EU Statement

By

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At the General Debate of the 68th Session of the
UN General Assembly First Committee

United Nations
New York
7 October 2013

- CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY-
Mr. Chairman,

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union.

The Candidate Countries the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*, Montenegro* and Iceland*, the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate Albania, as well as Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova, align themselves with this statement.

Let me first of all congratulate you, Mr Chairman, for taking up this important post and pledge our full support. I would like to highlight a couple of issues of key importance for the European Union.

Effective multilateralism, prevention and international cooperation are the three main goals of the EU Strategy against the Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction. The EU remains committed to treaty-based nuclear disarmament and arms control and promotes universal adherence to and full implementation of all non-proliferation and disarmament treaties and conventions.

Mr. Chairman,

Recently, we have witnessed positive developments underlining the importance of the United Nations as a fundamental framework for effective multilateralism and international cooperation.

In this context, the EU warmly welcomes the adoption of the landmark Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) by the UN General Assembly: it is the outcome of a comprehensive and inclusive, seven year-long process within the UN. The Treaty sets robust and effective common international standards for regulating international trade in conventional arms and provides a new multilateral framework for transparency and accountability in that trade. It will prevent arms from reaching those who want instability and conflict, who commit atrocities and violate human rights and international humanitarian law. When effectively and globally implemented, the ATT will contribute to more responsible and transparent international arms transfers. By signing and ratifying the treaty, states can sustain the international momentum generated by the ATT. EU Member States are playing their part: they are all signatories of the Treaty and national ratification procedures are either complete or well underway. Regulating international arms trade is a global undertaking: therefore, it is crucial to turn the ATT into a truly universal treaty. The EU, for its part, intends to continue to play an active role in promoting the early entry into force and effective implementation of the Treaty, inter alia by enlarging its assistance portfolio with a dedicated ATT implementation assistance programme for third countries.

We welcome that the Third Review Conference of the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC), held in The Hague in April 2013, took place in a positive atmosphere. It conducted a thorough review of the functioning of the Convention and adopted a consensus report containing an ambitious and substantive forward-looking agenda for the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW). The final report included a reference to Syria in the political declaration part. The first ever presence of a UN Secretary-General at a review conference underlined the high interest of

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* The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Montenegro continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.
+ Iceland continues to be a member of EFTA and the European Economic Area.
the international community in the issue of chemical weapons, disarmament and non-proliferation. Having allocated 12 million euros so far, the EU will continue to support the activities of the Organization.

The European Union continues to attach high importance to the further strengthening of the **Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention** (BTWC) and its full implementation. Through its Council Decision adopted last year, the EU actively promotes the universality, national implementation of and full compliance with the Convention.

Mr. Chairman,

We remain deeply concerned that the international community continues to be faced with major **proliferation challenges** by Syria, the DPRK and Iran. These challenges must be addressed in a resolute way. In this context, the EU underlines the primary responsibility of the UN Security Council for the maintenance of international peace and security, including in cases of non-compliance.

The EU welcomed the investigation launched by the UN Secretary-General into the alleged use of **chemical weapons in Syria**, and its report on events in Damascus on 21 August, which presented reliable evidence confirming that a large-scale chemical attack was perpetrated on that day with the use of Sarin. The investigation illustrates the viability of the Secretary-General’s mechanism as an important instrument.

The European Union welcomes United Nations Security Council resolution 2118 and the OPCW Executive Council Decision of 27 September 2013 on the destruction of Syria’s chemical weapons, as they represent a major step towards a robust, sustainable and unified international response to the crisis in Syria. These important decisions provide for the elimination of chemical weapons in Syria, impose a binding declaration and verification regime on the Syrian Arab Republic and demonstrate the will of the international community to respond to threats posed by these weapons of mass destruction. Legally binding and enforceable, Security Council resolution 2118 qualifies the use of chemical weapons as a threat to international peace and security, urges the regime to comply with these obligations, condemns the attacks of 21 August, calls for accountability for this crime and envisages a forceful international reaction in the event of non-compliance. We reiterate our readiness to support actions foreseen under the UNSC resolution as well as under the decision of the OPCW Executive Council. The EU remains in close contact with the OPCW Technical Secretariat in order to stand ready to receive requests for EU support with resources and funding.

