

*Unofficial translation*



Permanent Mission  
of the Russian Federation  
to the United Nations  
in New York

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Madam President,

Let me first extend our condolences to the people and the government of Nepal in the wake of the tragic events in this country. Russia is ready to render utmost assistance to the victims.

I would like to convey the welcoming address of the President of the Russian Federation Vladimir Putin to the participants and guests of our Conference:

I am glad to welcome you on the occasion of the opening of the Conference.

The agenda of the meeting includes a range of issues related to the implementation of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons that for more than four decades has been a cornerstone of the international security



remains fully relevant. It is important not to upset the delicate balance of interests of all States Parties reflected in the Plan. The Plan's consensus provisions based on the balance between the three pillars of the NPT – nuclear non-proliferation, disarmament, and peaceful uses of nuclear energy – should be fulfilled. We hope that this Review Conference will also succeed in working out new solutions in furtherance of the document.

As a State Party to the Non-Proliferation Treaty and one of its

undiminished and equal security for all. But now we see just the opposite, not to mention the lack of progress in removing threats to the strategic stability and, as a result, affecting the work on disarmament. Our common challenge is to reverse that dangerous trend and Russia is ready to take further efforts to that end.

At the same time, it is important to be aware that we have come very close to the stage when the advancement towards nuclear is only possible through the involvement of all nuclear-weapon-capable States without exception.

The solution of this task will obviously require relevant policy and regulatory frameworks. We certainly welcome the unilateral steps undertaken by some States to reduce their nuclear potential. But we cannot ignore the fact that such measures are not international legal obligations, they do not presuppose verification and can be revised at any moment.

At this stage, one of the major challenges to the non-proliferation regime is the extremely unsatisfactory situation with regard to convening the Conference on the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear and all other weapons of mass destruction (WMDFZ). Despite considerable efforts made by Russia among others, this very significant event could not take place within the fixed time period. Nevertheless, the goal to establish the WMDFZ remains on the international agenda, and we consider it important to continue to vigorously work to urgently convene the Conference. This will be facilitated by the ongoing unprecedented process, which, for the first time in many years, gathered representatives from the countries of the region at the negotiating table to resolve differences through dialogue. It is important not to lose this experience and benefit from it in future work in this area. We expect that consideration of this issue in the coming four weeks will give a strong and positive impetus to further efforts to convene the Helsinki Conference as soon as possible.

Establishing nuclear-weapon-free zones is essential to strengthen the non-proliferation regime. A year ago, joint efforts of the Central Asia countries and the five nuclear-weapon States culminated in the signing of the Protocol to the Treaty on the establishment of such a zone in the Central Asian region. Russia has completed its ratification.

We expect that in the near future we will come close to signing the Protocol to the Treaty on a nuclear-weapon-free zone

utmost effort in this respect. Our future agreement should be certainly based on universally recognized rules of the international law, as well as instruments of the IAEA safeguards system, without setting any harmful precedents.

The progress achieved in the settlement of the Iran's nuclear issue proves vividly that regional non-proliferation challenges can only be addressed by political and diplomatic means through negotiations. We expect that a similar approach will also prevail in relation to the nuclear issue of the Korean Peninsula, which requires immediate resolution in the interests of regional and international peace and security.

The confidence of the NPT States Parties in the IAEA safeguards is pivotal to render the whole nuclear non-proliferation system sustainable. This confidence has always been based on the IAEA unbiased verification mechanism of compliance with non-

accession to



Conference. We assumed that there were other formats to that end. Yet, after the statement delivered by the American delegation today we have to touch upon this subject.

According to Washington, the US is willing to and ready to negotiate further reductions of deployed nuclear warheads by up to one third. But the stance of the Russian Federation allegedly constitutes a major obstacle as it refuses to . In fact, it is the US policy that hinders further nuclear reductions. This can be explained by its intransigent course, which effectively undermines strategic stability in th

States could work on issues pertaining to the production and military engagement of the banned ballistic missiles.

Notwithstanding, for many years the US has been producing and using combat drones which obviously fall under the Treaty definition of ground-based

to apply nuclear weapons and participate in the nuclear planning process. We call on the US and those NATO Member States concerned to ensure due compliance with the NPT obligations. If they cease to violate the Treaty, they will make their best contribution to strengthen the nuclear non-proliferation regime.

In conclusion, I would like to express hope that our Conference will further continue in a more benevolent and pacific atmosphere and will ultimately prove to be fruitful. The Russian delegation willn