

REPUBLIC OF MALTA



Statement by

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Nations, New York

(Please check against delivery)

Madam President,

I would like to join other delegations that preceded me in extending sincere congratulations to you on your appointment as President of this important Review Conference, and to assure you of our full cooperation on your shoulders during the Conference to a successful conclusion.

Malta aligns itself with the statement delivered on behalf of the European Union by the High Representative of the European Union and Vice President of the European Commission,

are founded. As a State Party, Malta is committed to the fundamental objectives of the NPT. In this sense, Malta reaffirms the importance of the universalisation of the NPT and calls upon States not yet Parties to adhere to its terms, while strongly encouraging them to join the Treaty as non-nuclear weapon States.

As the security environment becomes increasingly challenging, the implementation of all

and disarmament. Malta welcomes progress registered on commitments agreed under the 2010 Action Plan. It underlines nonetheless that much more remains to be done. Malta therefore calls upon all States Parties to respect their obligations and commitments. We hope

that this Review Conference will provide us with the opportunity to assess implementation and while recognizing progress we look forward to renewed commitments and their successful implementation

Madam President,

Nuclear disarmament continues to be a global priority. Significant progress in nuclear disarmament is urgently needed. Malta welcomes the progress made in the pursuit of nuclear disarmament and the considerable reductions in arsenals registered by Nuclear Weapon States in accordance with Article VI of the NPT. In this context we welcome the signature of the New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START) by the United States of America and the Russian Federation. Malta commends these countries for their actions and strongly encourages them to seek further cuts in their nuclear arsenals, including strategic, non-strategic, deployed and non-deployed weapons.

The risk of nuclear proliferation continues nonetheless to threaten international peace and security. The challenges before us are unprecedented, both in terms of their nature and scope. The technology transfer required for the development of nuclear weapons has become easier, facilitating access to weapons of mass destruction by individuals or terrorist groups.

The proliferation of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction (WMD), and their delivery systems, could have immeasurable consequences with an impact not just on international security and stability. The use of nuclear weapons would have incalculable and devastating consequences on human health and on the environment, and the climate, among other areas. It is with this in mind that Malta, along with a number of other countries, joined the Austrian Pledge following its participation at the Vienna Conference on Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons, in December 2014. Malta firmly believes that it is imperative that nuclear weapons are never used again.

Madam President,

Non-Proliferation must continue to be addressed through peaceful and diplomatic means. Multilateral efforts shall remain the driving force towards the attainment of this objective. In this context Malta commends the IAEA for its continued work in safeguarding the system and in overseeing the implementation of the NPT. Call for the revitalisation of relevant multilateral disarmament machinery, which to date continue to deliver very little. The current stalemate in the Conference for Disarmament is a source of concern. Malta also

