

ПОСТОЯННОЕ ПРЕДСТАВИТЕЛЬСТВО
РОССИЙСКОЙ ФЕДЕРАЦИИ
ПРИ КОНФЕРЕНЦИИ ПО РАЗОРУЖЕНИЮ
В ЖЕНЕВЕ



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DE LA FEDERATION DE RUSSIE AUPRES
DE LA CONFERENCE DU DESARMEMENT
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STATEMENT

BY

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OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION TO THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICE
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AT THE PLENARY MEETING OF THE
CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

Geneva, 2 February 2010

Mr. President,

The Conference has made already its first important step this year, i.e. the agenda of the forum has been agreed. It was not that simple. The delegations had to display their flexibility and readiness to negotiate. We would hope that the spirit of mutual understanding will prevail at further stages of work of the Conference, including when taking decisions on the Programme of work.

We are beginning our work in a decisive period. Many efforts were taken during the past year recovering international environment. Among those milestone events there were the Russia-US negotiations on the new treaty on the reduction of strategic offensive arms based on the understandings reached by the Presidents Dmitry Medvedev and Barack Obama, the September 2009 UN SC summit on non-proliferation and disarmament and a number of other events.

Russia considers it is important to use this new attitude in favour of solving practical tasks in the area of security. Therefore our delegation puts in the focus of work the assistance in moving the issues of multilateral disarmament out of the longstanding deadlock and the resumption of the substantive work of the Conference on Disarmament. Here we are building on the need to strictly comply with the existing international legal base of multilateral disarmament and non-proliferation, its universalization as well as elaboration of new arms control agreements, wherever necessary. We think that the UN should maintain in future its central role in collective efforts related to peacekeeping and international security, non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (WMD) and their means of delivery as well as countering new challenges and threats.

Of undeniable priority to us on the disarmament agenda is to ensure the stable functioning and strengthening of the NPT, increase its efficiency, and its universalisation. We are convinced that the challenges faced by nuclear non-proliferation regime should be addressed on the basis of the Treaty.

We see the main task of the forthcoming 2010 NPT Review Conference in working out harmonious "implementable" recommendations capable of preserving

the future effectiveness of the Treaty based on a regulated balance of all three fundamental NPT pillars, i.e. non-proliferation, nuclear disarmament, peaceful use of atomic energy.

The intensified buildup of non-proliferation efforts is also determined by the threat of WMD falling into arms of terrorists. We call on all the States that have not done so to join the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism put forward in July 2006 by Russian and US Presidents.

Russia takes concrete steps to speed up the process of nuclear disarmament. Our country in good faith fulfills its corresponding obligations within both bilateral agreements and Article VI of the NPT. We have completed implementation of the START-I, comply with the provisions of the Strategic Offensive Reduction Treaty. The negotiations with the US on a new treaty to replace the START-I Treaty, that will ensure further substantial reduction in strategic offensive arms, have entered their final stage.

Russia has fully implemented a unilateral 1991 – 1992 presidential initiative on reduction of nonstrategic nuclear weapons.

We confirm our commitment to the INF Treaty. We also believe that the implementation of the proposal made by the President of Russia on 12 October 2007 to render global the INF regime could be an important factor for strengthening international peace and security both on global and regional levels.

We also stand for the early entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) as one of the most important instruments for strengthening non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and limiting nuclear weapons. Russia ratified the Treaty in 2000. We sequentially stand for its early entry into force. Maintaining the moratorium on nuclear tests, in all the importance of this measure, cannot substitute legal obligations. Therefore we call on all the countries, whose signature and ratification are important for the Treaty to enter into force, to do this as soon as possible.

Russia welcomes the initiatives aimed at giving an impetus to the process of

real disarmament. Many of them, in particular, the Hoover Initiative, "Global zero", Evans-Kawaguchi Commission report, activities of the Luxembourg forum, etc. are of undisputed interest. This relates, in particular, to the issues of nuclear disarmament, strengthening of international non-proliferation system, and, first and foremost NPT, as well as to the understanding that sound reductions in nuclear arms are possible only under condition when the principle of indivisibility and equal security for all is observed.

We stand for the intensified multilateral diplomacy in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation, and first of all within the UN and Conference on Disarmament. We note an important role of the Conference in the cause of strengthening international security. We express our gratitude to all the delegations as well as to UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon and Secretary General of the Conference Sergei Ordzhonikidze for their work in increasing the efficiency of this forum, including their persistent efforts in forming consensus on the 2010 session agenda.

Mr. President,

It is in the interests of Russia to resume as soon as possible the substantive work of our forum. We stand for the early adoption of the Programme of work of the Conference for its 2010 session similar to 2009 Programme of work (CD/1864).

The issue of preventing the militarization of space is the absolute priority at the Conference to us is. The Russia-China draft Treaty on Prevention of the Placement of Weapons in Outer Space (PPWT) introduced in February 2008, if implemented, will contribute not only to preventing the emergence of weapons in space but also to ensuring predictability of the strategic situation as well as international security. This is of interest for all States enjoying the benefits of the peaceful space. The discussions of this draft in different formats, including at international conferences, revealed a high interest of the world community to this issue.

I would like to note that our consent to the discussion mandate for the Working group on PAROS means that subsequently, when the situation is ripe, the work shall move to the negotiation format.

At the end of the session of last year we together with China provided for consideration to the Conference an official paper summarizing the results of the discussions which were held at the forum and containing the reaction to the comments received in relation to the draft PPWT (CD/1872).

We are ready for discussions on nuclear disarmament issues.

Russia supports the beginning of negotiations on the Treaty banning the production of fissile materials for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices (FMCT). Elaboration of this Treaty would become, in our view, a multilateral measure in the field of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation and, subsequently, a substantive contribution to strengthening the NPT regime.

We also support the establishment of the Working Group for a substantive work to consider the issue of Effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear weapon states against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapon. We stand for developing a global agreement on security assurances taking into account provisions contained in Russia's military doctrine. We support the extended geography of nuclear-weapon free zones in the context of solving the problems of such assurances. We welcome the establishment of new zones, most recently in Central Asia.

The agenda that we adopted offers us an opportunity to discuss the whole range of other key issues of international security.

Distinguished Mr. President,

You, as a first President of 2010 session of the Conference, has undertaken an uneasy obligation to prepare the basic concept and organize the practical work of the session. Our pivotal common task is to reach as soon as possible consensus on the Programme of work and to resume the substantive work of the forum. In conclusion, I would like to join the UN Secretary General's words in video address to us: I do believe that the year 2010 can be historic for progress on disarmament and non-proliferation goals.

Thank you, Mr. President.