



European Union

Statement by

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European External Action Service**

**Second Session of the Preparatory Committee to the NPT
Annual Meeting of States Parties**

(Geneva, 22 April – 3 May 2013)

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General Statement by the European Union

Mr. Chairman,

I have the honor to speak on behalf of the European Union.

The following countries align themselves with this declaration: Croatia^{*}, Turkey[§], the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia^{*}, Montenegro^{*}, Iceland[‡], Serbia^{*}, Albania^{*}, Bosnia and Herzegovina^{*}, Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova and Georgia.

Let me first congratulate you, Mr. Chairman, for taking up this very important duty. It gives us great pleasure to see a representative of an EU Member State presiding over the proceedings of the Second Session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2015 NPT Review Conference. I would like to assure you that we will fully support you in your efforts to achieve a successful outcome of this PrepCom.

The EU reiterates the priority of upholding the NPT. Our objective for the whole NPT Review Cycle is to strengthen the international nuclear non-proliferation regime and achieve tangible and realistic progress towards the goals enshrined in the NPT. With a view of attaining this goal, the EU, during this Second Session of the NPT PrepCom, will continue to promote a comprehensive, balanced and substantive implementation of the forward-looking 2010 NPT Review Conference Action Plan - which is our common roadmap to the 2015 Review Conference.

The EU works with all States parties to promote international efforts against nuclear proliferation and responds resolutely and effectively to cases of non-compliance, stressing current non-proliferation challenges in the DPRK, Iran and Syria. We will work to pursue nuclear disarmament in accordance with Article VI of the NPT. The EU will also work to ensure the responsible development of peaceful uses of nuclear energy by countries wishing to develop their capacities in this field and making progress on implementing the NPT 1995 Resolution on the Middle East.

Nuclear nonproliferation, disarmament and arms control, together with confidence and transparency, are vital aspects of collective security. The EU has long stressed the need for a comprehensive approach to all these issues. Effective multilateralism, prevention and

^{*} Accessing Country Croatia and the Candidate countries former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia as well as potential candidate countries Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.

[§] Candidate Country

[‡] Candidate Country Iceland continues to be a member of the EFTA and of the European Economic Area.

international cooperation are the three main goals of the EU Strategy against the Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction.

The EU continues to regard the NPT as the cornerstone of the global nuclear non-proliferation regime, the essential foundation for the pursuit of nuclear disarmament in accordance with Article VI of the NPT and an important element in the further development of nuclear energy applications for peaceful purposes. We reaffirm our full support of all three reinforcing pillars of the Non-Proliferation Treaty. The EU emphasizes the importance of universalizing the NPT and calls on States that have not yet done so to join the Treaty as non-nuclear weapon states and, pending their accession to the Treaty, to adhere to its terms and pledge commitments to non-proliferation and disarmament.

The EU is actively pursuing the implementation, without delay and in a balanced manner, of the forward-looking 2010 Action Plan, which is designed to strengthen the three pillars of the Treaty and calls upon all NPT States parties to do the same. In this regard, the EU welcomes and encourages the Nuclear Weapons States meetings, such as the ones held in Paris in 2011, in Washington DC in 2012 and in Geneva last week on the follow-up to the NPT Review Conference, including confidence-building, transparency, verification and discussions on reporting, as well as initiatives of Non-Nuclear Weapons States like the Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Initiative promoting the implementation of the 2010 Action Plan.

The EU reaffirms its commitment to and stresses the need for concrete progress in the field of nuclear disarmament and arms control, especially through an overall reduction in the global stockpile of nuclear weapons, in accordance with Article VI of the NPT. We welcome the considerable reductions made so far taking into account the special responsibility of the States that possess the largest arsenals and encourage them to achieve further reductions.

The EU remains committed to treaty-based nuclear disarmament and arms control and stresses the need to renew multilateral efforts and revitalize multilateral negotiating bodies, in particular the Conference on Disarmament. Its ongoing stalemate, including its persistent failure to agree on a Programme of Work, remains deeply troubling. The European Union reiterates its call for the immediate commencement and early conclusion of the negotiation in the CD on an FMCT, which remains a clear priority. We consider the continued blockage of the CD unacceptable.

The Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty is of crucial importance to nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation and a top priority for the European Union. We reaffirm our strong support for the rapid entry into force of the CTBT and promote it through our diplomatic and financial engagement. Pending the entry into force of the Treaty, the EU calls on all States to uphold a moratorium on nuclear weapon test explosions or any other nuclear explosion, to refrain from any action that would defeat the object and purpose of the Treaty. We congratulate Brunei Darussalam and Chad on their recent ratifications of the CTBT in January and February 2013 and reiterate our call for action by those States that have yet to sign and ratify, in particular those listed in Annex 2 of the Treaty.

