



CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY!

STATEMENT
by Deputy Permanent Representative of
the Republic of Slovenia to the UN Ms. Ondina Blokar Drobič
at the First Committee of the 74th session of the UN General Assembly
New York, October 22, 2019

Mr. Chairman,

Slovenia aligns itself with the statement delivered by the European Union and the statement by the Netherlands on behalf of the group of states. I wish to contribute a few further remarks in my national capacity.

Mr. Chairman

We have high expectations regarding the outcome of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) Review Conference next year. We hope that in accordance with Article VI of the Treaty further steps related to the strengthening of the global nuclear non-proliferation regime, disarmament and peaceful uses of nuclear energy shall be made.

Following the progressive approach to nuclear disarmament, we will support proposals focused on delivering concrete, tangible results, such as the ban on nuclear tests (CTBT), nuclear disarmament verification, banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons (FMCT), and establishing and maintaining of nuclear weapons free zones (NWFZ). In this regard we welcome positive developments of the Stepping Stones initiative and the Creating Environment for Nuclear Disarmament (CEND) initiative towards a meaningful outcome of the NPT2020 Review Conference.

Bearing in mind the need to preserve and further advance effective, treaty-based international arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation, we are disappointed that the Russian Federation did not address the repeatedly expressed concerns about non-compliance with the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty, which brought the termination of the Treaty.

However, we are convinced that a positive outcome with regard to the extension of the New START Treaty is possible and can put us back on track. With regard to the challenges

presented to the global nuclear non-proliferation architecture, I would like to reiterate my country's firm support for the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

Finally Mr. Chairman,

Despite all the efforts by the international community, the threat of testing and misuse of the nuclear weapons is still very much alive in our time. The repeated ballistic missile launches by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), violates multiple UN Security Council Resolutions and we believe that the compliance with these resolutions, the ratification of the CTBT, and the return to compliance under the NPT and IAEA Safeguards would present enormous positive step by the DPRK.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman