

Statement by the

**Permanent Representative of of Slovenia**

**Mr Boštjan Malovrh**

at the

**10th Review Conference of the Parties to**

**the Treaty on the Non-proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT)**

**Main Committee II**

New York, 10 August 2022

Madame Chair,

Slovenia aligns with the statement of the European Union. I would like to deliver some additional remarks in my national capacity.

Let me start by congratulating Ambassador Dominica Khoisan for election as the Chair of the Main Committee II. I assure you of our full support and cooperation.

Madame Chair,

In the current complex global security environment, it is more than ever, important to uphold and further strengthen the universal non-proliferation regime, with the IAEA safeguards system and export control regimes at its center. As a country with Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement and Additional Protocol in place, Slovenia considers both instruments as the current verification standard. We therefore hope that all states will recognize the urgent need for their universalization.

The Russian illegal occupation of Europe’s largest nuclear power plant hampers full implementation of safeguards in Ukraine. We urge the Russian side to allow the control of nuclear power plants to be fully restored by the Ukrainian authorities and to let the IAEA to continue its verification activities in Ukraine in accordance with the NPT.

Slovenia also puts the importance of effective export control in accordance with Article III of the NPT, and compliance with UNSC 1540.

Madame Chair,

Allow me use this opportunity to renew our strong call on the DPRK to refrain from its unlawful nuclear and ballistic missiles test, which constitute a grave threat to international peace and security. Slovenia supports all diplomatic efforts that will lead toward complete, verifiable and irreversible denuclearization of the DPRK.

The DPRK must also return to compliance within the NPT and to a system of IAEA safeguards inspections, as well as sign and ratify the CTBT without delay. Until then we call on all states to fully and effectively implement the restrictive measures in force.

Turning to the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, I would like to emphasize that Slovenia fully supports the ongoing diplomatic efforts aimed at preserving and restoring full and effective implementation of the JCPoA. We hope Iran will seize the moment to finalize the agreement.

We also express our grave concern over Iran's continued expansion of its nuclear programme, contrary to the JCPoA and in some cases also with irreversible proliferation implications. We urge Iran to reverse all actions inconsistent with the JCPoA and to return to its full compliance. Slovenia also calls on Iran to cooperate fully with the Agency to clarify and resolve all outstanding safeguards issues.

Madame Chair,

I would like expressing our regret that the Syrian Arab Republic remains in non-compliance with its Safeguards Agreement for more than a decade. We call on the Syria to fully cooperate with the IAEA and bring into force the Additional Protocol without further delay.

In conclusion, I would like to reaffirm Slovenia's full support for the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East, which is long overdue. We are convinced that such a zone can merely be established on the basis of arrangements freely arrived at by all states in the region.  In this connection, we encourage all stakeholder to engage in meaningful consultation to build an inclusive process towards the implementation of the 1995 NPT Resolution.

I thank you.