The international community continues to be faced with major proliferation challenges by the DPRK, Iran and Syria: these must be addressed in a resolute way in order to maintain the credibility and effectiveness of the NPT regime. In this context, the EU underlines the primary responsibility of the UN Security Council for the maintenance of international peace and security, including in cases of non-compliance.

The EU strongly condemns the DPRK satellite launches using ballistic missile technology conducted on 13 April and 12 December 2012 as well as the nuclear test conducted on 12 February 2013, in blatant violation of the UN Security Council Resolutions 1695, 1718 and 1874, reconfirmed in UNSC Resolutions 2087 and 2094. The EU strongly urges the DPRK to abandon all its existing nuclear and ballistic missile programs in a complete, verifiable and irreversible manner. We strongly condemn the DPRK's aggressive rhetoric, including repeated threats of the use of force. The EU also calls on the DPRK to refrain from any further provocations and to return to full compliance with the NPT and IAEA safeguards obligations. We deplore the announcement by the DPRK of its intention to restart its nuclear facilities at Yongbyon, including the 5 MW reactor and its uranium enrichment. This would be in clear violation of the relevant UN Security Council resolutions as well as of its commitments made in 2007 in the Six Party Talks to shut down these facilities. Continued breaking of its international obligations by the DPRK that threaten stability in the region will inevitably lead to an ever more united response by the international community.

In the case of Iran, the EU remains deeply concerned about their nuclear programme and continues to be engaged in renewed efforts aimed at finding a negotiated solution. Our objective remains to reach a comprehensive long-term settlement, which would restore international confidence in the exclusively peaceful nature of Iran's nuclear programme, ensuring that Iran is in compliance with all its obligations under the NPT, as well as relevant UNSC and IAEA Board of Governors resolutions, while fully respecting its right to the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. The most recent meetings of representatives of the E3+3 with Iran, led by the EU High Representative, are a clear example of our determination to work towards achieving a diplomatic solution. In line with our dual track approach we urge Iran to constructively engage on the basis of the confidence-building proposal presented by the E3+3 and to take the concrete steps that would pave the way for comprehensive negotiations and to avoid further isolation. We call on all UN Member States to support these efforts by fully implementing relevant Security Council Resolutions.

The EU deeply regrets that, despite the resolutions of the Board of Governors of the IAEA and the Syrian pledge in 2011 to the Director General to respond positively and without delay to the Agency's request to resolve all outstanding questions, Syria has yet to provide the necessary cooperation. The EU strongly urges Syria to fully comply with this resolution. The Syrian authorities remain responsible, as required by the Board's resolution, for urgently remedying their noncompliance with their NPT Safeguards Agreement and for cooperating urgently and transparently with the Agency to clarify matters with regard to Dair Alzour and the other sites, and to sign and ultimately bring into force an Additional Protocol as soon as possible.

The EU strongly supports the outcome of the 2010 NPT Review Conference on the Middle East. In this context, we regret the postponement of the Conference on the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction, which, in accordance with the decision of the 2010 Review Conference of the NPT was scheduled to take place in 2012. The EU remains fully committed to the objective of establishing such a zone. We continue to fully support the ongoing preparations for a successful conference with the participation of all States of the region and the tireless efforts of Ambassador Laajava to lay the groundwork in this respect, including through consultations to prepare for the conference to ensure its arrangements are freely entered into between the States of the region. We hope that the Conference will be convened as soon as possible this year. We have contributed to the process through two EU sponsored seminars on a WMD-free zone in the

Middle East in July 2011 and in November 2012 and stand ready to further support the process, including through follow-up to our previous initiatives, if deemed appropriate by the Facilitator and in close coordination with the countries of the region.

Regarding the importance of developing the peaceful uses of nuclear energy under the best safety, security and non-proliferation conditions, the EU focussed its action in three areas: nuclear safety, nuclear security and international cooperation.

The EU welcomes the opportunity provided by this Second Session of the PrepCom to exchange and share information on efforts and progress in implementing the Action Plan, as well as on other important issues, such as universal adherence and implementation of Article X of the NPT. The EU will in particular work towards strengthening the effectiveness and the comprehensiveness of the non-proliferation regime. The EU considers that the conclusion of a Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement together with the Additional Protocol represents the verification standard under Article III of the NPT. We also continue to see the need for strengthening the NPT through a common understanding of States Parties on how to respond effectively to a State Party's withdrawal from the NPT, including by drawing attention to the potential implications for international peace and security of such a withdrawal. In this context, we stress the requirement for the United Nations Security Council to act promptly and address without delay any State Party's notice of withdrawal from the NPT and promoting the adoption of measures in this regard.

The First Session of the NPT Review Conference's Preparatory Committee, which met in Vienna last May, paved the way for a smooth start of the new NPT Review Cycle. We reiterate our full commitment to a successful outcome of this PrepCom and reaffirm our readiness to work, in the same constructive spirit, with you, Mr. Chairman and all States Parties to the NPT, to achieve this goal.

Thank you.