



Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Initiative (NPDI)
Group Statement at General Debate of the 10th NPT Review Conference

Mr. President,

1. On behalf of Australia, Canada, Chile, Germany, Japan, Mexico, the Netherlands, Nigeria, the Philippines, Poland, Türkiye and the United Arab Emirates, members of the Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Initiative, or NPDI, I would like to express my heartfelt congratulations to you, Ambassador ZLAUVINEN, on your assumption of the presidency of the 10th NPT Review Conference. I assure you of our utmost support in achieving a successful outcome.

Mr. President,

2. For the past 12 years, the NPDI has demonstrated spirit of collaboration and diplomacy for advancement of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation and has worked relentlessly towards the full and comprehensive compliance with all the provisions of the NPT by all its parties. As a cross-regional group consisting of members with diverse perspectives, the NPDI has demonstrated its strength by developing and presenting constructive contributions to the NPT review cycles.
3. The NPDI calls on all parties to the NPT to exercise effective multilateralism and seek common ground to uphold this Treaty, which is the cornerstone of the nuclear disarmament and nonproliferation regime, an essential foundation for the pursuit of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, and a key element for the maintenance of peace and security.
4. The NPDI has contributed to this review cycle with 17 working papers and is pleased to present our “Landing Zone Paper” for consideration of the parties at this Review Conference. It contains a comprehensive list of practical recommendations across all three pillars and we hope that they can assist this Conference in arriving at action-oriented commitments that build upon the 2010 Action Plan.

Mr. President

5. The NPDI strongly deplores Russia's aggression against Ukraine, and the failure to respect the commitments under the Budapest Memorandum on security assurances in connection with Ukraine's accession to the NPT, seriously undermining the NPT regime. We are deeply concerned about the threat of use of nuclear weapons and the forceful seizure of and attacks on nuclear facilities, which are unacceptable. These escalatory actions pose a serious risk to nuclear safety and security, and undermine global efforts on disarmament and non-proliferation. They also underscore the need for nuclear risk reduction.

6. The current rapid deterioration of the international security environment, is worrying. . The NPDI reaffirms that the only absolute guarantee against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons is their total elimination. The NPDI is of the strong view that the 40-year long decrease in global nuclear arsenals must be sustained and not reversed. In this sense, to achieve the unequivocal undertaking by all Nuclear-weapon States to eliminate their nuclear arsenals, we call for greater progress in implementing disarmament obligations. This includes:

- Further reductions in the global stockpile of all types of nuclear weapons, leading to their total elimination and the achievement and maintenance of a world free of nuclear weapons;
- Reaffirmation of the undertakings not to increase nuclear weapons arsenals;
- Adoption of tangible risk reduction measures, pending the total elimination of nuclear weapons and;
- Increased transparency through engagement in concrete activities;

We urge all States that have yet to ratify the CTBT to do so without delay, particularly the remaining eight States listed in its annex 2. We also stress that the early commencement of fissile material cut off treaty negotiations is a shared priority for the international community.

7. After 76 years since the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, we remain deeply concerned at the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of any use of nuclear weapons. The recognition of the catastrophic humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons underpins our efforts to achieve nuclear disarmament, and we invite the world's political leaders, young people and others to visit and interact with communities that have been affected by nuclear weapons, including Hiroshima and Nagasaki. It is in the interest of all nations that the 76 years record of non-use of nuclear weapons be extended forever.

Mr. President,

8. IAEA safeguards are the fundamental instrument for ensuring nuclear non-proliferation. We consider the IAEA comprehensive safeguards agreement (CSA), in combination with an additional protocol (AP), to be the current international verification standard under article III of the NPT. Bearing in mind the importance of universalizing the safeguards regime, we urge States that have not yet done so to conclude and ratify without delay, both CSA and AP.

9. On peaceful uses, we underline the importance of increased accessibility and broader applications of nuclear science and technology, which are already making tangible contributions to addressing global challenges for sustainable development. As a diverse cross-regional group of non-nuclear weapon States which is seized of the importance of nuclear safety, security and safeguards, the NPDI deplores Russia's forceful seizure of and attacks on nuclear facilities and other violent actions in connection with a number of nuclear facilities, nuclear and other radioactive material in Ukraine. We highly appreciate the IAEA's tireless efforts and commitment to conduct safeguards verification and ensure nuclear safety and security in Ukraine.

Mr. President,

10. The NPDI strongly condemns North Korea's unprecedented series of ballistic missile launches, in violation of relevant UN Security Council resolutions. The NPDI strongly urges North Korea to dismantle its weapons of mass destruction and ballistic missile programs in a complete, verifiable and irreversible manner and return to full compliance with its IAEA safeguards agreements and the NPT. We also call on all members of the international community to fully implement relevant UNSC resolutions.

11. We also note with concern the IAEA's diminishing ability to verify the exclusively peaceful nature of Iran's nuclear program and the lack of progress on the JCPOA talks. We note the ongoing actions by Iran that undermine from its nuclear-related commitments under the JCPOA. It is imperative to swiftly conclude negotiations for a timely restoration of the JCPOA. We reiterate our support to the full implementation of the JCPOA by all parties and strongly urge Iran to return to full implementation of the Additional Protocol and other JCPOA transparency commitments. We call upon Iran to cooperate with IAEA to clarify and resolve all outstanding safeguards issues related to undeclared nuclear facilities.

12. We encourage countries of the Middle East to continue dialogue, as agreed in the 1995 resolution and at the 2010 Review Conference, taking note of the conference process on the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of

mass destruction.

Mr. President,

13. More than a half century after the entry into force of the NPT, we must reaffirm its enduring value and recommit to its full implementation. In this regard, the NPDI is convinced that the NPT parties should discuss how to improve the working methods of the NPT Review Process. From this perspective, the NPDI proposes to establish a working group on further strengthening the review process of the Treaty, open to all States parties.

14. To address today's heightened challenges, we urgently need to recommit to find multilateral solutions, engage in interactive dialogue, implement the obligations and commitments under the NPT, build confidence and emphasize the imperative for progress towards disarmament. To that end, the NPDI would like to acknowledge the various groups of Non-Nuclear-Weapon States that are also committed to making meaningful efforts to advance NPT implementation at the Review Conference such as the Non-Aligned Movement, the New Agenda Coalition, the Vienna Group of Ten and the Stockholm Initiative on Nuclear Disarmament. The NPDI is ready to work with you and all delegations.

Thank you.