



Permanent Representation
of the Federal Republic of Germany
to the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva

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Statement on behalf of Australia, Canada, Chile, Germany,
Japan, Mexico, The Netherlands, Poland, Turkey and the United
Arab Emirates, members of the Non-Proliferation and
Disarmament Initiative (NPDI)

by Ambassador Hellmut Hoffmann

Permanent Representative of the Federal Republic of Germany
to the Conference on Disarmament

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Mr. Chairman,

Since this is the first time that I am taking the floor, I wish to congratulate you on your election as Chair of the Second Session of the NPT PrepCom and to assure you of the full support of the German delegation.

One of the areas in the field of disarmament which is increasingly getting more attention – and for good reason – is the area of declaratory policy. I would like to briefly introduce the Working Paper the Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Initiative submitted on this topic.

As it is well-known, the NPT-action Plan obliges the Nuclear Weapon States to (Action 5) "accelerate concrete progress on the steps leading to nuclear disarmament". Action 5 spells this out in more detail and under heading c calls upon the nuclear weapon states to "further diminish the role and significance of nuclear weapons in all military and security concepts, doctrines and policies". Over the last years we have been observing some progress in this area. But we are firmly convinced that more is possible and achievable. Yesterday, the NPDI had organized a side-event with distinguished panelists who discussed these intricate matters.

It is evident that also in this area change takes time and is rather incremental than revolutionary. But we need to press forward in order to ensure that the 68-year record of nuclear non-use be extended forever. Also in view of the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of a use of a nuclear weapon, they simply cannot be considered to be just a weapon like any other. In this context we cannot but condemn the recent statements made by DPRK in which it threatened to carry out a pre-emptive nuclear attack.

The NPDI paper calls inter alia for:

1. Quantitative reductions should be accompanied by steps towards reducing the role and significance of nuclear weapons in security strategies and military doctrines. These steps are important contributions towards the goal of complete nuclear disarmament and will be mutually reinforcing with further quantitative reductions.
2. All nuclear-weapon States should reiterate that they will not use or threaten to use nuclear weapons against non-nuclear weapon States that are party to the NPT and in compliance with their nuclear non-proliferation obligations (what are termed negative security assurances).
3. All nuclear-weapon States should make a political commitment to refrain from developing new nuclear warheads.
4. The 2010 Action Plan calls upon the nuclear-weapon States to provide information, using a standard reporting form to be agreed under Action 21 of the 2010 Action Plan, to the Third Preparatory Committee meeting in 2014 on their efforts toward the reduction of the role of nuclear weapons. When developing such a form the nuclear-weapon States are encouraged to refer to the draft reporting form (NPT/CONF.2015/PC.1/WP.12*), which the NPDI proposed at the First Preparatory Committee in 2012.
5. In order to reduce the role of nuclear weapons, the NPT State parties are called upon to actively promote disarmament and non-proliferation education. We encourage all States parties to contribute to raising awareness, in particular amongst the younger generation, of the tragic consequences of the use of nuclear weapons.

Thank you.