
The Permanent Mission of Ukraine to the United Nations avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs the assurances of its highest consideration.

31 May 2016

Enclosure: as stated.

Office for Disarmament Affairs
United Nations

New York
Ukraine’s position regarding the Report of the Group of Governmental Experts on FMCT

Given the fact that Ukraine voluntarily gave up its nuclear weapons in 1996 and removed all stockpiles of highly enriched uranium from its territory in 2012, our country strongly supports development of legal and institutional multilateral mechanisms to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons and related materials, equipment and technologies. In this context the Fissile Material Cut-Off Treaty (FMCT) remains a top priority on the global disarmament agenda.

We believe that the report of the Group of Governmental Experts on FMCT (with the Ukrainian delegate among them) of May 2015 represents a constructive contribution to the ongoing debate and to the future negotiations on this issue. Based on an impartial, in-depth, and open approach, the report reflects various positions that were voiced, and presents all options on the table, thus constituting a useful and valuable resource for negotiations of a future Treaty.

Although the vast majority of Member States is ready to start negotiations on the FMCT within the Conference on Disarmament, the core differences regarding the scope of such a treaty still stand unresolved and put the CD in a deadlock. In such situation the fate of the Conference will be determined by the readiness of all sides for using the whole potential of diplomatic skills and reaching a hard compromise for the sake of moving forward broader disarmament agenda. Ukraine, on its part, is ready, as usual, to demonstrate a constructive approach to facilitate this process.

In our view, widely supported by the international community parallel negotiations are the only credible way to overcome persisting discords. Negotiating the FMCT and Negative Security Assurances in parallel processes will contribute to confidence building and mutually reinforce each other, providing pertinent support to the complex process of disarmament.

While strongly advocating for the immediate commencement of negotiations on the FMCT within the framework of the Conference on Disarmament, Ukraine supports relevant international initiatives to protect and secure nuclear materials, including resolutions of the UN General Assembly “Measures to prevent terrorists from acquiring Weapons of Mass Destruction” (A/69/138) and “Preventing the acquisition by terrorists of radioactive materials and sources” (A/RES/66/50), International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism, IAEA Revised Code of Conduct on the Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources, as well as other antiterrorist initiatives.