



AUSTRALIA



AUSTRALIAN MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

E-mail australia@un.int

150 East 42nd Street, New York NY 10017-5612 Ph 212 - 351 6600 Fax 212 - 351 6610 www.australia-unsct.gov.au

TENTH REVIEW CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE TREATY ON THE NON-PROLIFERATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS

8 AUGUST 2022

Main Committee II Statement

Chair

Australia congratulates you on your appointment. We assure you of our full support.

Preventing the proliferation of nuclear weapons is as important now as when the NPT was concluded over half a century ago. The Treaty – and the confidence it delivers – can never be taken for granted. New efforts are necessary to continue to build the confidence and trust that underpins non-proliferation assurances.

The Treaty has been remarkably successful, but there remain concerns and challenges.

The ongoing development of nuclear weapons and delivery vehicles by the DPRK is unacceptable. We renew our call on the DPRK to abandon its illicit nuclear weapons program and return to compliance with the NPT, its IAEA safeguards agreement and relevant Security Council resolutions. No State Party should be silent on this matter.

In relation to Iran, it remains our view that the Joint Comprehensive Program of Action (JCPOA) remains the best available mechanism to assure the international community of the exclusively peaceful nature of Iran's nuclear program. We are deeply concerned by Iran's growing stockpile of enriched

uranium. We are further concerned by Iran's protracted failure to address in a technically credible manner the presence of nuclear material at undeclared locations and call on it to cooperate with the IAEA to address outstanding concerns without delay.

Unfortunately this year we have a new situation to add to the list of concerns. Russia's invasion of Ukraine poses grave threats to nuclear security and the safeguarding of nuclear materials in Ukraine. Australia condemns in the strongest possible terms, Russia's unilateral, illegal and immoral aggression against the people of Ukraine.

We call on Russia to immediately return control of all of Ukraine's nuclear sites to Ukrainian authorities so they can independently undertake vital safety and operational functions and carry out their duties free of duress. This is also critical to ensuring the IAEA and Ukraine can implement safeguards on all nuclear facilities in Ukraine, consistent with their commitments.

Chair

Australia continues to offer its strong support to the crucial safeguards work of the IAEA, and the importance of all states concluding an Additional Protocol. Australia commends the Agency's continued diligent work throughout the COVID-19 pandemic and in the face of new challenges.

Consistent with Actions 25 and 28 of the 2010 Action Plan, Australia calls on all states yet to conclude and implement a Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement and Additional Protocol with the IAEA to do so without delay.

The combination of a CSA and AP represents the modern verification standard. But safeguards are not static. As agreed at past RevCons, safeguards should be continually assessed.

Chair

Consistent with our membership of the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) and Zangger Committee, we urge all States Parties to establish, maintain and implement effective export controls over nuclear and nuclear-related dual-use items and technology.

Application of IAEA safeguards is a prerequisite for the supply of Australian uranium to any country and ensures that Australia's uranium supply is never used for nuclear weapons. Australia continues to meet its international obligations as a nuclear supplier in accordance with Action 35.

Chair

Nuclear Weapon Free Zones play an important role in strengthening the non-proliferation and disarmament regime.

Australia is proud to be a member of the South Pacific Nuclear Free Zone, recognising our collective responsibility for our Blue Pacific.

The Middle East is a priority region for the establishment of a WMD free zone, which should be on the basis of arrangements freely arrived at among States of the region concerned. We welcome the progress made at the two sessions of the conference on the establishment of such a zone.

Chair

As outlined in the general debate, we are aware of the interest of States Parties in the trilateral effort between Australia, the United Kingdom and the United States towards Australia's proposed acquisition of nuclear-powered, conventionally armed submarines.

As we have made clear, our commitment to nuclear non-proliferation is steadfast and unchanged.

We are determined to pursue this cooperation in a manner which preserves the integrity of the safeguards system and sets the highest possible non-proliferation standard.

Australia will meet all of its obligations under NPT, the Treaty of Rarotonga and other relevant agreements, including with the IAEA. And we will continue to engage openly.

Chair

Preventing the proliferation of nuclear weapons is in the interests of all States. It is central to the NPT's continuing relevance. It is our shared responsibility to support effective initiatives to strengthen the global non-proliferation regime and ensure that no more States or non-State actors ever acquire nuclear weapons.

Thank you.