Broadly-Likeminded Group Joint Statement

NPT Review Conference

10 August 2022

Chair,

I take the floor on behalf of Australia, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Montenegro, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Türkiye and my own country, Japan.

The NPT remains a singular accomplishment. Since 1970, it has been the cornerstone of the global non-proliferation and disarmament architecture, as well as an essential instrument for international peace and security. Its success was not a foregone conclusion, and attention is necessary to ensure its continued relevance and effectiveness. Achieving full implementation of the NPT requires active support from States Parties and meaningful and enduring commitments. That is why Review Conferences and the review cycle are important for the Treaty.

We should acknowledge the NPT's achievements and be honest in reviewing its implementation – where we have done well, and where we still have work to do. This also applies to reviewing the NPT review cycles' procedures and working methods. Indeed, an honest assessment of the state of the NPT strikes us as a critical component of a Review Conference's outcome.

Likewise, we need to look to our common interests in strengthening the Treaty, to maintain commitments, to narrow differences and to find space for compromise to advance our shared goals.

Our approach takes into account the international security environment while recognizing the risks posed by nuclear weapons. Indeed, the NPT has always been an instrument for pursuing ambitious aims whilst taking into account geopolitical realities. That goal has not changed: to advance towards the ultimate achievement of a world without nuclear weapons.

To this end, we support pragmatic, inclusive measures including: universalization of the NPT; prompt entry into force of the CTBT; immediate commencement and early conclusion of negotiations of a treaty to ban the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices; voluntary ceasing of such production pending entry into force of such a treaty; and cooperation on nuclear disarmament verification and the concept of irreversibility.

It is also critical that we commit to concrete risk reduction measures, based on previous commitments and firmly anchored in the aim of preventing the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of any use of nuclear weapons. While not a substitute for action on disarmament, such measures can offer genuine security benefits and represent a step towards disarmament. These measures should include: a reaffirmation or tightening of existing negative security assurances; greater transparency on nuclear arsenals; an inclusive dialogue on nuclear doctrines, including on the role of nuclear weapons in security policy and doctrine; and awareness raising, including through visiting Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

The Review Conference should establish an inclusive, multilateral follow-up process on risk reduction, whilst recognising the special responsibility of the nuclear weapons states to meet their Article VI obligations under the NPT. In this regards, we welcome the proposals in the Stockholm Initiative's Nuclear

Risk Reduction Package working paper and the Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Initiative (NPDI)'s Landing Zone working paper.

We also recognize the need for disarmament initiatives that recognize the importance of inclusivity and diversity, especially through the equal, full and effective participation of women, and engagement of youth.

We acknowledge the various groups of States Parties that are also making meaningful efforts to advance NPT implementation, such as the NPDI, the Stockholm Initiative, the Vienna Group of Ten, and the New Agenda Coalition. By working through diverse perspectives and formulating proposals based on compromise and flexibility, we hope that together we can achieve a successful Review Conference. We also recognize the value of ongoing discussion among experts as part of the International Partnership for Nuclear Disarmament Verification and the Creating the Environment for Nuclear Disarmament initiative.

We cannot, however, ignore the international security environment, or fail to recognize the challenges it may present in pursuing our objectives. Russia's brutal, illegal war of aggression against Ukraine, its dangerous nuclear rhetoric and attacks on and around civilian nuclear infrastructure have shaken the global rules-based order including all three pillars of the NPT. Inaction is not an answer. The 76-year record of non-use of nuclear weapons must be maintained. We need to move forward collaboratively in ways that reduce risks, build trust, and strengthen verification and compliance, with a view to achieving further reductions in nuclear weapons arsenals. We emphasize that the 40-year long decrease in global nuclear arsenals must be advanced and not reversed.

We welcome the extension of the New START Treaty between the US and Russia, which represents a crucial contribution to international security. We also appreciate the efforts of some Nuclear Weapons States to increase their transparency on doctrines and the nuclear weapons they possess.

We welcome the P5 Leaders' Statement on preventing nuclear war and avoiding arms races issued in January, which reaffirmed the futility and far-reaching consequences of nuclear war. But we are gravely concerned that Russia's actions have called into question this commitment.

As outlined in Article VI of the NPT, all NPT-States Parties have a unifying commitment to pursue a nuclear weapon free world; however, the Nuclear Weapon States bear a particular responsibility. We encourage all Nuclear Weapon States to exercise leadership, collectively and individually, to deliver concrete outcomes at this Review Conference, and thereby reinforce the NPT as a vital element of the global non-proliferation and disarmament regime.

Thank you.