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Statement

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Belarus consistently supports multilateral approach to disarmament and international security agenda. While recognizing difficulties in implementation of existing international treaties, in bringing into force of new ones as well as deadlock in disarmament negotiations, we fully reaffirm our commitment to maintain and to strengthen current disarmament machinery, namely First Committee, Conference on Disarmament and Commission on Disarmament.

Belarus is one of the few countries that voluntarily renounced an opportunity to possess nuclear weapons. The issues of the implementation of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty remain to be of a primary importance. The agreement on the agenda reached at the first session of the Preparatory Committee of the 2010 Review Conference is a positive signal. We are convinced that equally responsible attitude towards three main pillars of the NPT is a prerequisite to the long-term stability of the current security system based on the NPT.

Being an advocate of a realistic and balanced approach, Belarus underlines the importance of a specific nuclear disarmament steps. Promotion of mutual trust between nuclear-weapon states and non-nuclear-weapon ones is becoming now a matter of vital importance. We consider providing of legally binding negative security assurances to non-nuclear-weapon states as one of the most important confidence building measures. During the new NPT review cycle due attention should also be given to the regional issues.

Increased interest to peaceful nuclear technologies is a reality of today's world. Energy security and scientific progress are the key factors of sustainable development. I would like to underline that in accordance with the NPT provisions and the IAEA Statute the right for peaceful nuclear activity is inalienable. It is unacceptable to use the NPT mechanisms as an excuse to resist the carrying-out of peaceful nuclear programs.

The issues of bringing into force of the CTBT as well as unconditional implementation of the CWC and the BWC remain to be of current importance.

The Republic of Belarus implements the CWC in the most responsible manner and is ready to render its assistance to interested States in the implementation of this Convention. Belarus regards the BWC as one of the tools of the international law to fight bio-terrorism.

Prevention of proliferation of WMD and related technologies is an important task under the condition of international terrorism threat. On its part Belarus conducts responsible export control policy and takes all necessary measures for full implementation of the resolution 1540.

An active advancement of space technologies and growing number of states engaged in the space exploration programs make it necessary to continue work to further develop legally-binding norms aimed at prevention of the deployment of arms in outer space. Belarus supports measures to effectively control and prevent an arms race in outer space.

In the field of conventional arms control Belarus supports the continuation of discussion in the UN on SALW proliferation. It is important to implement commitments in accordance with program of action on SALW and International document on marking and tracing of illicit SALW. It is important to create universal mechanisms of assistance to States in the field of SALW. We support the elaboration and adoption under the SALW Programme of Action of the measures to counter uncontrolled transfer of SALW, including MANPADS.

Regional organizations have a unique experience in countering illicit circulation of SALW. In our region serious work is conducted by OSCE and CSTO. In Belarus, for instance, the OSCE programs to increase the security of SALW stockpiles are being implemented.

It is important to develop the cooperation of the UN with regional organizations that have an experience in combating illicit SALW proliferation.

Belarus shares the humanitarian concern of the international community with regard to the issue of explosive remnants of war. We are satisfied with entry into force of the Fifth Protocol to the CCW. Belarus is currently conducting a work to accede to the Fifth Protocol and hope to accomplish the accession in the near future.

Belarus stands for universalisation of the Ottawa Convention. Our country faces a difficult task to destroy the arsenal of anti-personnel mines which is the seventh largest in the world. The estimated cost of destruction is high that is why international assistance to accomplish this task is needed. The responsible attitude of donors for providing necessary assistance at the stage of implementation of the Convention is one of the factors that can promote its universality.

While improving arms control mechanisms it is important to maintain and develop confidence building and transparency measures in this field. Since 1992 Belarus regularly submits data for the UN Register on conventional arms. Belarus also participates in the UN military expenditures reporting mechanism. We intend to continue this practice in the future.

Belarus regards the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe as one of the key international agreements in arms control and remains committed to its implementation. The inability of States Parties to reach a progress in bringing into force the adapted CFE

at the Extraordinary Conference of the States Parties to the CFE is regrettable. We support an idea of temporary implementation of the Agreement on the Adaptation of the CFE prior to its ratification by all States Parties.

In conclusion I would like to note that the Republic of Belarus associates itself with the statement made by distinguished representative of Indonesia on behalf of the members of the Non-Aligned Movement.