



IRELAND

Main Committee II

Statement by

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Tenth Review Conference of the Parties to the
Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT)

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Chair,

Congratulations on your election as Chair of Main Committee II. Ireland aligns with the statement by the European Union.

Chair,

Ireland is concerned that the absence of progress on nuclear disarmament will have a detrimental impact on non-proliferation. The best way to protect the NPT – and its successes under the non-proliferation pillar – is to fully implement all three pillars.

Ireland commends the unique and indispensable role of the IAEA in the implementation of the non-proliferation pillar. Ireland considers that the Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement and the Additional Protocol constitute the current verification standard under the NPT. Ireland calls for universal adherence to the Additional Protocol. Ireland calls on states developing their civilian nuclear programmes to amend or rescind their Small Quantities Protocol and sign and ratify the Additional Protocol as a matter of priority. This Review Conference provides a timely opportunity to reaffirm the importance of universal adherence to IAEA safeguards, and build momentum on the Additional Protocol and the Small Quantities Protocol by reflecting this in its outcome.

Ireland is a strong supporter of export control regimes. These are vital instruments for countering proliferation while facilitating peaceful applications as envisaged in the NPT. Ireland regards Resolution 1540 as a key element in the fight against non-state actors seeking to acquire and use Weapons of Mass Destruction. We support strengthening the work being done under the resolution including in addressing emerging challenges, and we hope to see that reflected in this Review Conference.

Chair,

Of direct concern to Main Committee II is the negative impact that Russia's invasion of Ukraine is having specifically on the IAEA's ability to carry out its verification pursuant to Ukraine's safeguards obligations.

Ireland regrets that Syria has not yet resolved its safeguards issues with the IAEA. Ireland calls on Syria to cooperate with the Agency as a matter of priority and to sign, bring into force and implement in full an Additional Protocol with the IAEA as soon as possible.

Chair,

Ireland supports progress on the Establishment of a Middle East Zone Free of Nuclear Weapons and Other Weapons of Mass Destruction and their Delivery Systems. This is integral to the package of measures that secured the indefinite extension of the NPT in 1995. We have been encouraged by the outcomes of the UN Conferences in 2019 and 2021 on the establishment of a Middle East zone and we believe that these conferences can play a part in making progress on this important issue.

Chair,

Since the last Review Conference, we had witnessed the successful conclusion and, for a time, implementation of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action. It was deeply regrettable that the US left the agreement. It was also deeply regrettable that Iran has taken steps that, today, raise very serious proliferation concerns. This Conference should call on all parties to return to the agreement, and on Iran to return to full implementation of the JCPoA, including full cooperation with the IAEA on monitoring and verification without delay. This, together with resolving outstanding safeguards issues, is essential to preserve the IAEA's continuity of knowledge and the only way for the international community to receive the necessary assurances of the exclusively peaceful nature of Iran's nuclear programme.

Ongoing nuclear activities by the DPRK are a matter of utmost concern. It is long past time for DPRK to take concrete steps towards complete, verifiable and irreversible denuclearization of the Korean peninsula and to end its other WMD and ballistic missile programmes. DPRK must return to compliance with the NPT and its IAEA Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement, and bring into force the Additional Protocol, as well as signing and ratifying the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty.

Chair,

In order to safeguard the norm against proliferation enshrined in the NPT, the Treaty itself must remain robust and fit for purpose. This will require the full implementation of its interdependent provisions. We also recall that this Treaty was negotiated at a time of severe international tension, when the widespread proliferation of nuclear weapons seemed inevitable. Ireland would urge all State Parties to remember that substantial progress can, and has, been made in difficult geopolitical circumstances, for the benefit of all.

Thank you