



Please check against delivery

Statement
by H.E. Mr. Askar BESHIMOV,
Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kyrgyz Republic,
at the 2015 Review Conference
of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons
(New York, 28 April 2015)

Madame President,

I am pleased to join the previous speakers in congratulating you on your assumption of the Presidency for the 2015 NPT Review Conference. We are greatly impressed by the rich experience you bring to this important position. I wish you success in your endeavors and promise you the full support of my delegation.

Madame President,

We gather in New York at a critical juncture for the Non-Proliferation Treaty, which faces both extraordinary challenges and important opportunities. The challenges are well known to us, and I will not repeat them. It is worthwhile, however, to recall at the outset of this Conference that we had overcome similar difficult challenges in the past. As we are all aware, in 2000 your fellow predecessor Ambassador Abdalah Baali effectively guided the 6th NPT Review Conference to an extremely successful outcome.

It is also important to recognize a number of new opportunities to advance nuclear disarmament and nonproliferation goals and I would like to highlight some of them. Before I address these opportunities, my delegation would like to emphasize the importance of maintaining the positive environment of the 2010 NPT Review Conference and the generally constructive and flexible positions demonstrated by most States Parties at that meeting. It enabled us to agree on a forward looking Action Plan and other important recommendations.

Towards this goal, my delegation hopes that this Review Conference will contribute to the strengthening of the review process as envisaged by the 1995 NPT Review and Extension Conference. My delegation is especially desirous that States Parties will be able to report on the progress they achieved during the past five years in implementing the Action Plan and recommendations of the 2010 Review Conference. It is also important to identify ambitious but practical measures to advance the goals of the Treaty during the next review cycle.

Madame President,

The 2010 NPT Review Conference was noteworthy for its innovative adoption of an Action Plan format where we have 64 specific benchmarks against which to assess implementation of the Final Document. My delegation looks forward to the reports by States Parties to the Treaty - especially those of the Nuclear Weapon States with respect to concrete actions they have taken and plan to take to reduce all categories of nuclear weapons in a transparent and irreversible way.

My delegation also shares the views of those States Parties, who attach particular importance to the expeditious ratification and entry into force of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty. My country ratified it in 2003.

We also take positive note of the support from an overwhelming number of NPT States Parties, including our own, for the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons Initiative. We hope that the 2015 NPT Review Conference will reflect this support in its final document.

Madame President,

The establishment of nuclear weapon-free-zones contributes to disarmament and non-proliferation in all its aspects. As it was highlighted at the Third International Conference on Nuclear Weapon-Free Zones held last week in New York, establishment of these zones is an effective way for achieving the objective of the total elimination of nuclear weapons.

The Kyrgyz Republic takes pride in the entry-into-force in 2009 of the Central Asian Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone. A treaty on its establishment was signed on September 8, 2006. Article 18 of the Treaty has established the Kyrgyz Republic as a depository of the Treaty, which indicates the Kyrgyz Republic's active role in the creation of the Zone. Furthermore my country is coordinator of the Zone in 2015.

We welcome the signing of the Protocol on negative security assurances to the Treaty on a Nuclear Weapons Free Zone in Central Asia by Nuclear Weapon States on May 6, 2014, during the 2014 NPT Preparatory Committee. France, the United Kingdom, Russia and China have already ratified the Protocol. We are pleased with information of Secretary of State Mr. John Kerry that the Protocol was submitted to US Senate. We call on the United States to ratify the Protocol as soon as possible. As the depository of the Protocol, the Kyrgyz Republic stands ready to faithfully carry out its functions.

In order to encourage the timely entry into force of the Protocol, the States Parties to the Central Asian Nuclear Weapon Free Zone submitted a joint Working paper on the Treaty on a Nuclear Weapons Free Zone in Central Asia to the 2015 NPT Review Conference.

As a member of one of the newest nuclear-weapon-free zones, my country expresses its concern over the delay in convening of a Conference on the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction. Although we are disappointed that a date has not yet been agreed upon for the Conference in Helsinki, we are encouraged by the consultations among relevant parties in the past two years. We are hopeful that the Conference will be convened by the end of this year.

Madame President,

The Kyrgyz Republic has always regarded the NPT as the cornerstone of the nuclear nonproliferation regime, and it continues to do so. We also recognize, however, that the world has changed significantly in recent years. New proliferation challenges have emerged and old ways of doing business will no longer suffice. In order for it to remain viable, the Treaty must adapt to changing circumstances, which include the growing risk of nuclear terrorism.

My delegation regards international safeguards and physical protection of nuclear materials and facilities as the first line of defense against nuclear terrorism. As such, the Kyrgyz Republic strongly endorses the International Atomic Energy Agency's efforts to strengthen the international safeguards system, including adoption of the Additional Protocol as the safeguards standard.

The Kyrgyz Republic also supports efforts to strengthen the Convention on Physical Protection of Nuclear Material and to implement United Nations Security Council Resolution 1540 in order to

address the proliferation challenges posed by non-state actors, and my country welcomes the practical measures identified in the Communiqués of the 2010, 2012, and 2014 Nuclear Security Summits.

My country also supports calls for the initiation of international negotiations on a treaty banning the production of fissile materials for use in nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices.

The Kyrgyz Republic firmly believes that it is essential for us to preserve the principles and spirit of the NPT regardless of whether or not states remain party to Treaty. Consequently, my country looks favorably on efforts to strengthen provisions regarding withdrawal of states from the Treaty.

We welcome the progress made during the negotiations between P5+1 and Iran over Iran's nuclear program in Lausanne on April 2, 2015. We hope that agreed framework provides the basis for the early conclusion of a comprehensive agreement that will be fully implemented by all parties.

Madame President,

My delegation attaches great importance to the issue of mitigating the environmental consequences of uranium mining and associated nuclear fuel cycle activities in the production of nuclear weapons. This subject was identified at the 1995 NPT Review and Extension Conference and addressed at all subsequent Review Conferences.

The Kyrgyz Republic would like to reiterate the call made at prior Review Conferences, for all governments and international organizations that have expertise in the field of clean-up and disposal of radioactive contaminants to consider giving appropriate assistance as may be requested for remedial purposes in these affected areas. Rehabilitation and securing the safety of uranium tailings, which today total more than 8 million cubic meters on our territory, still remain as an acute problem. My delegation plans to submit a working paper in this regard on behalf of the States Parties to the Treaty on a Nuclear Weapon Free Zone in Central Asia.

My delegation strongly believes that environmental consequences of uranium mining and associated nuclear fuel cycle activities related to the production of nuclear weapons is an important but often neglected dimension of the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons. In this regard we would welcome the inclusion of this issue in the agenda of future discussions about humanitarian consequences.

My delegation also wishes to draw attention to another vital but often neglected issue. It is the role of education and training as tools to promote disarmament and nonproliferation. The Kyrgyz Republic welcomes the inclusion in the 2010 Final Document of Action 22, which calls on all states to implement the recommendations of the UN study on disarmament and nonproliferation education. We appreciate the leadership shown by Japan, among other States Parties, in continuing to raise the issue of education and training in the NPT context. We look forward to working with other interested member States in developing practical steps to promote full implementation of the measures called for by the UN study.

Madame President,

As we begin deliberations at the 2015 NPT Review Conference, my delegation recognizes the enormous challenges we face with respect to nuclear disarmament, nonproliferation, and peaceful use, as well as the need for timely action. We pledge to work with you and other States Parties to find common ground and to put in place practical means to ensure the long-term integrity, effectiveness, and relevance of the NPT. We are confident that with your vision and leadership we can - and must - achieve a successful Review Conference outcome.

Thank you.