



Please, check against delivery!

**2015 NPT Review Conference
STATEMENT OF SLOVENIA
Amb Andrej LOGAR, Permanent Representative of
Slovenia to United Nations in New York**

Madam President,

Allow me first to offer our sincere condolences to all the affected nations, especially to Nepal, for the devastating loss caused by the recent earthquake, and express our wishes for a speedy and thorough recovery and return to prosperity.

I would then like to congratulate you for your election as a President of the 2015 NPT Review Conference that we started on Monday. I am particularly honoured to congratulate you as the first female president in the history of the NPT Review Conferences. This is truly historic moment not only for the NPT, but also for those of us who promote gender equality in all areas, including in area of arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation.

I am confident that you will safely and wisely guide us throughout this Conference towards its successful conclusion. Allow me, Madam President, to assure you of my delegation's full support to your endeavours for adoption of Outcome Document of this Review Conference by consensus.

I would like to align with the statement of the European Union (EU), delivered by Madam **Federica Mogherini**, High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, and Vice-President of the European Commission.

Allow me to highlight points of importance for Slovenia.

Madam President,

First of all, Slovenia welcomes good news from Switzerland earlier this month regarding Lausanne Accord, concluded by the Foreign Ministers of China, the European Union, Germany, France, Iran, Russia, the United Kingdom and the United States which defines key parameters of a Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) between international community and Iran. This is an important step in the process to ensure the exclusively peaceful nature of Iranian nuclear programme and a comprehensive lifting of sanctions. We hope that achievement from Lausanne will not only lead us towards final adoption of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) before the summer this year, but will also contribute to the work of this Review Conference and facilitate adoption of its substantive final document.

Madam President,

Slovenia continues to believe that the NPT is the cornerstone of the international non-proliferation regime, and the essential foundation for progress towards nuclear disarmament and the promotion of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. We are in favour of balanced progress in all three pillars of the Treaty. The principle of balanced progress should guide us throughout this Review Conference towards adoption of the Outcome Document. It should be based upon achievements of the 2010 Review Conference, and should take us further in our endeavours. Success of this Conference is vital for the future of the Treaty itself.

Regarding nuclear disarmament, we agree with those who expected more progress since the last NPT Review Conference. In this context, Slovenia continues to share the vision of a world free of nuclear weapons. We believe in a treaty-based disarmament. All future global endeavours for nuclear disarmament need to be encompassed in the framework of the Treaty. That is why we advocate approach to global nuclear disarmament through an universalisation of the NPT and the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) and the commencement and early finalisation of negotiations on the Fissile Material Cut off Treaty (FMCT). We welcome the work of the UN Group of Governmental Experts (GGE) on the FMCT and the new draft Treaty presented in the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva by France.

We also encourage the Russian Federation and the United States to continue the process of nuclear weapons reduction through the START process and address, inter alia non-strategic nuclear weapons. Let me also underline our view that nuclear disarmament is not only the duty of the two states, but also of the other nuclear weapon states.

On nuclear non-proliferation, we see the important role of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in Vienna and its system of Safeguards in these endeavours that plays an indispensable role in the implementation of the NPT. Comprehensive Safeguards Agreements constitute – together with Additional Protocols – the current Agencies verification standard. We appeal to all States Parties for its universalisation as soon as possible. In this context, Slovenia welcomes the Agencies continuation of and further developing the State Level Concept. We are convinced that the State Level Concept is providing and will provide further efficiency and effectiveness to the IAEA Safeguards System and strengthen our joint non-proliferation efforts. Slovenia will work with other States Parties to ensure a reference of importance of the State Level Concept in the Outcome Document of this Review Conference.

Slovenia joins other States Parties that continue to condemn cases of Treaty's non-compliance, notably by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) and Syria. This Review Conference should address this issue as well. Regarding the case of non-compliance of Iran, we put our confidence to those negotiating Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action between E3+3 and Iran, expressing our full-fledged support and hope they conclude their work before the summer break.

On the issue of peaceful use of nuclear energy, we reaffirm our recognition of the inalienable right of all States Parties to develop, research, produce and use nuclear energy for peaceful and civilian purposes. In this context, we support the IAEA's Technical Cooperation Programme, including the Technical Cooperation Fund and the Peaceful Uses Initiative. Slovenia contributes to and benefits from the Technical Cooperation Programme and Fund.

Madam President,

Before I conclude, allow me to touch upon two issues that will be widely debated in the course of next three weeks.

Firstly, we regret that the **Conference on the establishment of a zone free of weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East** has not been convened yet, as agreed at the 2010 NPT Review Conference five years ago. Slovenia commends and supports tireless efforts of the facilitator, Ambassador Laajava of Finland, and encourages him to continue his efforts. We also encourage all states of the region to engage with Ambassador Laajava and find proper solutions regarding the agenda of the Conference that will contribute to more confidence and trust in the region.

Secondly, regarding the issue of **humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons**, allow me to state that Slovenia attended all three conferences in the framework of this initiative in Oslo, Nayarit and Vienna. It is clear that we all need to work to prevent nuclear detonations and explosions, incidental or on purpose, because of their potential catastrophic consequences for humankind. We followed carefully the rich and evidence-based discussion at these three conferences and we agree that international community should be better prepared for such an event. The United Nations seem to be the only international actor able to coordinate relevant international efforts in this regard. In our view, the humanitarian impact initiative should be streamlined in the framework of the NPT in the future, and not elsewhere.

Finally, Madam President,

I would call upon to all States Parties to work constructively with you and us on a consensual Outcome Document of this NPT Review Conference. We are convinced that successful conclusion of this Review Conference will bring us closer to our final goal – a world free of nuclear weapons.

I thank you Madam President