The EU deeply regrets that, despite the resolution of the Board of Governors of the **International Atomic Energy Agency** (IAEA) and the **Syrian pledge** of May 2011 to the Director General to respond positively and without delay to the Agency's request to resolve all outstanding questions and in addition renewed calls by the Director General, Syria has yet to provide the necessary cooperation. We call upon Syria to fully comply with the resolution. The EU is deeply concerned that the Agency has had to postpone the 2013 physical inventory verification and urges Syria to enable the Agency to carry out the verification as soon as possible.

The EU strongly condemns the third nuclear test conducted by the **DPRK** on 12 February 2013, which is an outright violation of its international obligations under UN Security Council Resolutions 1718, 1874 and 2087. The EU deplores the DPRK's decision to choose the ill-advised path of provocation and isolation, in defiance of the international community's united condemnation of its use
of ballistic missile technology on 5 April and 12 December 2012 in direct violation of UN Security Council resolutions. We remain seriously concerned about the DPRK's uranium enrichment programme, and the ongoing construction of a Light Water Reactor at the Yongbyon site. The EU stresses that the DPRK is bound by its international obligations, as set out in several UN Security Council resolutions and by its IAEA Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement. We urge the DPRK to comply with them fully, unconditionally and without delay. The EU demands that the DPRK abandons all its existing nuclear and ballistic missile programmes, including its uranium enrichment programme, in a complete, verifiable and irreversible manner, and refrains from any further provocative actions and statements. These activities represent not only a regional but also an international threat to peace and security.

The EU remains deeply concerned about Iran's nuclear programme. The recent report by the IAEA DG illustrates once again that Iran persists in violating IAEA Board of Governors and UNSC resolutions by, inter alia, continuing to expand significantly its enrichment capacity, continuing to accumulate enriched uranium and continuing its heavy water activities. At the latest meeting of the IAEA Board of Governors, the EU expressed its deep concerns that due to the continued failure by Iran to cooperate fully with the Agency to resolve all outstanding issues, in particular those related to the possible military dimensions, the agency was unable to provide credible assurance about the absence of undeclared nuclear material and activities, and therefore was not able to conclude that all nuclear material in Iran was in peaceful activities. It noted that November 2013 will mark two years since the Director General's PMD Annex and Resolution GOV/2011/69, and will be an important juncture to assess progress on substance on this issue and what further action could be needed from the Board should no progress have been made by that point. In this context, we take note of the remarks by the Iranian president related to greater cooperation and hope to see this translated into concrete actions. Our objective remains to achieve a comprehensive, negotiated, long-term settlement, which would build international confidence in the exclusively peaceful nature of the Iranian nuclear programme, while respecting Iran's legitimate rights to the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, in conformity with the NPT, and in compliance with UN Security Council and IAEA Board of Governors resolutions. The EU fully supports the ongoing efforts of the E3+3 led by the High Representative to seek a diplomatic solution to the Iranian nuclear issue. The EU urges Iran to demonstrate its commitment to resolve the long on-going nuclear issue by constructively engaging with the E3+3 during the talks in Geneva on 15 and 16 October.

Mr. Chairman,

The EU reaffirms its resolve to seek a safer world for all and to create the conditions for a world without nuclear weapons, in accordance with the goals of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT). The EU continues to regard the NPT as the cornerstone of the global nuclear non-proliferation regime, the essential foundation for the pursuit of nuclear disarmament in accordance with Article VI of the NPT and an important element in the further development of nuclear energy applications for peaceful purposes. The EU emphasizes the importance of universalizing the NPT and calls on States that have not yet done so to join the Treaty as non-nuclear weapon states and, pending their accession to the Treaty, to adhere to its terms and pledge commitments to non-proliferation and disarmament.

The EU reaffirms its commitment to and stresses the need for concrete progress in the field of nuclear disarmament and arms control, especially through an overall reduction in the global stockpile of nuclear weapons, in accordance with Article VI of the NPT. We welcome the considerable reductions
made so far taking into account the special responsibility of the States that possess the largest arsenals and encourage them to achieve further reductions.

