



Remarks by

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General Debate

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Mr. President,

I congratulate you on your election to steer the work of this Review Conference and assure you of our full support.

NPT remains a fundamental multilateral instrument for international peace and security.

Albania considers it as the cornerstone of the global disarmament and non-proliferation architecture, a key element in facilitating cooperation on nuclear energy for peaceful purposes.

Albania will continue to promote NPT's universality and effectiveness. We call on those states that have not yet done so, to join the Treaty without delay.

We remain committed to the long-term goal of a world without nuclear weapons, believing that in the current security context, **a step-by-step approach to global nuclear disarmament is the right path to build trust and confidence.**

In this vein, Albania has endorsed the initiatives on "*Stepping Stones for Advancing Nuclear Disarmament*" and "*Nuclear Risk Reduction Package*", put forward by the Stockholm Initiative, as concrete efforts towards improvement of global security, confidence-building measures and advancement with the implementation of commitments on nuclear risk reduction.

Mr. President,

Aware of the magnitude of the threat from terrorism and the risk that non-state actors **may acquire, develop, traffic or use nuclear weapons and their means of delivery**, we attach paramount importance to the implementation of the UN Security Council Resolution 1540. The role of the

International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to monitor the implementation of the non-proliferation regime is key.

Mr. President,

In January this year, we welcomed the Joint Statement of the five nuclear weapon states and their willingness to commit as foreseen under Article VI of the Treaty, for the cessation of a nuclear arms race, reduction of nuclear weapons stockpile and nuclear disarmament. **It was another time, and a different world.**

Since February this year, Russia's military aggression in Ukraine, besides its tragic toll in civilian victims and outspread destruction, has seriously affected European and world security. It has blatantly violated International Law and the UN Charter but also Russia's own commitments under the Budapest Memorandum of 1994 on security assurances.

We are therefore, seriously concerned over the nuclear safety and security risks in Ukraine. From the beginning of the war, the IAEA has warned about the risk of a severe nuclear accident. We join the call of Director General Grossi repeated here yesterday for the IAEA to be allowed to send a mission to the Zaporizhzya facility to conduct safety, security and safeguards protocols.

We all know that a **nuclear war cannot be won, so it should never be fought.** This is why we are deeply worried by the nuclear saber rattling on the possible use of nuclear weapons. They should be condemned, in the strongest terms. **We must not allow those who want to push the world backwards.**

Mr. President,

We remain deeply concerned by the objective of the DPRK regime to enhance its WMD and ballistic missile program in violating international law and several Security Council resolutions.

We condemn all ICBM launches from the DPRK and call to end its continuous unilateral and grave escalations that are seriously threatening the Korean Peninsula, Indo-Pacific region and the whole world.

We call on the DPRK to implement in full the SC resolutions, return to NPT and comply with its provisions and IAEA safeguards.

JCPOA remains the only tool at hand for the international community to be reassured in a verifiable way that Iran's nuclear program is and remains solely dedicated to peaceful purposes. We call on Iran to engage in good faith and seek realistic and lasting solutions.

Albania welcomes IAEA Board of Governors resolution that calls upon Iran to act fast to fulfill its legal obligations and resolve all outstanding safeguards issues under the NPT. We deeply regret the recent decision of Iranian authorities to shut down the IAEA cameras of the Online Enrichment Monitor. Iran must fully cooperate with the IAEA and not undermine its work.

Mr. President,

Albania supports disarmament and non-proliferation education initiatives, that go in line with SG Disarmament Agenda, by developing and implementing policies and educational programs for young people to increase and facilitate their constructive engagement in the field of disarmament and non-proliferation.

It is important that the United Nations provide leadership in bringing relevant gender perspectives to the center of attention in disarmament affairs, as well as recognize the disproportionate impact of nuclear radiation on women and girls.

We call for the full, equal, and meaningful participation of women across all disarmament and non-proliferation decision-making processes, including in the NPT's implementation and review.

Thank you!