

Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Initiative (NPDI)

General Joint Statement

**Second Preparatory Committee for the 2020 Review
Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-
Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT)**

Geneva, 23 April - 4 May 2018

Mr Chairman

On behalf of the member states of the Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Initiative (NPDI) – Australia, Canada, Chile, Germany, Japan, Mexico, the Netherlands, Nigeria, the Philippines, Poland, Turkey and the United Arab Emirates – I congratulate you most warmly, Ambassador Bugajski, on your assumption of the Chair of this PrepCom.

At this mid-point in the 2020 NPT Review Cycle, and in recognition of the 50th anniversary of the treaty's opening for signature in 1968, we, the members of the NPDI, reaffirm the critical importance of concerted action to achieve our shared goal of a world free of nuclear weapons. We are deeply committed to our core mandate to strengthen the disarmament, non-proliferation and peaceful uses of nuclear energy regime established by the NPT, based on the implementation of the 2010 NPT Review Conference Action Plan.

We are united and focused on the NPT's objective to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons and weapons technology, to foster the use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, and to facilitate nuclear disarmament and general and complete disarmament. In this vein, the NPDI endorses the reflections of the PrepCom 2017 chair as common ground for NPT member states and discussions during the remainder of this Review Cycle.

Mr Chairman

Despite the recent period of restraint, North Korea's illegal nuclear and ballistic missile programs continue to pose a grave threat to global security. The NPDI hopes that dialogue will lead to North Korea taking concrete steps towards complete, verifiable, and irreversible denuclearisation of the Korean Peninsula in a peaceful manner. We strongly urge North Korea to fulfil its commitments under the Six-Party Talks, including those in accordance with the September 2005 joint statement, to abandon all nuclear weapons and existing nuclear programs, to return, at an early date, to the NPT; to comply with its obligations under multiple UN Security Council resolutions; refrain from conducting further nuclear and missile tests; and to adhere to its International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards agreement. NPDI countries commit to the continued the implementation of their obligations under UN Security

Council resolutions and to maintaining maximum diplomatic and economic pressure on North Korea.

Mr Chairman

The NPDI is committed to contributing to a successful outcome of the current Review Cycle, based on the need to comprehensively address all three pillars of the NPT (nuclear disarmament, non-proliferation and peaceful uses). In this respect, we urge all States Parties to fully comply with their obligations and commitments under the NPT, particularly with the full and prompt implementation of all the actions in the 2010 Action Plan.

The NPDI will continue to build on the agreed 2010 NPT Action Plan by developing new ideas and initiatives that can help build bridges between NPT member states. Additionally, we are supporting a detailed discussion on strengthening the NPT Review Process. We will look to the broader NPT membership to assist us in taking this important issue forward. As part of this agenda, concrete progress on greater gender equality will be a priority.

The NPDI is pleased to submit for consideration at this PrepCom several working papers on: safeguards; DPRK; strengthening the review process; and transparency. The

language agreed in these working papers reflects our group's diverse, cross-regional membership and should be of broad interest to the wider NPT membership.

Mr Chairman

The NPDI resolves to work actively towards further progress and concrete results on nuclear disarmament. Sustained, high-level political leadership as well as unwavering commitment to the NPT are needed to make concrete progress towards achieving deeper reductions in nuclear arsenals worldwide and towards the total elimination of nuclear weapons. This also requires trust and confidence-building measures to create an environment conducive to nuclear disarmament.

The Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) is an essential component for achieving nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. The NPDI regrets that the Treaty, 21 years after its opening for signature, is yet to come into force. We therefore urge all states that have yet to ratify the CTBT, and in particular the remaining Annex II states, to do so without delay.

Increasing the transparency of all States Parties on the implementation of NPT commitments is the signature initiative of the NPDI. We reiterate our commitment to

continuing our constructive dialogue with the five NPT nuclear weapon states to make progress on strengthening the NPT. We call on the nuclear-weapon states to use a standard reporting form to provide regular reports to the NPT on implementation of their nuclear disarmament obligations. We commend the NPDI reporting template to all States Parties as a useful transparency tool. We would welcome further dialogue on the information provided in those reports, including with nuclear weapons states.

Further progress on nuclear disarmament verification is essential to attain and sustain a world without nuclear weapons. NPDI members support the International Partnership for Nuclear Disarmament Verification (IPNDV), and the Group of Governmental Experts on Nuclear Disarmament Verification. We welcome the active collaboration and dialogue between NWS and NNWS in these processes, which are essential for building trust and technical capacity.

The NPDI is working actively towards the early commencement of negotiations on a treaty to ban the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices (FMCT). We welcome the work of the High-level FMCT expert preparatory group and look forward to considering the group's final report

later this year. The NPDI commits its full support to this process and urges the Conference on Disarmament to launch negotiations on such a treaty as soon as possible.

Mr Chairman

The NPDI is committed to strengthening the effectiveness and efficiency of the IAEA safeguards systems. The IAEA Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement, in combination with an Additional Protocol, is considered to be the current international verification standard. We call upon all States that have not yet done so to conclude and implement an Additional Protocol without delay.

The NPDI is committed to the further successful implementation of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) with Iran, which demonstrates concretely that diplomacy can successfully advance NPT objectives when supported by a broad international consensus. Continued strict implementation of the JCPOA by all sides, based on full respect for the NPT, will ensure the exclusively peaceful nature of Iran's nuclear program. We welcome the International Atomic Energy Agency's (IAEA) continued activities to monitor and verify Iran's implementation of its JCPOA commitments.

The NPDI supports the right of all States Parties who meet their non-proliferation obligations to access the full benefits of nuclear science and technology. We welcome the IAEA's central role in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and in safeguards verification and encourage all states to commit to the ongoing implementation of safeguards as well as effective levels of safety and security.

As a diverse cross-regional group of non-nuclear weapon States, the NPDI will continue to play a constructive and proactive role in facilitating discussions on these and other challenging issues and bridging diverse positions to help reinvigorate the NPT Review Cycle process. NPDI is committed to supporting a productive outcome at the 2020 Review Conference to mark the 50th anniversary of the NPT's entry-into-force.

Thank you, Mr Chairman.