



H.E. Ambassador Lucy Duncan
Closing statement to the NPT Plenary,
26 August 2022

Thank you for giving me the floor, Mr. President.

I take the floor to express New Zealand's deep disappointment that this Review Conference has not been able to agree a consensus outcome. That one delegation has frustrated the will of the wider NPT community is unacceptable. And that this delegation is the Russian Federation – which has invaded its neighbour, breached international law, issued nuclear threats and seized control of Ukrainian nuclear facilities – is nothing short of egregious.

Much will be said about the draft outcome that was on offer today. But irrespective of the strengths and weaknesses of that text, it did represent a sign of the collective cooperation so sorely needed at this time of global uncertainty and insecurity. That all but one party to the NPT membership managed to negotiate an outcome – and come to understandings across the three pillars of the NPT – is no small achievement.

Mr President, we leave here dissatisfied and frustrated, but ever the more committed to our pursuit of a world free of nuclear weapons. This Conference has highlighted just how much work remains to be done.

In this regard, it would be remiss not to place on record New Zealand's deep disappointment at how little advancement was possible on nuclear disarmament, notwithstanding the overwhelming demand from non-nuclear weapon states. This belies the urgency of our work given the heightened

risk and catastrophic humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapon use, and must not be a feature of the forthcoming review cycle.

Finally, Mr President, I thank you, your delegation, and the Secretariat for your tireless work. Your commitment and effort have been exemplary and this failure does not fall on your shoulders. Mil mil gracias.

Thank you.