

Statement by

**the Republic of Slovenia**

at the

**United Nations Disarmament Commission**

**Working Group I – Nuclear Weapons**

New York, 5 April 2023

Chair, congratulation on your re-election. I wish you all of success and be assure of our full support and cooperation.

Chair,

Slovenia fully associates with the statement by the European Union and the following remarks are made in a national capacity.

Chair,

Allow me to express in general terms some of aspects in your paper that are important to my delegation. Under the section of Objectives and Principles it is important to reaffirm the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons as a cornerstone of international efforts to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons and weapons technology. It is also central to reiterate that the goal of a world free of nuclear weapons, as envisioned in Article VI of the Treaty remains valid and should be implemented, including the full implementation of the 2010 Review Conference Action Plan.

Chair,

We would like to see in the section of objectives and principles that the three mutually reinforcing pillars of the NPT- nuclear disarmament, non-proliferation and peaceful uses of nuclear energy - should not lose the side of importance. Slovenia as a country benefiting from nuclear energy, deeply appreciate the work of the IAEA related to nuclear safety, security and safeguards. This is rightly stated in paragraph 11 and paragraph 12 of the recommendations on the reaffirmation of shared commitments leading to a world without nuclear weapon.

Slovenia is furthermore committed to promote sustainable development by supporting activities of the IAEA on the broad range of peaceful uses of nuclear energy, including a clean and reliable energy source.

Chair,

We agree with paragraph 2 that all states *should*fulfil their respective obligations and commitments on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. The promotion of the universality of the NPT and promotion of non-proliferations and arms control policies should represent our foreign policy guiding principles. Furthermore, the implementation of their letter and spirit must be our binding goal.

Chair,

The Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) remains a priority of Slovenian foreign policy. We will continue to promote universal adherence to and the entry into force of the CTBT. We would also like to welcome the steady progress of the ratifications of the CTBT and we will continue to urge all States, which have not yet done so, to sign and ratify the CTBT.

We call on States to stand for a moratorium on nuclear weapon test explosions or any other nuclear explosion, and to refrain from any action that would reverse the object and purpose of the Treaty.

Chair,

On the section of *Risk reduction agreements/mechanisms* we would like to underline the work of the group of the Stockholm initiative for nuclear disarmament. As aligned state to the Stockholm initiative, we stress the urgent need for further reductions of nuclear arsenals and concrete work on strategic and nuclear risk reduction. In this regard, we also call on the nuclear weapon states to maximize transparency on their nuclear arsenals, take practical measures to further reduction to their arsenals and show nuclear restraint at the highest political level.

Chair,

Slovenia emphasizes the importance of the New START for global disarmament and international stability, and calls on Russian Federation to resume full compliance with its obligations under the Treaty.

Chair,

To conclude, allow me to highlight the importance of gender-disarmament nexus**.** We would appreciate that the final recommendations would include the notion of the UN Security Council Resolution 1325 and to underline commitments to support gender diversity and the equal, full and effective participation and leadership of women in the work of Disarmament Commission.

Thank you.