



THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA

2015 Review Conference
of the Parties to the Treaty on
the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT)

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STATEMENT

by

H.E. Mrs. Roksanda Ninčić
State Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

New York, 28 April 2015

Thank you, Madam President,

At the outset, I wish to express my country's deepest condolences to the Government and people of Nepal on the terrible loss of life arising from the recent earthquake.

Allow me to congratulate you on behalf of the delegation of Serbia on your election as President of this Conference. My delegation appreciates very much your dedicated work and efforts to achieve a successful outcome of the Conference. We would also like to extend our thanks to the Chairs of the three previous Preparatory Committees.

Madam President,

The Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), 45 years after its entry into force, remains an essential means for preventing the spread of nuclear weapons and the peaceful use of nuclear energy in the world free of nuclear weapons. These three pillars of the NPT should be mutually reinforced and pursued together.

Non-proliferation is still the essence of the NPT regime. We fully support efforts to further improve international verification of the NPT obligations which aims to uphold the integrity of the Treaty by addressing non-compliance.

The adoption of the Action Plan at the last Review Conference (2010) was a significant achievement. Despite the fact that we have not yet fulfilled all the objectives of the Action Plan, we can conclude that the Parties have demonstrated strong readiness to reach this goal. From the very beginning, we participated actively in the initiative, launched by Norway, Austria, Switzerland, Mexico and other States, to launch the Conference on Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons. Serbia welcomes the efforts invested in pursuing the NPT Article VI commitments and other initiatives such as the Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Initiative (Japan and a group of countries) which is of special significance this year when we commemorate the 70th anniversary of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Serbia shares the view that the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) can serve as a key complementary document to the NPT and we continue to support efforts for its entry into force.

We also remain committed to the opening of negotiations on the Fissile Materials Cut-off Treaty (FMCT) as soon as possible and consider the French Draft Document on the FMCT as a good basis for further talks.

On this occasion, I would like to underline the importance that we attach to overcoming the prolonged standstill of the Conference on Disarmament (CD). That also includes a solution for the still open issue of CD enlargement.

In the context of efforts to strengthen nuclear safety and peaceful uses of energy, we underline the importance of the IAEA Action Plan and the Vienna Declaration on Nuclear Safety.

Madam President,

We welcome the Agreement reached in Lausanne on 2 April 2015 and congratulate the participants on their political will and determination to resolve such a crucial issue. We see it as a sound basis for reaching the Comprehensive Agreement on Iran's Nuclear Programme within the agreed deadline (30 June).

The establishment of a zone free from weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East remains an achievable goal, as already confirmed in the Central Asia region. We strongly welcome this agreement, as well as the ongoing efforts to facilitate the negotiations among the States in the Middle East within the Helsinki process.

Madam President,

Serbia fully endorses effective and universal NPT implementation as a crucial element of the global security, as well as other relevant international documents in this field, including UNSC Resolution 1540.

Regarding the NPT and relevant documents of the previous Review Conference, Serbia has consistently improved national capacities to implement its commitments. To enhance nuclear safety, a number of concrete steps have been taken, both on the national and regional level.

In 2002, we launched the WIND Project with the support of the United States, Nuclear Threat Initiative, IAEA, European Commission and other partners. The WIND is a unique project for the removal of nuclear materials from Serbia to the Russian Federation, as the State of origin. The project is still ongoing.

On 30 April 2013, Serbia became the 49th Participating Government in the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG). With respect to the implementation of the commitments under UNSC resolution 1540, the National Action Plan was adopted in order to identify further practical steps in this field. In contributing to regional cooperation, Serbia hosted, with the support of the OSCE and the EU, several workshops on issues related to the NSG regime and Resolution 1540.

Since the last NPT Review Conference, we have finalized the procedure for ratification of the Additional Protocol to the Safeguards Agreement. From 2011 until 2014, Serbia was included in the U.S. Department of Energy Program of educational training for the implementation of the Additional Protocol. I take this opportunity to thank the U.S. Government for assisting us in fulfilling this important task.

Madam President,

As Serbia is currently chairing the OSCE, allow me to say a few words on OSCE engagement in the field of non-proliferation. The OSCE activities are based on the 1994 Principles Governing Non-Proliferation. The Principles provide, *inter alia*, a framework for the universal adherence to the NPT, full implementation of existing commitments and for adoption of a common stance in case of withdrawal by a NPT Party. Particular attention is accorded to the implementation of UNSC resolution 1540 in the OSCE area. The OSCE Secretariat and the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) concluded, in 2011, a Memorandum of Understanding on the project of non-proliferation of WMD and their means of delivery. The close cooperation of the OSCE Secretariat with the 1540 Committee and its Group of Experts resulted in a number of successful national round tables and adoption of national action plans in Serbia, Croatia, Belarus, FYR Macedonia, Kyrgyzstan, Montenegro, Uzbekistan and Armenia.

Serbia stands ready to contribute to the promotion of universal adherence of all States to the NPT and to act as a constructive partner in meeting our common goal of strengthening global nuclear safety and security.

Thank you for your attention.