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MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

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by

H.E. Nikola Poposki

Minister of Foreign Affairs

at the

68th Session of the
United Nations General Assembly

**High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on
Nuclear Disarmament**

New York, 26 September 2013

**Mr. Secretary General,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Multilateralism remains the best approach to security, including disarmament and non-proliferation. It is the best way to secure international peace and ensure human security.

However, when it comes to nuclear weapons, leadership must come and be sustained from those countries that possess nuclear weapons. This is why President Obama's call for reductions in nuclear weapons in Berlin gives us great confidence that concrete steps are possible.

Over the years we have agreed on a comprehensive legal framework to bolster nuclear disarmament and strengthen nuclear security. The variety of available instruments facilitated enhanced cooperation among member states and created conditions for improved national implementation of our obligations.

The Treaty on the Non-proliferation of Nuclear Weapons remains the cornerstone of the global nuclear non-proliferation regime and the essential nuclear disarmament tool. The NPT state parties must fully comply with its provisions or otherwise they seriously undermine non-proliferation and disarmament efforts. We must continue to work on non-accession of states that are not party to the NPT and continue to voice our expectations that they adhere to its terms and pledge commitments to non-proliferation and disarmament.

Another crucial document in this area is the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty. States should pursue its early entry into force and its universalisation. Equally important is the immediate launch of negotiations on a Treaty Banning the production of fissile materials for nuclear weapons and other nuclear explosive devices at the Conference on Disarmament.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me in this context underline the importance of our renewed commitment to uphold, implement and strengthen the multilateral disarmament and non-proliferation treaties and agreements, as well as initiatives developed to complement them.

Much remains to be done to strengthen nuclear security, to prevent nuclear accidents and to prevent unauthorized access to nuclear or radiological materials and weapons. In this difficult process we fully support initiatives to strengthen the International Atomic Energy Agency and its capacity on the challenge of nuclear safety.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me conclude by saying that a nuclear weapons-free world is viable. It requires efforts on the part of many stakeholders, including first and foremost the nuclear states. But of no less importance are our collective effort and a strong voice of civil society.

I thank you.