



**Statement by**

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**and**  
**Permanent Representative of the Federal Republic of Germany to the Conference on**  
**Disarmament**

**at the Second Session of the Preparatory Committee for the**  
**2020 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the**  
**Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons**

**Geneva, 4 May 2018**

Mr. Chairman,

During the past two weeks we have had substantive debates and sometimes lively exchanges on the future of the NPT, a treaty so central to our collective security that we all describe it as the cornerstone of the international arms control and disarmament architecture. You, Mr. Chairman, have steered us well through this process, so let me thank you for your able, circumspect and forward looking stewardship which has helped to build momentum on the way to a successful review conference in 2020. Your summary report constitutes a sound basis for our future work.

The starting point for our discussions was the general feeling among all states parties that the NPT has served us well and has all the instruments in place to continue to do so in the future. However, we cannot deny the challenges the non-proliferation regime is currently faced with as they were mirrored also during this Prepcom:

North Korea's illegal quest for nuclear weapons remains the biggest proliferation crisis to date and a huge threat to international peace and security. We welcome the recent diplomatic initiatives aimed at decreasing tensions on the Korean peninsula, but we need to remain vigilant. DPRK has yet to take concrete action to giving up its nuclear weapons

and ballistic missile program in a complete, irreversible and verifiable manner. As NPT members we need to stand united in order to counter the challenges DPRK's illegal activities pose to the NPT. We are very content with the fact that so many states have signed up to a declaration reiterating the expectations of the international community vis-à-vis DPRK in this regard.

Germany stands firmly committed to the preservation and continued full and effective implementation of the JCPoA by all participants as it shows the possibility to indeed arrive at comprehensive diplomatic solutions for major nuclear proliferation crises. However, the challenges pertaining to this agreement remain on the table as the previous 2 weeks have demonstrated. They need to be addressed in a prudent manner in order to preserve this landmark agreement which has many ramifications for security of the region of the Middle East and the future credibility of the NPT.

This Prepcom has also raised the dangers of proliferation with other Weapons of Mass Destruction and the need to preserve and strengthen the respective legal international framework. This is so important as we see the undermining of any universally accepted norm as a challenge to the overall rules based international order.

We have also voiced our concerns pertaining to violations of existing arms control agreements – notably the INF - and asked the USA and RUS to prolong New START as we need continued success stories in this area.

We have also clearly reiterated our position with regards to efforts to re-interpret the compatibility of the so called concept of nuclear sharing with the NPT.

The past two weeks were a vivid testimony of the current difficult and complex security situation in the world and the threats to non-proliferation arising from it. However, we have clearly pointed out that Germany will continue to pursue an ambitious nuclear disarmament agenda. We are convinced that not only defense and deterrence but also disarmament and arms control contribute to our all security, which we see as mutually reinforcing. We continue to believe that an inclusive, broadly based step-by-step approach rather than radical but unrealistic designs is the best way to achieve that goal. We share this approach with our allies and like-minded partners.

Of paramount importance in this context is the prohibition on the production of fissile material for weapons which would be a major breakthrough strengthening both effective non-proliferation as well as contributing, at least over time, to nuclear disarmament. We note with great satisfaction that support for such an instrument remains strong.

We also want to see the CTBT enter into force and see much value in the work of the CTBTO and the IMS to detect nuclear tests: The almost universal support for this

important instrument has to lead to its entry into force in a not so distant future.

Moreover, a robust and credible verification regime of concrete nuclear disarmament measures is needed and we have seen growing testimony during that Prepcom that initiatives like the International Partnership for Nuclear Disarmament Verification Initiative (IPNDV) can really deliver results based on a non-discriminatory and technical approach.

We have also noted during this Prepcom that the so-called Negative Security Assurances have played an important role in establishing confidence in the nuclear non-proliferation regime and in diminishing the role and prominence of nuclear weapons in national doctrines. We consider a reaffirmation of existing NSA's as one possible deliverable for the 2020 RevCon.

Together with our partners from the Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Initiative (NPDI), Germany remains committed to promoting these and other concrete steps in order to advance implementation of the NPT across all its three pillars. During the past two weeks NPDI had fruitful and focused discussions with the P5, the NAM and the NAC on concrete proposals put forward by the NPDI with regards to e.g. transparency and a reform of the review process. The NPDI's active engagement underlines its key role for ensuring cohesion within the NPT despite various approaches to the issue of nuclear disarmament. Germany would also like to commend once again the IAEA for its crucial and invaluable work regarding the peaceful use of nuclear energy, including through its safeguards-system.

Nuclear security is a truly global challenge since the threat of nuclear terrorism has reached global dimensions. We continue to pay attention to all processes which strengthen the framework of the relevant international bodies and organizations, with the IAEA in its central coordinating role.

This PrepCom has done its homework in terms of necessary procedural decisions to take us closer to a successful 2020 review conference to which we attach special importance as we then all celebrate the 50 anniversary of the entry into force of this treaty. We very much hope that the remaining obstacles on this way, like the appointment of the 2020 Chair will be removed soon through collective action.

The German delegation stands ready to work with all parties to this end.

Thank you.