

## **Non official translation**

Madam President:

As I begin my statement, I would like to congratulate you for your election. We are convinced that your compromise, leadership and experience will guide us towards a successful Review Conference of the Treaty on the Non Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. You can count with the cooperation of my delegation for your mission of guiding the work of this Conference.

At the same time, allow me to express the condolences of Argentina to the peoples and government of Nepal for the tragic earthquake that they were victims a few days ago.

My Delegation fully subscribes the statement to be delivered by the distinguish Representative of Ecuador, on behalf of the Community of Latin-American and Caribbean States (CELAC). In light of that, I'll limit myself to emphasize some points of special relevance for my country.

The Argentine Republic wishes to reiterate its full and absolute compromise with the objectives and purposes of the Treaty on the Non Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, which constitutes a key instrument for peace and international security, and the cornerstone of the non- proliferation and disarmament regime.

At the same time, we wish to underline the necessity of achieving substantive progress in the balanced fulfillment of the three pillars of the Treaty: nuclear disarmament, nuclear non- proliferation and peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

Madam President:

Regarding the issue of non- proliferation, Argentina considers essential that countries comply with their obligations under the Treaty on the Non Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and its relevant safeguards agreements, which imply active cooperation in the supply of relevant information regarding their respective nuclear programs.

In this context, I wish to express the recognition of my Delegation to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) for the efficient work it has been undertaking in order to

assure the compromises that emerge from the Treaty, and the execution of the safeguards mechanisms.

In the same sense we also want to recognize the work that is developed, in the case of my country, by the Brazilian-Argentine Agency of Accountability and Control of Nuclear Materials (ABACC). That regional agency, jointly with the IAEA and the Governments of Argentina and Brazil articulate under the framework of the four-side Agreement of 1991 a system of double control over the nuclear facilities of both countries: it has a regional dimension in charge of ABACC, and another universal dimension from behalf of IAEA. By the means of this unique system, reinforced and superior guarantees than those demanded by Article III of the Treaty are provided.

Since my country is part of the first densely populated area to be declared free from nuclear weapons based on the Treaty of Tlatelolco, I want to reiterate our conviction that the establishment of nuclear weapon free zones, negotiated among countries of each region, contribute in a significant way to peace and security.

At the same time, I wish to express, once more, the request to those States that have issued interpretative declarations to the Protocols of the Treaty of Tlatelolco for the withdrawal of them, in compliance with the text of the instrument. Full adherence to all Nuclear Weapons Free Zones is needed from nuclear powers.

Regarding this issue we would like to draw the attention of this Review Conference to the situation created due to the behavior of the United Kingdom, which, in the framework of its campaign for militarization of the South Atlantic, has introduced in the denuclearized area of the Treaty of Tlatelolco submarines with the capacity to deliver nuclear weapons, and has refused to provide assurances of the absence of nuclear weapons. This behavior constitutes itself an implicit threat that we have strongly rejected. We the States that have renounced to nuclear weapons have the right to live without being threatened by those who, under the Treaty on the Non Proliferation have committed to disarmament and have not complied yet.

In the area of non proliferation that we are analyzing, we wish to specially emphasize the initial agreement that has been reached between the Six Countries (United States, Russian

Federation, United Kingdom, France and China) on the one hand, and Iran on the other, which lays down the bases for a balanced solution to the crisis created by the nuclear capacities of Iran.

This initial agreement that has been reached preserves the principle that any violation to the Treaty on the Non Proliferation will not be validated by the international community. At the same time it emphasizes the sovereign right of the countries for peaceful uses of nuclear energy. Finally, it respects the principle of peaceful solution for conflicts by the mean of negotiations.

We look forward for a successful development of the initial agreement achieved, through negotiations planned to address specific issues, to be finished in the month of June.

Madam President:

I would now like to refer to the pillar of peaceful uses of nuclear technology.

The last years have been marked by two perspectives on this issue. On the one hand, the revaluation of the generation of nuclear energy in light of the necessity to count with sources of energy that do not have an impact in the global emissions of carbon. On the other, the importance of improving standards of physical protection and technological security of nuclear facilities.

My country has a long-term trajectory in the field of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, due to the investigation, design and production of this technology since several decades. Being Argentina a developing country, this achievements demand huge efforts in terms of human and financial resources.

At the same time, my country considers that international cooperation in the field of nuclear technology for peaceful uses plays a central role for contributing to satisfy the necessities of States in terms of social and economical development. In this context, Argentina has been and will be open to provide cooperation, in order to share and transmit experiences regarding pacific uses of nuclear energy for human welfare and development. Several delegation present here can give testimony of our willingness in this issue.

In the development of the above mentioned cooperation actions, Argentina is in line with the highest standards in terms of export controls, embodied in the guidelines of the Nuclear Suppliers Group, which we have the privilege to chair since June 2014.

From that point of view of holders and responsible exporter of nuclear technology for peaceful purposes, we follow with concern any type of initiative that tries to hamper or deter the capacity of States to fully use the right to nuclear technology for peaceful purposes.

Madam President:

Progress achieved in the pillars of non proliferation and peaceful uses, to which we have already referred to, do not correspond with the lack of sustained progress with regard to the fulfillment of the obligation of nuclear powers to reduce their arsenals. This situation attempts against the balance of obligations that derive from the three pillars of the Treaty, and undermine international peace and security.

Against this, it is necessary and urgent to advance towards the goal of nuclear disarmament, achieving the complete and general elimination of nuclear weapons. As pointed out by the Community of Latinamerican and Caribbean States (CELAC), the continued existence of nuclear weapons and there possible use represent a threat against humanity. It is therefore necessary to advance towards complete and verifiable disarmament. The complete elimination of nuclear weapons constitutes the only guarantee against weapons whose potential use by any state, inside or outside the Treaty, would have irreparable humanitarian consequences.

In the same sense, we cannot put off anymore the entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty, for what it is still required the ratification of essential actors. Furthermore, the necessary political will must be demonstrated in order to overcome the stagnation that exists in the Conference on Disarmament, in order to advance, among other issues, in an instrument of Negative Security Assurances.

At the conclusion of this intervention, I wish to share some final reflections.

The proliferation of nuclear weapons cannot be tolerated. Failure to comply with the Treaty and its dispositions cannot pass unnoticed, and deserves the strongest condemnation and most vehement reaction from behalf of all of us.

At the same time, there is still work to be done in order to advance with regard to full universalization of the Treaty on the Non Proliferation.

Regarding the possibility of withdrawing from the Treaty, paragraph 1 of Article X establishes – against an extraordinary event - a right that is an integral and inseparable part of a delicate legal balance over which the Treaty on the Non Proliferation is founded. This right must not be restricted.

At the same time, there exists a worrying precedent of a case in which an abusive use of this right took place, with severe consequences for international security. However being an isolated event thus far, the analysis of that possibility occurring again in the future should not be dismissed. In this respect, it would be convenient to identify possible ways to respond to or deter another abusive case of use of Article X paragraph 1, without undermining in any way the sovereign exercise of the legitimate right to withdraw under the exceptional conditions established in the Treaty.

The Treaty on the Non Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons is our best tool for advancing towards a world free from nuclear weapons, more safer and peaceful, eliminating thereby eliminating the most grave threat that lingers against humanity.

However, the Treaty on the Non Proliferation is essentially a security treaty, and only its full application can provide security for all.

Thank you very much.