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Subject: Council conclusions on the Ninth Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

Delegations will find attached Council conclusions on the Ninth Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), as adopted by the Council (Foreign Affairs) on 20 April 2015.

Council conclusions on the Ninth Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

1. The Council recalls that the European Union is united in regarding the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) as the cornerstone of the global nuclear non-proliferation regime, the essential foundation for the pursuit of nuclear disarmament in accordance with Article VI of the NPT and an important element in the further development of nuclear energy applications for peaceful purposes. The Council reaffirms that the EU is committed to upholding and preserving the NPT as a key priority, and as a multilateral instrument for maintaining and reinforcing international peace, security and stability.
2. The Council welcomes the upcoming Ninth Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons which will be held from 27 April to 22 May 2015 at UN Headquarters in New York and underlines its importance as a key milestone in global non-proliferation and disarmament issues.
3. Bearing in mind the current severe security environment, the Council reiterates the European Union's unwavering support for all three pillars of the Treaty and to the implementation of all commitments assumed under it or undertaken during previous Review Conferences.

4. The Council reaffirms that the European Union continues to promote a comprehensive, balanced and substantive full implementation of the 2010 Action Plan, which includes concrete steps on nuclear disarmament, non-proliferation and peaceful uses of nuclear energy and which is the common roadmap towards the 2015 Review Conference when the implementation to date of the 2010 Action Plan across all three pillars will be assessed.
5. The Council wishes to underline that ensuring the implementation of the 64 actions in the 2010 Action Plan is a collective responsibility shared by all States Parties to the NPT without exception.
6. The Council reaffirms the EU Member States' commitment to pursue nuclear disarmament, in accordance with Article VI of the NPT, and stresses the need for concrete progress in this field, especially through an overall reduction in the global stockpile of nuclear weapons.
7. The Council welcomes the considerable reductions made so far taking into account the special responsibility of the States that possess the largest arsenals. In this context, it also welcomes their indications of progress in implementing the New START Treaty and strongly encourages them to seek further reductions in their nuclear arsenals, including strategic, non-strategic, deployed and non-deployed weapons. It welcomes and encourages the holding of the P5 Conferences on the follow-up to the 2010 NPT Review Conference, including confidence-building, transparency, verification activities and discussions on reporting.

8. The Council remains committed to treaty-based nuclear disarmament and arms control and stresses the need to renew multilateral efforts and revitalize multilateral negotiating bodies, in particular the Conference on Disarmament, looking in this regard into possibilities such as its future enlargement. Its ongoing stalemate, including its persistent failure to agree on a Programme of Work, remains a source for concern.
9. The Council reiterates its call for the immediate commencement and early conclusion of the negotiation in the Conference on Disarmament of a Treaty banning the production of fissile materials for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices, on the basis of CD/1299 and the mandate contained therein.
10. The Council considers the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty to be of crucial importance to nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation and its entry into force remains a top priority for the European Union. The Council continues to promote this objective through diplomatic and financial engagement which amounts to more than EUR 15.5 million transferred to the CTBT Organisation since 2006.
11. The Council notes the severe consequences associated with nuclear weapons use and emphasizes that all States share the responsibility to prevent such an occurrence from happening. The Council further notes, in this respect, the ongoing discussions on the consequences of nuclear weapons, in the course of which different views are being expressed, including at an international conference organized by Austria, in which not all EU Member States participated.

12. The Council recognizes the serious nuclear proliferation challenges which continue to be a threat to international security, and the need to find peaceful and diplomatic solutions to them, and stresses that the international community needs to remain vigilant and to be ready to face up to these challenges and to address them in a resolute way. The Council also recognizes that the International Atomic Energy Agency's (IAEA) safeguards system is a fundamental component of the nuclear non-proliferation regime and plays an indispensable role in the implementation of the NPT. The Council underlines the primary responsibility of the UN Security Council in cases of non-compliance.

13. The Council condemns the nuclear test of February 2013 conducted by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, as well as the DPRK's threat of another nuclear test in outright violation of the DPRK's international obligations, in particular under UN Security Council Resolutions 1718, 1874, 2087 and 2094 urging DPRK to abandon its nuclear weapons programme and return to the NPT and IAEA Safeguards at an early date.

14. The Council welcomes the ongoing diplomatic efforts between the E3/EU+3 and the Islamic Republic of Iran, and highlighting their continued commitment to negotiations on a comprehensive settlement that would guarantee the exclusively peaceful nature of Iran's nuclear programme; it urgently calls on Iran to fully cooperate with the IAEA regarding all outstanding issues, including those of the Possible Military Dimensions and calls on Iran to implement the modified Code 3.1 of the Subsidiary Arrangements General Part to its Safeguards Agreement and to bring into force its Additional Protocol as in the absence of this, the Council notes with regret that the IAEA is unable to provide credible assurances about the absence of undeclared nuclear material and activities in Iran.

15. The Council deeply regrets that Syria has still to remedy its non-compliance with its Safeguards Agreement by cooperating as a matter of priority and transparently with the IAEA to resolve all outstanding issues and calls on Syria to sign, bring into force and implement in full an Additional Protocol with the IAEA as soon as possible.

16. The Council reaffirms the commitment to the establishment of a zone free of weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems in the Middle East; it regrets that it has not been possible so far to convene a Conference on the establishment of such a zone to be attended by all States of the region; it fully supports the ongoing preparations and commends the co-conveners, and particularly, the Facilitator and his team for their tireless efforts in this regard, including the series of informal meetings held in Switzerland; and it calls on all States in the region to urgently and proactively engage with the Facilitator, the co-conveners and each other with the aim of convening the Conference as soon as possible, on the basis of arrangements freely arrived at between the States of the region.

17. The Council calls on NPT States Parties to recommend that the 2015 Review Conference supports the concept of the responsible development of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy taking place under the best safety, security, and non-proliferation measures.

18. On the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, the Council reaffirms its support for the inalienable right of all Parties to the NPT to develop research, production and use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes without discrimination and in conformity with the Treaty.

19. The Council reaffirms that strengthening nuclear security is a longstanding priority of the European Union and remains an important element in facilitating international co-operation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. The Nuclear Security Summit process laid an important groundwork aimed at strengthening nuclear security, reducing the threat of nuclear terrorism and securing all vulnerable nuclear material in the coming years. The Council remains committed towards these goals. It fully recognizes the leading role played by the IAEA and its highly valued work in strengthening the nuclear security framework. The financial support provided by the European Union to the IAEA Nuclear Security Fund has been substantive: 40 million EUR since 2004.

20. The Council encourages all States to engage constructively in discussions about the safety objective of preventing nuclear and radiological accidents and, should an accident occur, mitigating its effects and avoiding off-site contamination.

21. The Council recalls that during the current review cycle the European Union together with its Member States supported the implementation of the 2010 NPT Action Plan not only through diplomatic means and initiatives, but also through practical training and assistance, thus becoming one of the most important contributors to the strengthening of the Treaty.

22. The Council reaffirms the importance of universalizing the NPT and calls upon States that have not yet done so to join the Treaty as non-nuclear weapon states and, pending their accession, to adhere to its terms.

23. The Council encourages all States parties of the NPT to work towards a successful conclusion and a substantial outcome to the 2015 Review Conference.
