



**TENTH REVIEW CONFERENCE OF THE TREATY ON THE NON-
PROLIFERATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS (NPT)**

**SOUTH AFRICAN NATIONAL STATEMENT TO MAIN COMMITTEE II –
SAFEGUARDS, NON-PROLIFERATION AND NUCLEAR WEAPON FREE ZONES**

Chairperson,

My delegation associates itself with the statement delivered on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement and African Group.

Non-proliferation has been the most successful of the three pillars of the NPT. Regrettably, in a period of over 50 years, Nuclear Weapon States have continued to call on Non Nuclear Weapon States to do more on non-proliferation to create an environment that is conducive for disarmament, without Nuclear Weapon States delivering on their end of the bargain.

Chairperson,

South Africa reaffirms that the International Atomic Energy Agency is the only recognised competent authority responsible for verifying and providing the assurance that State parties are fulfilling their obligations. These assurances are essential for States, in particular developing States, to benefit from the utilisation of nuclear, and nuclear derived technologies for development.

South Africa continues to advocate for a balance between the promotional and non-promotional activities of the IAEA. In this regard, we continue to work closely with the Agency on safeguards implementation in our country as well as through the Technical Cooperation Programme, which is the main delivery vehicle for nuclear science, technology, and applications for peaceful uses.

South Africa recommends that the Conference reaffirms the IAEA as the sole competent authority responsible for verifying the fulfilment of safeguards obligations , with a view to preventing diversion of nuclear energy from peaceful uses. .

Chairperson,

South Africa is pleased with the increase in the number of States that have entered into Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement. Whilst the conclusion of an Additional Protocol remains a voluntary act by sovereign States, it is an extremely important confidence building measure, specifically in States with advanced nuclear programmes and facilities. We regret that 26 States, including those with known nuclear – build ambitions, are yet to rescind or revise their Small Quantities Protocols. We call on States which are yet to do so rescind or revise Small Quantities Protocols, enter into Comprehensive Safeguards Agreements as well Additional Protocols with the Agency.

We recall that the 2010 NPT RevCon agreed on specific actions aimed at strengthening the IAEA safeguards system, including through the development of appropriate legally binding arrangements to ensure the irreversible removal of fissile material designated by each Nuclear-Weapon State as no longer required for military purposes. My delegation remains concerned about any withdrawals by the Nuclear-Weapon States of nuclear material from such selected facilities as provided for in their respective agreements. It is incumbent on the Nuclear-Weapon States to refrain from such withdrawals, and to apply the principles of irreversibility, verifiability and transparency in relation to their NPT obligations. It is regrettable that, similar to other actions that were agreed upon at 2010 NPT RevCon, little progress has been made in the development of an appropriate legally-binding verification arrangements with the Agency. Furthermore, no progress has been made with regards to additional declarations of stockpiles of fissile material that could be used in nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices.

South Africa therefore recommends that the Conference:

1. Reiterates that IAEA safeguards should be evaluated regularly and be strengthened accordingly,.
2. Calls for the wider application of safeguards to peaceful nuclear facilities in the Nuclear-Weapon and Non Nuclear Weapon States, .
3. Supports the establishment of safeguarded worldwide nuclear disarmament and the development of appropriate legally binding verification arrangements, within the context of the IAEA, to ensure the irreversible removal of fissile material from nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices, and.
4. Urges Nuclear-Weapon States to commit to declaring to the IAEA all weapon-grade fissile material and to place such material under the supervision of the Agency, for the use of such material for peaceful purposes and to ensure that such material remains permanently outside military programmes.

Chairperson,

Nuclear-weapon-free zones play an important role in preventing the vertical and horizontal proliferation of nuclear weapons and constitute important steps to strengthen the nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation regime.

In view of the continued importance of power and non-power applications of nuclear energy, nuclear-weapon-free zone treaties also play an important role in promoting regional and subregional programmes for co-operation in the peaceful uses of nuclear science and technology. In this regard, the good work of the African Union Commission on Nuclear Energy (AFCONE) have facilitated the attainment of these benefits in the African continent.

South Africa continues to support the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones in all regions of the world, including in the Middle East. We welcome the convening of the two sessions of the Conference on Middle East zone and supports any agreed

modalities towards achieving this goal. Furthermore, we reiterate our call for Israel to join the NPT and to place its nuclear facilities under IAEA comprehensive safeguards.

Chairperson,

The IAEA's work on nuclear security is indispensable and it is essential that all States, at all times, maintain effective security of all nuclear and other radioactive material, including the 85% of material used for non-civilian purposes. It is our view, however, that legitimate concerns with nuclear security and safety cannot be used as a pretext for the imposition of constraints on the inalienable right of States to the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. The Conference should guard against any preconditions on peaceful uses not supported by the NPT.

In conclusion Chairperson, I We believe that the international community must continue to promote universal adherence to the NPT, strengthen the multilateral institutions responsible for disarmament and non-proliferation issues, and be vigilant against any steps that could undermine efforts to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons.

I thank you.