

**Statement by  
Ms. Martina Skok, Minister Plenipotentiary,  
Permanent Mission of the Republic of Slovenia to the UN  
at the FMCT Informal Consultative Meeting  
2. and 3 March 2017**

Madam President

Slovenia is a strong supporter of nonproliferation and disarmament also in the field of nuclear weapons. We are committed to a treaty-based nuclear disarmament and arms control, and advocate universal adherence-to and full implementation of all non-proliferation and disarmament treaties and conventions, the NPT being the central pillar of non-proliferation, disarmament and peaceful uses of nuclear technology.

We support the progressive approach to a world free of nuclear weapons, based on the NPT and conclusions of its review conferences.

To this end, we have during the last 1<sup>st</sup> Committee session in October supported resolutions and activities aiming at bringing us closer to the world free of nuclear weapons, including the resolution on banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons (FMCT).

We strongly believe, that the negotiations for a treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices, should start as soon as possible, preferably in the framework of the Conference on Disarmament. This treaty constitutes an urgent necessity in the nuclear disarmament field as a complement to the NPT and CTBT.

To reach a non-discriminatory, multilateral as well as internationally and effectively verifiable treaty, we need to understand the political and technical challenges. The Group of Governmental Experts and its report also contributed to our understanding, as well as to due negotiations. Slovenia is convinced that this High-level expert preparatory-group meeting will upgrade the work of the GGE with recommendations based on their report, as well as eventually on new substantial elements.

Slovenia also supports realistic and balanced criteria for the entry into force of the future treaty, to avoid possible obstruction of its entry into force, as has happened before.

Let me conclude, Madam President, by thanking Canada, the Netherlands, Germany, and other countries involved in efforts so far, as well as the UNODA, for organizing this event.

I thank you.