The National Statement of the REPUBLIC of LITHUANIA

Preparatory Committee for the 2020 NPT Review Conference of the Parties to the
Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT)

Third session, New York, 1 May 2019

Mr. President,

Let me congratulate you on your election as President of the NPT Preparatory Committee and wish you all the success in your work. Let me also assure you of the full support of the Lithuanian delegation in this regard.

Lithuania fully aligns itself with the statement made on behalf of the EU as well as the statement delivered by Belgium on behalf of a group of states. In our national capacity, I would like to add the following.

Mr. President,

We are approaching an important date. In 2020, the NPT review conference will mark the 50th anniversary of the entry into force of the Treaty, which remains the cornerstone of the global non-proliferation regime and has an essential role in the maintenance of international peace, security, and stability. Lithuania reiterates its support to all three pillars of NPT- nuclear disarmament, non-proliferation, and the peaceful use of nuclear energy - as a fundamental international mechanism.

Given the importance of the NPT to global non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament, we have to sustain its credibility and effectiveness. NPT has to be preserved, strengthened, and universally enhanced by all means.

As a non-nuclear state Lithuania reiterates its support for an inclusive and gradual approach to nuclear disarmament, including meaningful steps towards creating an environment conducive to further nuclear disarmament negotiations. It should be aimed at a world without nuclear weapons, based on all the provisions of the NPT, including Article VI, and built on the principles of effectiveness, verifiability, promoting international stability and undiminished security for all.

As a member of the North Atlantic Alliance, Lithuania would like to remind that NATO’s nuclear arrangements have always been fully consistent with the NPT, since it was negotiated and entered into force with the primary intent to prevent further spread of nuclear weapons, and to preserve peace and stability.
Mr. President,

Lithuania regrets the erosion of the international arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation architecture. We should remain cognizant of the challenges we are facing today and act more responsibly in preserving and strengthening the rules-based international system.

A major challenge to arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation we face today, is the demise of the INF treaty, caused by the ongoing violations by Russia. It's SSC-8 missile system which is nuclear capable and hard to detect violates the INF Treaty, placing Russia in material breach of its obligations. It is now up to Russia to preserve the INF Treaty by a return to full and verifiable compliance.

Russia’s violation of the Budapest memorandum is another regrettable action since the nuclear weapon States reaffirmed their commitment to respect the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine within its internationally recognized borders. Russia reneged on its Budapest commitments and violated all of the above.

With regard to the DPRK, it is our view that existing sanctions regime should be maintained until the country demonstrated verifiable progress in reversing its nuclear ambitions.

Mr. President,

Lithuania reiterates its support for the early entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) and the immediate start of the negotiations on the Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty (FMCT) in the Conference on Disarmament, with a view to banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear devises.

In view of the importance of NSCG, my delegation would like to underscore the significance of physical protection of nuclear and radioactive materials, reiterate our concerns regarding the threat of nuclear terrorism, and support enhancing the security of nuclear and radioactive materials and facilities globally.

Mr. President,

We hope that this Preparatory Committee will lay the ground for a fruitful NPT Review Conference. In this regard, we emphasize the importance of a smooth nomination of the President of the Review Conference.

I thank you, Mr. President.