



**PREPARATORY COMMITTEE FOR THE 2015 REVIEW CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE
TREATY ON THE NON-PROLIFERATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS**

CLUSTER TWO DEBATE

STATEMENT BY H.E. DEBORAH GEELS

PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE TO THE UNITED NATIONS IN VIENNA

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Check against delivery

Mr Chairman

The last few months have clearly shown why an effective non-proliferation regime is a prerequisite for a world free of nuclear weapons, and essential to ensuring the peace and security of all regions.

As States Parties to the NPT it is vitally important that we continue to focus on such issues and discuss them in a spirit of openness. Both transparency and accountability are fundamental concepts that underpin the NPT and the international safeguards system. In turn, this system provides assurances of compliance and creates the stable international environment necessary to allow for the full realisation of the Treaty's goals.

Mr Chairman

At the heart of these assurances is the International Atomic Energy Agency, which plays a key role through its robust verification that nuclear activities undertaken by states are solely for peaceful purposes. The integrity of IAEA verification practice is central to the assurances we seek through the international nuclear non-proliferation framework.

To achieve these assurances New Zealand believes that an Additional Protocol should always feature as a condition of new supply arrangements for nuclear and associated material. We encourage all countries that have not yet done so – particularly those with significant nuclear activities – to conclude and bring into force an Additional Protocol without delay. We urge those states remaining outside the NPT safeguards system to remedy this situation as a matter of priority.

In 2001, the IAEA assessed New Zealand to be in full compliance with all its safeguards commitments. With no nuclear weapons, no nuclear energy generation, no nuclear reactors and no production of uranium or other relevant material, New Zealand has only very minor activities subject to safeguards. In this regard New Zealand is supportive of the IAEA's decision, and its efforts, to modify the Small Quantities Protocol to address weaknesses in the safeguards system, and we are now in the process of finalising our own domestic processes to enable adoption of a modified SQP in the near future. We encourage others to do likewise.

New Zealand also emphasises the important role that effective export controls play in the wider international non-proliferation framework and the assurances that support it. New Zealand applies export controls to materials and dual-use goods which can be used in a nuclear weapons programme and co-ordinates these measures with other members of the Nuclear Suppliers Group. In this regard we welcome the increasing adherence to the NSG guidelines as a symbol of our growing collective commitment to the non-proliferation framework.

Mr Chairman

The current global situation presents us all with a number of increasingly intractable compliance challenges which threaten to undermine the very effectiveness of the international non-proliferation regime. As States Parties we need to continue to recognise and address these challenges.

Mr Chairman

Iran's continued non-compliance with UN Security Council and IAEA resolutions remains of deep concern.

The international community is in a difficult situation. The Agency has now held nine rounds of talks with Iran and in May last year the Director General himself flew to Tehran. These nine rounds are in addition to the Agency's many discussions held with Iran since 2007. The IAEA Board of Governors has now passed twelve resolutions on Iran and, in addition, the Security Council has passed six separate resolutions on this issue.

Mr Chairman

Such intensive and concerted international action and dialogue should have provided some reassurance or, at least, some substantive answers from Iran. But there has been no reassurance, and few answers. Accordingly New Zealand, like many others here, remains troubled as to Iran's intentions and for us many outstanding questions remain.

Without further information the international community and the IAEA cannot be assured of Iran's peaceful intentions. Iran must urgently prioritise its cooperation. Its current approach of stalled progress and avoidance is an inadequate response to the IAEA's legally mandated and technically well-founded requests.

New Zealand once again calls on Iran to take the necessary steps to reassure us all of its peaceful intentions, to engage substantively with the Agency and to urgently answer the many outstanding questions on the possible military dimensions of its nuclear programme.

Mr Chairman

That North Korea continues to blatantly defy the international community and multilateral institutions is of deep concern and represents a significant threat to peace and security in our region.

DPRK's nuclear tests of 9 October 2006, 25 May 2009, and most recently that of 12 February 2013, seriously undermine the international non-proliferation regime and breach both Security Council and IAEA Board resolutions, to which New Zealand is strongly committed. DPRK's recent actions have done nothing to credibly resolve this issue.

New Zealand continues to urge North Korea to abandon its nuclear and missile programmes, and to instead focus its energy on improving the lives of its people and engaging constructively with the international community. We must all continue to send a strong message to North Korea that this dangerously provocative path is a dead end.

Mr Chairman

Syria remains in breach of its international obligations, including its commitments under its Safeguards Agreement. There are serious outstanding questions regarding the overall purpose of the Syrian nuclear programme.

New Zealand calls upon Syria to urgently remedy its non-compliance with its Safeguards Agreement, noting that the ongoing conflict there should not be used to justify any delay and does not mean Syria should not have to live up to its international obligations.

Syria must provide the access and information needed to allow the Agency to verify that all nuclear materials there are properly accounted for and the exclusively peaceful nature of Syria's nuclear programme.

Mr Chairman

New Zealand is a strong advocate of nuclear-weapon-free zones and the role they play in promoting and safeguarding regional and international peace and stability, supporting global disarmament and non-proliferation efforts, and reinforcing the NPT itself.

That 60% of the world's states are covered by nuclear-weapon-free zones, including all states of the Southern Hemisphere, is a singular achievement. It is a powerful demonstration of the collective will that can exist at a regional level to rid the world of nuclear weapons. We look forward to increasing cooperation among existing zones and to the creation of further zones.

In this connection, New Zealand welcomes the reaffirmation at the 2010 RevCon of the 1995 Resolution on the Middle East and the agreement to convene a Conference on the establishment of a zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East.

It remains the case that by convening a Conference participants can start to lay the groundwork for a robust agreement that includes all states of the region, and that lives up to the expectations of 1995.

New Zealand would like to note our strong support for the initiative to convene the Conference and for the significant efforts undertaken so far by the Finnish government and Under-Secretary Laajava.

We regret that the Conference did not take place in 2012, and we continue to call on the convenors, the facilitator and the States of the region to exert all efforts to ensure that the Conference is convened as soon as possible.

Mr Chairman

New Zealand strongly believes that nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation are inextricably linked. We look forward to a full and frank discussion on cluster two issues as our debate unfolds. Action on both fronts is essential for the realisation of our collective goal of a world free of nuclear weapons.

Thank you Mr Chairman.

