virtues in the Euro-Atlantic region. By illegally annexing Crimea and exercising the use of force against the territorial integrity and political independence of Ukraine, the Russian Federation has clearly violated, among other international agreements and norms, the **Budapest memorandum**. We surely think that the strategic decision by the Ukrainian Government 20 years ago, to join the NPT as a non-nuclear state in favour of security assurances, was the right one. We call upon the Russian Federation to refrain from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity and political independence of Ukraine under the Budapest Memorandum of 1994 on security assurances in connection with Ukraine's accession to the NPT as a non-nuclear-weapon State. In this regard, we call on Russia to honour

international legal norms, as well as its international commitments, to end its illegal annexation of Crimea and to take immediate and concrete steps **to fully implement the Minsk agreements**.

We remain committed to treaty-based nuclear disarmament and arms control stressing the need to renew multilateral efforts to revitalize multilateral negotiating bodies, in particular the **Conference on Disarmament including its future enlargement**. The CD's agenda encompasses global concerns and we believe that those concerns should be negotiated on a non-discriminatory, transparent and multilateral basis, with the wider participation of interested states. At this point, I would like to reiterate Estonia's request to participate fully and equally in the disarmament discussions as a full member of the CD. We reiterate our call for the early nomination of a Special Rapporteur to review the issue of enlargement.

We acknowledge the efforts of the countries seeking early ratification of the **Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT)** and consider its universalization and entry into force to be a top priority. We urge the States, particularly those whose adherence is required for the CTBT to enter into force, to sign and ratify the treaty without further delay. Moreover, as the only multilateral transparency- and confidence-building instrument against ballistic missile proliferation, we continue to support the universality and implementation of the **Hague Code of Conduct (HCoC)**.

Madame President,

International treaties and agreements serve us well only when they are fully and effectively implemented and transfers of sensitive, WMD enabling goods and technologies are controlled. This is why, once again, we highlight the importance of **export controls**. We would like to recognize the importance of the work that international export control regimes like the Australia Group (AG), the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG), the Wassenaar Arrangement (WG) and the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR) have done in the area of effective export controls in nuclear trade and non-proliferation. We encourage all states to make use of multilaterally agreed guidelines and principles in developing their own national export controls. **We also strongly speak for the membership of all EU Member States in the MTCR**, since they all meet the highest non-proliferation standards and membership criteria of the MTCR.

We fully recognize the leading role that the IAEA is playing in strengthening the nuclear security framework, non-proliferation regime and in ensuring the safe and secure development of peaceful uses of nuclear energy. The IAEA's system of safeguards is essential for the implementation of the NPT. The IAEA's safeguards benefit all NPT parties and create confidence that facilitates the

**fullest possible international cooperation** in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. We highly value the **Technical Cooperation Programme of the IAEA** and encourage greater international support to the IAEA's efforts in advancing the responsible development of peaceful applications of nuclear technology. Over the years, Estonia has contributed to the Technical Cooperation Fund, as well as benefitted from different projects. Through fruitful technical cooperation with the Agency, we have gained valuable knowledge that we are willing and ready to share with other member states.

Madame President,

While sharing concerns of diverse nuclear risks and their **impact on humanity**, we are convinced that multilateral nuclear disarmament processes need to be inclusive and universal. **The NPT is the cornerstone for progress towards total nuclear disarmament.** Building a climate of confidence and trust will be essential and must be built through the demonstrated implementation of concrete disarmament measures by all States possessing nuclear weapons, as well as through the ongoing commitment to non-proliferation by all non-nuclear-weapon States. **There are no shortcuts to achieve responsible and effective nuclear disarmament, taking into account the prevailing challenging international environment.** In this context, we welcome indications of progress in implementing the New START Treaty; the deepened dialogue of nuclear-weapon states through holding P5 conferences and recent developments towards a comprehensive solution which would enable Iran to enjoy its right to nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. These are concrete steps and “building blocks” which lead us towards our shared goal of a nuclear-weapons free world. Our position will be elaborated further in the statement by Australia on behalf of a number of states.

Madame President,

Through close work and great collective efforts, the 2010 Review Conference was a success and the Action Plan approved by consensus is proof of this. By **focusing on common goals and engaging constructively in advancing realistic and achievable objectives**, we are fully capable of repeating that success once again.