

Check against delivery



Statement by

**H. E. Mr Matej Marn**  
**Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Slovenia**

at the High Level Segment of the  
Conference on Disarmament

Geneva  
26 February 2020

Mr. President,  
Madam Deputy Secretary-General of the Conference,  
Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Allow me to begin by congratulating you, Ambassador Foradori, on assuming the duties of the President of the Conference on Disarmament. I would like to express Slovenia's full support for your endeavours to effectively guide the work of the Conference.

Mr. President,

Slovenia shares the concern of the United Nations Secretary-General over the progressing erosion of our disarmament instruments. In the past year we have witnessed the end of the Treaty on Intermediate-range Nuclear Forces, the progressive weakening of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPoA) and the looming uncertainty surrounding the extension of the New START Treaty.

We have repeatedly expressed our concern over the US withdrawal from the JCPoA and Iran's reduction of its nuclear commitments. In our view, the nuclear deal is a vital part of the global nuclear non-proliferation architecture and needs to be preserved. In this connection, I urge Iran to return to full compliance with the JCPoA without delay and call on all the parties to put serious efforts in further implementation of this important international agreement. I would also like to reiterate my country's full support to the International Atomic Energy Agency for its ongoing professional and impartial work in verifying and monitoring the implementation of the nuclear deal.

Nevertheless, my country is convinced that this negative trend in nuclear arms control and disarmament can be reversed. Extending the New START Treaty would be a great start. We attach the highest importance to its extension and encourage the United States and the Russian Federation to seek further reductions to their arsenals.

Mr. President,

I am confident that a rules-based international order, with multilateralism as its key principle, is at the heart of our common interests. In Slovenia's view the Conference on Disarmament (CD) is one of the central disarmament forums and has the potential to preserve and further advance effective, treaty-based international arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation. In this connection, it is vital to ensure that substantive work of the Conference can commence. We express our sincere hope that the Conference will be able to reach consensus on the proposed set of documents. Additionally, Slovenia supports the urgent revision of working methods of the Conference.

We are convinced that the full participation of the countries that are waiting to become CD members, including my own, would bring a new momentum to the work of the Conference. In this context, we call for the appointment of a Coordinator for exploring issues related to expanding CD membership and are deeply concerned over the fact that one EU Member State was prevented from participating in the work of the Conference in 2020, even as an observer.

Mr. President,

Our focus this year will be to ensure a successful outcome of the Review Conference of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). For Slovenia, the NPT is the cornerstone of nuclear disarmament, non-proliferation and peaceful uses of nuclear energy. We firmly believe that NPT's three pillars cannot mutually reinforce each other, if its provisions are not implemented in their entirety. This includes achieving concrete progress towards the full implementation of Article VI, with the ultimate goal of total elimination of nuclear weapons. We believe this noble goal can be achieved with a progressive approach focused on concrete steps and tangible results.

With this in mind, Slovenia calls for full implementation of the 2010 Review Conference Action Plan, including the action that calls for the CD to begin negotiations on a treaty banning the production of fissile material for use in nuclear weapons.

Without a doubt, one of the vital steps towards a nuclear weapons free world is also a comprehensive ban on nuclear weapons testing. In this connection, Slovenia calls upon all States, which have not yet done so, to sign and ratify the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT), in particular those whose ratification is needed for the Treaty to take effect.

Slovenia also supports the diplomatic efforts aimed at achieving the complete, verifiable and irreversible denuclearisation of the Democratic

People's Republic of Korea (DPRK). We urge the DPRK to comply with relevant UNSC resolutions, ratify the CTBT without delay, and return to the NPT and IAEA Safeguards.

Finally Mr. President, I would like to reassure you that Slovenia will continue to promote and support gender equality in international fora. We are convinced that equal participation and leadership of women and men in non-proliferation and disarmament are vital for achieving lasting peace and security.

Thank you, Mr. President.