



IRELAND

General Debate

Statement by

H.E. Ambassador Tom Hanney

Permanent Representative of Ireland to the United Nations and other
international organisations at Vienna

On behalf of the New Agenda Coalition

at the

2017 Preparatory Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-
Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT)

Vienna, 12 May 2017

Mr Chairman,

Speaking on behalf of the New Agenda Coalition of Brazil, Mexico, Egypt, South Africa, New Zealand and, my own country, Ireland, I wish to make the following points. We regret that the first and only reference in your factual summary to the prohibition treaty negotiations, now involving 132 states, is two sentences in Paragraph 49, on Page 8. We do not believe that this is an accurate reflection of our discussions. We suggested some amendments to your summary to rectify this, and to add even greater balance and accuracy to your text.

In Paragraph 15, we proposed setting out clearly the title of the international conferences on the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons. We also proposed a reference to the treaty to ban nuclear weapons, and we specified our view that the humanitarian consequences, and the risks of a nuclear weapons detonation could be discussed in the context of the NPT.

In Paragraph 49, we proposed language that, in our view, provides greater balance.

In Paragraph 50, on the step-by-step process, we proposed a sentence which reads "Other states Parties, while supporting each of the steps, did not support the idea of a sequential approach. They also noted that there was no reason why these steps could not continue to be pursued at the same time as the negotiation of a legally binding instrument to prohibit nuclear weapons."

My comments on behalf of the New Agenda Coalition and our proposed amendments to your factual summary, will be submitted to the secretariat in the form of a working document.

Thank you Mr Chair.

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