



**PERMANENT MISSION
OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN
TO THE UNITED NATIONS
NEW YORK**

NEW YORK, 28 APRIL 2015

THE 2015 REVIEW CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE TREATY ON THE NON-PROLIFERATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS (NPT)

GENERAL DEBATE

STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR CHRISTIAN WENAWESER

PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN TO THE UNITED NATIONS

Madam President,

With the opening for signature of the NPT in 1968, the foundations were laid for a world free from nuclear weapons. States with and without nuclear weapons capabilities overcame their differences to agree on a balance between the three equally important and mutually reinforcing pillars of the NPT – non-proliferation, disarmament, and peaceful use of nuclear technology. The NPT has withstood the test of time and played a decisive role in preventing nuclear proliferation.

And yet, in 2015 we must ask: is our original grand bargain still sound?

The implementation of the Treaty's core principles has lagged. We have spent a disproportionate amount of time disagreeing on which of the three pillars to prioritize. But the treaty is clear: disarmament and non-proliferation must be pursued simultaneously. The nuclear powers must uphold their end of the deal and take active measures to rid themselves of nuclear stockpiles. It is their legal obligation under Article VI of the treaty and a moral duty

attached to the power they wield in the international system. While the size of their nuclear arsenals has decreased throughout time, the current levels still pose a grave threat to all life on the planet. In this context, we recall the 1996 Advisory Opinion of the International Court of Justice on the Legality of the Threat or Use of Nuclear Weapons, and take note of the Marshall Islands' submission to the Court aiming to hold States accountable for not delivering on their pledges to disarm.

Discussions about enhancing the effectiveness of the NPT often stalled. We fully respect the right of State Parties to develop, research and produce nuclear energy. However, the dialogue must continue on how to use this extremely volatile and powerful tool responsibly and ensure that it does not contribute to further proliferation of nuclear weapons. The IAEA safeguards must be fully respected and further enhanced including the Additional Protocol as the verification standard.

Also, States must not renege on their international responsibility to prevent terrorists from acquiring nuclear weapons. The proliferation of extremist groups and the development of new technologies continue to pose a serious security challenge. Therefore, Security Council Resolution 1540, which calls on States to stop the spread of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons to non-State actors, complements the Treaty in a significant and meaningful way.

Political will to eliminate nuclear weapons is lacking. If progress on the elimination of nuclear weapons has been very slow indeed, it has also been disappointing that the regional conference on the establishment of Nuclear-Weapons-Free-Zone in the Middle East did not take place as scheduled – despite the fact it was one of the agreed action points in the 2010 outcome document. We hope that this Review Conference can lead the way to the successful holding of the conference in the near future.

On the positive side, we are encouraged by the recent successful adoption of a framework agreement between the P5+1 and the Islamic Republic of Iran. This valiant negotiation effort reminds us of the value of effective diplomacy. We hope that a comprehensive agreement can be reached by the end of June and look forward to its full implementation and the effective monitoring thereof.

Madam President,

The use of nuclear weapons inflicts immense suffering on large numbers of innocent human beings. Its consequences cannot be contained within space or time. It is a serious violation of international humanitarian law and our basic human values. We commend the government of Austria for convening the Third International Conference on Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons in December of last year. My country has endorsed Austria's Pledge and is committed to all its principles.

In conclusion, let me reiterate that Liechtenstein remains fully committed to the implementation of the NPT and supports complete disarmament efforts. There is no place for Cold War mentality. We should therefore not allow this Conference to pass without concrete new agreements and commitments on the road to nuclear zero world.

I thank you.