

Check against delivery

Statement by the Delegation of Ukraine at the General Debate of the First Committee of the 76th session of the UN General Assembly

Mr. Chair,

On behalf of the delegation of Ukraine, allow me to congratulate you and other members of the Bureau on the election. I would like to reassure you of my delegation's full support.

Ukraine consistently supports a multilateral approach to the disarmament and international security agenda and is committed to maintaining and strengthening the current disarmament machinery and international cooperation in order to reinforce existing international disarmament and non-proliferation regime.

We abandoned our nuclear capabilities and acceded to the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) in 1994. Our accession to the NPT as a non-nuclear State was accompanied by receipt of security assurances provided by the Budapest Memorandum.

We have to recall that in 2014 the provisions of the Budapest Memorandum were gravely violated by the Russian Federation, one of the State-guarantors under the Treaty, when it launched armed aggression against Ukraine and occupied Crimea, as well as certain areas in the Donetsk and Luhansk regions, thus fully neglecting the security assurances provided to my country.

What is especially cynical is that the Russian Federation, a State who lost its credibility a long time ago and is a major reason of the deterioration of the global and regional arms control and verification regimes due to its aggressive and destabilizing activities against sovereign and independent States pretends to be a "champion in this field", including by promoting various initiatives aimed at strengthening such regimes here in the First Committee.

Despite all the challenges to the integrity of the NPT, Ukraine continues to consider the Treaty as a cornerstone of the global non-proliferation regime and hopes that the 10th Review Conference will reach positive outcomes on the implementation of this international instrument.

We strongly support the entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty and call upon all Annex 2 States to sign and ratify the Treaty. The Conference on Disarmament, which continues to be in a deadlock should resume its work without delay and start negotiations on the Fissile Material Cut-Off Treaty.

Ukraine reiterates the importance of nuclear weapon free zones, which should be established on the basis of arrangements among the States of the region concerned.

Mr. Chair,

Ukraine recognizes the IAEA's leading role in the nuclear non-proliferation regime and reconfirms its support for its activities aimed at strengthening the effectiveness and improving the efficiency of the safeguards system.

We highlight that there is no single IAEA document which in any way recognizes the Russian occupation of Crimea. This position of the IAEA has been made very clear on a lot of occasions.

However, it should be mentioned that the IAEA was not able to draw the broader conclusion for Ukraine for 2020. Nevertheless, the Secretariat of the Agency concluded that for Ukraine, all declared nuclear material remained in peaceful activities.

We underscore that the ongoing temporarily occupation by Russia of integral parts of Ukraine - the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the Sevastopol city, as well as parts of Donetsk and Luhansk regions – is the one and only reason that prevented the IAEA from drawing of the broader conclusion for Ukraine for 2020.

Ukraine continues to fully comply with its nuclear related obligations and safeguards regime on the territories, controlled by the Government of Ukraine.

Russia, who de-facto controls Crimea and certain parts of Donetsk and Luhansk regions, should immediately refrain from actions aimed at undermining the ability of the IAEA to implement safeguards in Ukraine.

Mr. Chair,

Ukraine reiterates its full support for the UN Programme of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons, the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons, as well as the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Production, Stockpiling and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Landmines and on their Destruction despite serious challenges caused by the Russian aggression.

The Russian Federation continues its destabilizing transfers of military goods to our territory, which pose a threat to European security and to the arms control architecture as a whole. As of today, the certain areas in the Donetsk and Luhansk regions are full of dangerous explosive remnants of war, causing severe casualties among civilians, including children.

Mr. Chair,

Since February 2014 the Russian Federation has significantly expanded its military presence in Crimea owing to transfers of different types of conventional weapons, including combat aircraft and navy vessels capable of delivering nuclear weapons, endangering the security and stability of the Black Sea region and beyond. Russia has also seized the former nuclear-weapon storage sites. The upgrade by Russia of its nuclear capabilities in Crimea undermines the non-nuclear status of Peninsula and poses a serious threat to the non-proliferation regime and the NPT in general.

In order to tackle the challenges caused by the temporary occupation, including the progressing militarization of Crimea, Ukraine together with its partners has established the International Crimea Platform that adopted the Joint Declaration, which remains to be open for joining by all UN Member States.

To conclude, Mr.Chair, on behalf of our delegation I wish all of us fruitful work in order to contribute to achieving the honorable goal of making our world more safe and secure.

I thank you.