

**Statement By**  
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**To the United Nations and Other International Organizations in Vienna**  
  
**on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement State Parties to the NPT**

**Cluster 1 Specific Issue: Nuclear disarmament and security**  
**assurances**

**First Preparatory Committee for the**  
**2020 Review Conference of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation on**  
**Nuclear Weapons**  
**Vienna, 2-12 May 2017**

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**Mr. Chairman,**

1. It is my honor to speak on behalf of the Group of Member States of the Non-Aligned Movement Parties to the NPT.
2. The Group reiterates that the total elimination of nuclear weapons is the only absolute guarantee against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons. The Group reaffirms its principled position on nuclear disarmament, which remains its highest priority, and on the related issue of nuclear non-proliferation in all its aspects. It stresses the importance that efforts aiming at nuclear non-proliferation should be parallel to the simultaneous efforts aiming at nuclear disarmament.
3. The Group expresses deep concern at the continued lack of progress in the field of nuclear disarmament, which could undermine the object

and purpose of the Treaty. It remains concerned by the existence and continued deployment of tens of thousands of nuclear weapons, and the lack of transparency in the nuclear weapons programs of Nuclear-Weapon States (NWS).

4. The Group reiterates its strong call for the full implementation of Article VI of the Treaty as well as the unequivocal undertaking by the NWS at the 2000 Review Conference to accomplish the total elimination of their nuclear arsenals leading to nuclear disarmament, which was reaffirmed by the 2010 Review Conference. That undertaking should be demonstrated without further delay through an accelerated process of negotiation and through the full implementation of the 13 Practical Steps to advance systematically and progressively towards a nuclear-weapon-free world, as agreed at the 2000 Review Conference and reaffirmed by the 2010 Review Conference.
5. In this connection, the Group emphasizes, in particular the prime importance of and urgent need for the full and prompt implementation of the commitments by the NWS under Action 5 of the 2010 "action plan on nuclear disarmament". In this context, the Group further recalls that the NWS had committed to accelerate concrete progress on the steps leading to nuclear disarmament.
6. Noting the reports submitted to the Preparatory Committee in 2014 under Action 5 of the 2010 "action plan on nuclear disarmament", the Group calls upon the 2020 Review Conference to take stock and consider the next steps for the full implementation of Article VI of the Treaty in realization of the objective of the total elimination of nuclear weapons.
7. The Group welcomes the General Assembly resolutions 68/32, 70/34, and 71/71 entitled "Follow-up to the 2013 high-level meeting of the General Assembly on nuclear disarmament", in which the Assembly (a) called for the urgent commencement of negotiations in the Conference on Disarmament for the early conclusion of a comprehensive convention on nuclear weapons to prohibit their possession, development, production, acquisition, testing, stockpiling, transfer, use

or threat of use and to provide for their destruction; (b) decided to convene, no later than 2018, a UN high-level international conference on nuclear disarmament to review the progress made in this regard; and (d) declared 26 September as the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons. The Group urges a full implementation of these resolutions. These resolutions provide a concrete pathway for realizing the objective of nuclear disarmament.

8. The Group further recalls Action 6 of the 2010 "action plan on nuclear disarmament" through which all States agreed that the Conference on Disarmament (CD) should immediately establish a subsidiary body to deal with nuclear disarmament, within the context of an agreed, comprehensive and balanced program of work. The Group deeply regrets the continued inflexible postures of some NWS that have prevented the CD from establishing an ad hoc committee to negotiate on nuclear disarmament.
9. In this regard, the Group stresses the urgent necessity of negotiating and bringing to a conclusion, a phased program for the complete elimination of nuclear weapons with a specified time frame.
10. The Group also reiterates its call to the CD to immediately establish, as the highest priority, a subsidiary body to negotiate and conclude a comprehensive convention on nuclear weapons to prohibit their possession, development, production, acquisition, testing, stockpiling, transfer, use or threat of use and to provide for their destruction.
11. The Group remains deeply concerned by the lack of progress towards the total elimination of nuclear weapons despite some reports of bilateral and unilateral reductions. Any such reductions are undermined by the modernization of nuclear weapons, their delivery systems, and related infrastructure by the NWS. It is also concerned by the lack of tangible progress on enhancing transparency, in accordance with Action 5 (g).

12. Noting the New START, the Group stresses that reductions in deployments and in operational status cannot substitute for irreversible cuts in and the total elimination of nuclear weapons. The Group accordingly calls on the NWS to apply the principles of transparency, irreversibility and verifiability to all such cuts, and to further reduce their nuclear arsenals, both warheads and delivery systems, thus contributing to the fulfillment of their nuclear disarmament obligations and facilitating the realization of a world free of nuclear weapons at the earliest date.
13. The Group emphasizes that the indefinite extension of the Treaty does not imply the indefinite possession by the NWS of their nuclear arsenals, and considers, in that regard, that any assumption of indefinite possession of nuclear weapons is incompatible with the integrity and sustainability of the nuclear non-proliferation regime, both vertical and horizontal, and with the broader objective of maintaining international peace and security.

Mr. Chairman,

14. The Group underscores that, pending the total elimination of nuclear weapons, it is the legitimate right of all non-nuclear-weapon States (NNWS) that, by becoming parties to the Treaty and having given up the nuclear weapons option, inter alia, to receive effective, universal, unconditional, non-discriminatory and irrevocable legally binding security assurances against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons under all circumstances.
15. The Group stresses that, in accordance with the UN Charter, States must refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any State or in any other manner inconsistent with the principles and purposes of the UN. Any use or threat of use of nuclear weapons would be a crime against humanity and a violation of the principles of the UN Charter and international law, in particular international humanitarian law.

16. The Group expresses concern that in spite of the long-standing requests by NNWS parties to the Treaty to receive legally binding, effective, unconditional, non-discriminatory and irrevocable negative security assurances, no tangible progress has been made in that regard.
17. The Group notes the unilateral statements by each of the NWS, in which they give very limited, conditional and insufficient security assurances against the use of nuclear weapons to NNWS parties to the Treaty. Such unilateral statements fail to meet any of the requirements of universal, legally binding, effective, unconditional, non-discriminatory and irrevocable security assurances.
18. While deploring the military and security doctrines of the NWS and the strategic concept for defense and security of the members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), which are based on the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons and which maintain unjustifiable concepts of security based on promoting and developing military alliances and nuclear deterrence policies, the Group strongly calls upon the NWS to exclude completely the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons from their military and security doctrines.
19. The Group stresses the need for urgent negotiations on the provision of effective, unconditional, non-discriminatory, irrevocable, universal and legally binding security assurances by all NWS to all NNWS parties to the Treaty against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons under all circumstances. Recalling the decision at the 2000 Review Conference, the Group calls for the establishment of a subsidiary body on security assurances, to consider legally binding, unconditional, irrevocable and non-discriminatory negative security assurances by the five NWS to all NNWS parties to the Treaty.
20. In closing, the Group of Non-Aligned States Parties to the Treaty reiterate the urgent need for the conclusion of a universal, unconditional, non-discriminatory and legally binding instrument to

effectively assure all NNWS parties of the Treaty against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons under any circumstances, as a matter of high priority.

Thank you.