



Statement by

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at the High-Level Segment of the  
Conference on Disarmament

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Mr President, Excellencies, Ministers, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Allow me to begin by congratulating you, Ambassador Liddle, on assuming the duties of the President of the Conference on Disarmament. I would like to express Slovenia's full support for your endeavours to effectively guide our work.

I am honoured to present the national views of Slovenia as an observer state in this High-Level Segment of the Conference. I fully share the **Secretary General's view that we must do more in the area of disarmament.**

Promoting a rules-based international order with **multilateralism** as its key principle and the **UN at its core** is at the heart of our interests and of our commitment. **Global challenges need global solutions.**

My country is **firmly committed to preserving** effective, treaty-based **international arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation** as key elements of **security for Europe and beyond.**

Slovenia **regrets** that **no agreement could be reached** in the last six years **to return to full compliance** with the **INF Treaty**. We **encourage the Russian Federation and the United States to remain engaged in constructive dialogue** to preserve the INF Treaty which is crucial for Europe's security. We **call on the Russian Federation to return to its verifiable implementation**. Slovenia will **support all efforts to strengthen international arms control.**

We also encourage the United States and the Russian Federation to **extend the New START Treaty in 2021 for another 5 years.**

Mr President,

In the same vein, Slovenia firmly believes that the proliferation of the **use of chemical weapons**, including the use of any toxic chemicals as weapons, in Iraq, Syria, Malaysia, as well as in the UK, by state or non-state actors, **is an unacceptable breach of international law, and may amount to a war crime or crime against humanity.** As such, it must be condemned in the strongest terms. The international community must **not allow impunity.**

Turning to nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament, we commend the role of the IAEA in ensuring Iran's on-going implementation of its commitments under the **Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA)**, a part of the global nuclear non-proliferation architecture that is crucial for the security of the region. As long as Iran honours its obligations, the JCPOA should be preserved.

Slovenia supports **all diplomatic efforts** aimed at achieving the **complete, verifiable and irreversible de-nuclearisation** of the Korean Peninsula. We urge the DPRK to **comply with relevant UN Security Council resolutions** and call on the DPRK to **ratify the CTBT**, which would pave the way for its entry into force. We also call on the DPRK to **return to the NPT and IAEA Safeguards**.

Mr President, it is our firm belief that we need to achieve our common goal of a **world free of nuclear weapons progressively**, through the full implementation of the **Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT)**; next year, we will be celebrating 50 years of its entry into force. For Slovenia, the NPT remains the cornerstone of nuclear disarmament, non-proliferation and the development of nuclear energy applications for peaceful purposes. We believe that **progress has been made in all three areas**, and we encourage all states to continue implementing the NPT. In our view, **effective, verifiable and irreversible nuclear disarmament** requires not only appropriate technical and security conditions, but also the **active engagement of states that possess nuclear weapons**.

**With the 2020 NPT Review Conference approaching, Slovenia calls for full implementation of the 2010 Review Conference Action Plan, including the action that calls for the CD to begin negotiations on a treaty banning the production of fissile material for use in nuclear weapons** in the context of an agreed, comprehensive and balanced programme of work.

My country supported the relevant UN General Assembly resolutions related to this issue, including the convening of the Group of Governmental Experts, open-ended consultative meetings and sessions of the High-Level Expert Preparatory Group led by Canada that reached a consensual outcome. We hope that all these efforts, including the report recently presented here, will **enable the CD to start the treaty negotiations without delay**.

Mr President,

As an observer, Slovenia is **open to any decision that could lead to substantive work** on all agenda items of the Conference.

Let me reiterate that Slovenia would like to **contribute to international peace and security** and to disarmament also by participating fully in the work of this Conference. We therefore look forward to a **positive decision on expanding the CD's membership in order to ensure universality, transparency, and multilateralism**. In this context, Slovenia fully supports the proposal to establish a **coordinator for exploring issues related to expanding CD membership**.

Mr President,

I would like to conclude by stressing that the equal participation and leadership of women in non-proliferation and disarmament are vital to achieving peace and security. **Slovenia is fully committed to provide support and deliver also in this field**.

Thank you, Mr President.