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with the substantive participation of the nuclear weapon states. All these steps that need to be embarked on will strengthen the NPT regime, in line with the obligations under Article VI, and will contribute towards achieving the Treaty's ultimate goal - a world without nuclear weapons. There is no alternative path or a shortcut to reaching this goal. We act in a sustainable, realistic and responsible manner. Creating conditions for world without nuclear weapons requires that both humanitarian and security considerations be taken into account. In this regard, we support the statement to be made by Australia today on the issue of humanitarian consequences.

Bulgaria supports a constructive and realistic, gradual approach, based on practical and implementable measures, building-blocks that will strengthen the international disarmament and non-proliferation regime. Such practical steps could be: overcoming the stalemate in the Conference on Disarmament, including through its enlargement; starting negotiations on a Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty, bringing into force the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty. We remain convinced that the earliest possible entry into force of the CTBT is a crucial step for furthering the nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime.

Furthermore, all obligations related to the NPT Regime should be implemented in good faith. In this context, the breach of the 1994 Budapest Memorandum which guarantees the territorial integrity of Ukraine was a serious blow to the negative security assurances that are key to the viability of the NPT, and must be restored.

As for the non-proliferation aspect, Bulgaria welcomes the political understanding reached by E3+3 and Iran on 2 April 2015 and we hope that a mutually acceptable and comprehensive solution will be reached by June 2015.

Unfortunately, DPRK's nuclear and ballistic missile programs remain a source of concern for Bulgaria. We urge DPRK to abandon its nuclear weapon program and to return to the NPT and IAEA Safeguards as soon as possible.

We are convinced of the need for tightening of the withdrawal provisions of the Treaty as to prevent abuse by states that have been found to be in non-compliance. The international community should be alerted that some countries might misread Article VI and feel encouraged not to fulfill their obligations under the Treaty.

Mme President,

Despite the complex situation in the Middle East, efforts for convening a Conference on the establishment of a zone free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East should continue. In this context Bulgaria welcomes the tireless efforts of the facilitator, Ambassador Laajava of Finland.

Being the cornerstone of the world's non-proliferation regime, the NPT is operational through the safeguard system of the IAEA. Bulgaria acts and will continue to act

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support of the Agency. I take this opportunity to call upon all states who have no