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European Union

Statement by

**Mrs. Mariangela Zappia, Head of the Permanent Delegation
of the European Union to the United Nations**

**Second Session of the Preparatory Committee to the NPT
Annual Meeting of States Parties**

(Geneva, 22 April – 3 May 2013)

Cluster I

Geneva, 24 April 2013

- CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY -

Second session of the Preparatory Committee to the NPT
Geneva, 22 April-3 May 2013
Statement by the European Union – Cluster 1

Mr. Chairman,

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union.

The following countries align themselves with this declaration: Croatia^{*}, Turkey[§], the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia^{*}, Montenegro^{*}, Iceland[‡], Serbia^{*}, Albania^{*}, Bosnia and Herzegovina^{*}, Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova and Georgia.

The European Union continues to contribute actively to global efforts to seek a safer world for all and to create the conditions for a world without nuclear weapons in accordance with the goals of the NPT, in a way that promotes international stability, and based on the principle of undiminished security for all.

With the adoption by consensus of the forward-looking 2010 Action Plan across the three pillars of the Treaty, States Parties reaffirmed their shared commitment to comply with their obligations and to fulfill the goals of the NPT and towards its universal accession. Ensuring the implementation of the Action Plan is a collective responsibility shared by all States Parties. The European Union calls on all States Parties to implement, without delay and in a balanced manner, all actions designed to strengthen the three pillars of the Treaty.

We remain committed to the pursuit of nuclear disarmament, in accordance with Article VI of the NPT and have supported the significant steps taken by two European Union Member States. We underline the need for concrete progress in nuclear disarmament and arms control processes, especially through an overall reduction in the global stockpile of nuclear weapons, in accordance with Article VI of the NPT. We welcome the considerable reductions made so far taking into account the special responsibility of the states that possess the largest arsenals. The European Union welcomes the increased transparency shown by some Nuclear Weapon States, in particular the European Union Member States, on the nuclear weapons they possess and encourages continued efforts by all NWS in this respect.

The European Union welcomed the entry into force of the New START Treaty: we further welcome indications of progress being made by United States and the Russian Federation in implementing the Treaty and encourage them to seek further reductions in their nuclear arsenals, including strategic, non-strategic, deployed and non-deployed

^{*} Accessing Country Croatia and the Candidate countries former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia as well as potential candidate countries Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.

[§] Candidate Country

[‡] Candidate Country Iceland continues to be a member of the EFTA and of the European Economic Area.

weapons. With regard to non-strategic nuclear weapons, the European Union encourages the US and Russia to include non-strategic nuclear weapons in the next round of their bilateral nuclear arms reduction, while agreeing on the importance of further transparency and confidence-building measures in order to advance the nuclear disarmament process.

The EU welcomes and encourages the five Nuclear Weapon States to continue their meetings, such those held in Paris in 2011, in Washington in 2012 and in Geneva last week on the implementation of the commitments they made at the 2010 NPT Review Conference on all three pillars of the NPT - disarmament, non-proliferation and peaceful uses of nuclear energy - including confidence building, transparency, verification and discussions on reporting.

The European Union takes note with appreciation of initiatives aimed at promoting the implementation of 2010 conclusions and recommendations for follow on actions in the field of disarmament and non-proliferation, including, inter alia, the Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Initiative.

The European Union recognizes the legitimate interest of non-nuclear-weapon States in receiving unequivocal and legally binding security assurances from nuclear-weapons States. It recalls Security Council resolution 984 noting the unilateral statements by each of the NWS in which they give conditional or unconditional security assurances against the use and the threat of use of nuclear weapons to NNWS parties to the Treaty. Positive and negative security assurances strengthen the nuclear non-proliferation regime and can play an important role: they can serve both as an incentive to forego the acquisition of weapons of mass destruction and as a deterrent to their acquisition. The EU is committed to promoting further consideration of security assurances and welcomes the respective adjustments in the nuclear postures of some nuclear weapon states.

We continue to attach great importance to the development of internationally recognized nuclear weapon free zones, established on the basis of agreements freely arrived at among States of the regions concerned, in line with the principles set out by the UN Disarmament Commission in 1999. We hope that outstanding issues concerning nuclear weapon free zones can be resolved through in-depth consultations, in accordance with the UNDC guidelines and with the agreement of all parties involved.

In this context, the European Union offered support with regard to the implementation of the Pelindaba Treaty and the establishment and work of the African Commission of Nuclear Energy (AFCONE). The EU has been working on identifying instruments and means to support the AFCONE depending on concrete assistance needs to be determined. We hope that the Protocol to the Treaty on the South Eastern Asia Nuclear Weapons Free Zone between ASEAN Member States and the Nuclear Weapon States will be signed as soon as possible. The EU also supports the parallel declarations signed by the NWS with Mongolia on the country's nuclear weapon free status in September 2012.

The Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty is of crucial importance to nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation and remains a top priority for the European Union.

Recent events in the DPRK demonstrate clearly the urgent need for this Treaty's earliest possible entry into force. We reaffirm our strong support for its rapid entry into force and we will continue to promote it through our diplomatic and financial engagement. Pending its entry into force, we expect all States, including the DPRK to abide by a moratorium on nuclear test explosions and to refrain from any action contrary to the provisions, object and purpose of the Treaty. The European Union again calls on all States that have not done so, in particular the remaining Annex 2 States, to sign and ratify the Treaty as soon as possible. In 2012, the EU engaged in diplomatic demarches in all States that have not yet signed or ratified the CTBT. We congratulate Brunei Darussalam and Chad on their recent ratifications in January and February 2013.

As a demonstration of the importance which the European Union attaches to the CTBT, the EU continues to provide significant support for the CTBTO Provisional Technical Secretariat to strengthen the verification system with more than € 15 million since 2006. The latest Council Decision adopted in November 2012 provided for new financial support of € 5.2 million.

The effective functioning of the multilateral disarmament institutions is vital for our collective security. The EU remains committed to treaty-based nuclear disarmament and arms control and stresses the need to renew multilateral efforts and revitalize multilateral negotiating bodies, in particular the Conference on Disarmament.

The European Union calls for the immediate commencement and early conclusion of the negotiation in the CD on an FMCT, which remains a clear priority. This is urgent and important as an essential step to seek a safer world for all and to create the conditions for a world without nuclear weapons, in accordance with the goals of the NPT. National security concerns, while legitimate, can and should be addressed as part of the negotiation process rather than as a prerequisite. Confidence-building measures can be taken immediately, without the need to wait for the commencement of formal negotiations. In this regard, pending negotiations and the entry into force of a FMCT, the EU calls on all States concerned to declare and uphold an immediate moratorium on the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices.

Consistent with our engagement with civil society, the EU supports via the European Union Non Proliferation Consortium the establishment and strengthening of a network of European think tanks and research centers to encourage political and security-related dialogue and the long-term discussion of measures to enhance the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems. Several topical conferences were organized in this context in 2012. The EU also underlines the importance of disarmament and non-proliferation education to pave way for broader public understanding of these issues.

Serious challenges remain in the field of disarmament and non-proliferation and we must face them with resolve. The EU stands ready to engage with all States Parties towards ensuring that the international community can respond resolutely and effectively to cases

of non-compliance. In this way, we can facilitate the responsible development of peaceful uses of nuclear energy by countries wishing to develop their capacities in this field.

Thank you.