The EU reiterates the priority of upholding the NPT. Our objective for the whole NPT Review Cycle is to strengthen the international nuclear non-proliferation regime and achieve tangible and realistic progress towards the goals enshrined in the NPT. With a view of attaining this goal, the EU will continue to promote a comprehensive, balanced and substantive implementation of the forward-looking 2010 NPT Review Conference Action Plan - which is our common roadmap to the 2015 Review Conference.

The EU strongly supports the outcome of the 2010 NPT Review Conference on the Middle East and has made concrete efforts aimed at its implementation. In addition to sponsoring two seminars on a Weapons of Mass Destruction Free Zone (WMDFZ) in the Middle East in 2011 and in 2012, we stand ready to further support the process. We regret the postponement of the Conference on the establishment of a WMDFZ in the Middle East, which was scheduled to take place in 2012. The EU continues to fully support the ongoing preparations for a successful Conference and in particular the tireless efforts of its Facilitator, Ambassador Laajava of Finland, and his team. We call on all States in the region to urgently and proactively engage with the Facilitator and the co-conveners with the aim of enabling the Conference to be convened as soon as possible this year, on the basis of arrangements freely arrived at between the States of the region.

The Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) is of crucial importance to nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation and a top priority for the European Union. We reaffirm our strong support for the rapid entry into force of the CTBT. We welcome the final declaration adopted on 27 September 2013 at the Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the CTBT and underline the importance of the implementation of the concrete measures which were identified in it. The entry into force of the CTBT is a crucial practical step for systematic and progressive efforts towards nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. Pending the entry into force of the Treaty, we call on all States to uphold a moratorium on nuclear weapon test explosions or any other nuclear explosion, to refrain from any action that would defeat the object and purpose of the Treaty. We reiterate our call for action by those States that have yet to sign and ratify, in particular those listed in Annex 2 of the Treaty.

Strengthening the safety, security, and long-term sustainability of activities in outer space is a key priority for the European Union. The EU thus welcomes the submission by the Group of Governmental Experts of the Study on Outer Space Transparency and Confidence-building Measures requested by UNGA Resolution 65/68. We express our gratitude to the GGE Chair, Mr. Viktor Vasilev for his efforts and leadership. In 2007, the European Union launched an initiative for an International Code of Conduct for Outer Space Activities. The proposed Code promotes transparency and confidence-building measures consistent with the GGE study. In May 2013, the EU and the Government of Ukraine co-hosted in Kiev an Open-Ended Consultations on the draft Code of Conduct which enabled an extensive exchange among participants. They put forward their comments and suggestions regarding the draft Code. Following these consultations the EU has presented a revised draft, which is proposed for further discussion at the next round of Open-ended Consultations to take place in November, 2013 in Bangkok, Thailand. The EU calls on all interested States to continue to engage on this process towards an International Code of Conduct for Outer Space Activities.
For the European Union, the immediate commencement and early conclusion of the negotiation in the Conference on Disarmament of a Treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices, on the basis of document CD/1299 and the mandate contained therein, remains a clear priority. Such a treaty constitutes an urgent necessity in the nuclear disarmament field as a complement to the NPT and the CTBT. National security concerns, while legitimate, can and should be addressed as part of the negotiation process rather than as a prerequisite. All EU Member States supported resolution 67/53 of the General Assembly.

The Conference on Disarmament (CD), in accordance with its mandate, has a crucial role to negotiate multilateral treaties. Its ongoing stalemate remains deeply troubling. Adopting and implementing a Programme of Work is more urgent than ever. We express our hope that the informal working group established under CD/1956/Rev.1 will lead to concrete and tangible results in this regard. The EU reaffirms its commitment to engage in substantive discussions on all the core issues on the CD agenda. In line with our longstanding commitment to the enlargement of the CD, we strongly support appointing a special coordinator on the expansion of the membership.

Last year several initiatives were launched in the UN General Assembly concerning nuclear disarmament negotiations including its decision to convene a High Level Meeting on nuclear disarmament which took place in New York last month and to establish an open ended working group under resolution 67/56.

The European Union stresses the need to do everything possible to prevent the risks of weapons of mass destruction falling into the hands of terrorists. In this context, we call for full compliance with obligations under UN Security Council Resolutions 1540 and 1887 and improved nuclear security for high activity radioactive sources. The EU emphasises the essential role of the IAEA in this context, particularly through the Nuclear Security Fund, to which the EU makes significant contributions.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.