



IRELAND

Statement by

Ms. Orlaith Fitzmaurice

Director of Disarmament and Non Proliferation

Department of Foreign Affairs

Main Committee I

Treaty on the Non Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

Tenth Review Conference

New York, 4th August 2022

Check against delivery

Chair,

Ireland aligns with the statements of the European Union and the New Agenda Coalition.

This Review Conference takes place at a time of nuclear danger. We condemn Russia's nuclear threats in the context of its war of aggression against Ukraine. This has grave implications for our work in Main Committee I, and for the credibility of the NPT. This Review Conference must send a clear signal that such nuclear threats, indeed any nuclear threats, are entirely unacceptable.

As we assess implementation on disarmament during this review cycle and chart our course for the way forward, it is inescapable that the lack of progress on disarmament comes at a cost.

Since the last Review Conference, we have seen the erosion of a number of important arms control agreements. We have seen a greater reliance on nuclear weapons in security doctrines. We have seen extensive modernisation and qualitative improvements in weapons systems. Nuclear arsenals are increasing in numbers and diversity. Reductions in transparency increase the risk of escalation and miscalculation. These trends are not consistent with our shared objective of a world free of nuclear weapons, and must be reversed. The alternative is a new nuclear arms race.

Chair

Central to our work are the Article VI obligations and the unequivocal undertaking of the Nuclear Weapon States to accomplish the total elimination of their nuclear arsenals. All obligations and commitments remain valid and must be honoured. Their implementation is long overdue. Such slow progress in implementing the Treaty's nuclear disarmament obligations is untenable. The indefinite possession of nuclear weapons runs counter to the object and purpose of the disarmament pillar and threatens to erode the credibility and effectiveness of the Treaty as a whole.

Chair

The 2010 Review Conference declared deep concern at the "catastrophic humanitarian consequences of any use of nuclear weapons". Since then, our understanding has been further reinforced by a growing evidence base and by the series of international conferences on

humanitarian consequences, including the most recent one held in Vienna in June. Ireland calls for this Review Conference to affirm that the use of nuclear weapons would have catastrophic immediate and long-term consequences, creating a humanitarian emergency significantly beyond the response capacity of States or international organisations. Furthermore, these impacts disproportionately affect women and girls.

The total, irreversible and verifiable elimination of nuclear weapons is the only way to completely remove their risks. Now, more than ever, risk reduction measures are urgently needed. Ireland fully supports the elaboration of such measures at this Review Conference, with appropriate benchmarks, transparency and the involvement of Non Nuclear Weapon States for their implementation.

However, risk reduction cannot legitimise the indefinite possession of nuclear weapons. Growing and modernising nuclear arsenals, and developing new means of delivery, are not compatible with a meaningful or responsible approach to nuclear risk reduction.

Chair,

A vision of a more peaceful world, underpinned by the political will to achieve it, led Ireland and a large majority of States to adopt the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. The TPNW has already re-energised debate on nuclear disarmament. The outcome of the first Meeting of States Parties successfully demonstrated the value of the TPNW as a pathway to fulfilling Article VI obligations. Ireland is pleased to lead work within the TPNW on the complementarity between the two treaties. We hope to see the positive contribution of the TPNW reflected in the outcome document of this meeting.

Chair,

We are marking the 25th anniversary of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty. We are encouraged by the additional states that have ratified since the last Review Conference, but are concerned that the Treaty is yet to enter into force, despite being repeatedly recognised in NPT outcomes as a concrete step towards nuclear disarmament. Ireland calls individually on each of the eight remaining Annex 2 States to show leadership and join the CTBT without delay or condition. Ireland calls on all states to abide by the moratorium on nuclear weapon test explosions or any other nuclear explosion, and refrain from any action contrary to the object and purpose of the Treaty. Nonetheless, such measures do not have the same permanent and

legally binding effect to end nuclear weapon testing, which can only be achieved with the entry into force of the Treaty.

Chair

Ireland does not subscribe to the view that progress towards nuclear disarmament can only be made when the ideal security conditions exist. We are encouraged by the offer of the United States to resume dialogue on strategic stability. The NPT itself shows us what can be achieved, at times of great danger. Instigated by Ireland at the height of the Cold War, when the accepted wisdom was that the number of nuclear armed states would grow rapidly, the NPT represents what is possible through effective multilateralism. In our view, disarmament is an enabler of security and builds trust and confidence. Nuclear weapons are indiscriminate and afford none of us any security. The only way we can guarantee safety of humanity and our planet from their catastrophic humanitarian, societal, economic and environmental consequences, is their total elimination.

Thank you.

728 words