

UNCLASSIFIED



Statement by

David Lilly
Deputy Permanent Representative, Vienna

at the

2019 Preparatory Committee for the 2020 Review Conference of the Parties to
the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

Cluster II

New York, May 2019

Chair

As a committed advocate of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, we take this opportunity to reaffirm New Zealand's strongly-held view that an effective global nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament regime is fundamental to building a safe and secure world. As we mark the 50th anniversary next year since the entry into force of the NPT, we should certainly acknowledge what has been achieved but we must also focus on what must be done to ensure that the NPT remains robust and responsive in the years ahead.

The international safeguards system, as implemented by the IAEA, continues to serve us well as the cornerstone of efforts to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons. It provides critical transparency and accountability, assuring us that nuclear technology is being used only for peaceful purposes rather than for illicit nuclear activities or being diverted to the wrong hands. This work makes a practical and substantial contribution to global peace and security and provides a significant return on investment for all countries.

While the safeguards regime we have is strong, we need to continuously ensure that it remains as comprehensive and contemporary as possible. The Additional Protocol must be the gold standard for safeguards and we call on all States that have not yet concluded and implemented one to do so. An AP should always feature as a condition of new supply arrangements for nuclear and associated material. It is also important that safeguards agreements are kept up-to-date and we encourage states with Small Quantities Protocols to ensure they are in line with the modified SQP.

We underscore the important contribution to nuclear non-proliferation of effective export controls. Like safeguards arrangements, export control regimes are fundamental to the practical daily implementation of the non-proliferation principles of the NPT and New Zealand values the role of the Nuclear Suppliers Group and the Zangger Committee in this regard.

While there has been significant progress in strengthening the global framework for nuclear non-proliferation, there are still important challenges to be met. New Zealand continues to view the JCPOA with Iran as a critical tool in reducing the risk of nuclear proliferation in the Middle East. Because we believe all countries have a stake in the implementation and success of the JCPOA, we are pleased to announce that New Zealand will contribute another NZ\$125,000 towards the IAEA's monitoring and verification activities in Iran.

Moving to our own Asia-Pacific region, New Zealand shares concerns about the DPRK's nuclear weapon programme. This programme poses a serious challenge to international non-proliferation and to international peace and security. New Zealand has welcomed the initiatives aimed at reducing tensions on the Korean Peninsula over the past year and strongly hopes this progress will continue. It is heartening that diplomacy and dialogue are

being used to establish the road ahead - and we view this diplomatic activity as a positive first step towards the complete, verifiable and irreversible denuclearisation of the Korean peninsula, to be supported by IAEA monitoring and verification.

We encourage states to continue to support and promote legal and political mechanisms that reinforce our collective commitment to non-proliferation. New Zealand is proud to stand with 60% of the world's states covered by nuclear-weapon-free zones, including all states of the Southern Hemisphere. This is a powerful demonstration of the collective will that can exist at a regional level to rid the world of nuclear weapons. Global nuclear non-proliferation is also supported by the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty and its International Monitoring System. New Zealand continues to call for all states, particularly those in Annex 2, to join the CTBT so it can enter into force.

In closing, New Zealand's commitment to disarmament and non-proliferation is deep seated and enduring. We strongly believe that nuclear weapons do not make the world a safer place and that nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation are inextricably linked. Dedication, commitment and action on both fronts are essential for the realisation of a world free of nuclear weapons, as envisaged by the drafters of the NPT.

Thank you chair.

NZ disarmament statements online, www.converge.org.nz/pma/nzdist.htm