CZECH REPUBLIC

Statement by

Mr. Miroslav Klíma
Deputy Permanent Representative of the Czech Republic
to the United Nations

at the Thematic Discussion on Nuclear Weapons
of the First Committee of the 73nd Session
of the General Assembly of the United Nations

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Mr. Chairman,

The Czech Republic is strongly committed to full implementation of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) in all its aspects, including nuclear disarmament, non-proliferation, and the peaceful use of nuclear energy. NPT remains an indispensable multilateral legal instrument for upholding international peace, security, and stability. We call upon all States Parties to implement the Treaty obligations and the commitments set by respective NPT Review Conferences.

We consider the NPT to be an adequate platform to advance towards the objective of a world without nuclear weapons. We are not convinced that the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) will help to enhance the security of any country or diminish nuclear arsenals. In contrary, we see risks that it is posing to the nuclear disarmament.

The Czech Republic encourages those States that have not yet signed or ratified the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) to do so without delay. We would like to reaffirm our support to the process leading to an early entry of the CTBT into force which will significantly strengthen the international security architecture.

We hope that the work towards the establishment of a zone free of nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems in the Middle East will be resumed in a constructive, inclusive, and consensus based manner. It is necessary to identify opportunities for regional dialogue and encourage a solution that takes into consideration the legitimate interests of all states in the region.

The Czech Republic welcomes the current diplomatic efforts and call upon the DPRK to maintain its declared suspension of testing of nuclear weapons and of ballistic missile launches and to comply without delay with its obligations under all relevant UN Security Council Resolutions, the NPT and the IAEA Safeguards, and to signing and ratifying the CTBT.

The Czech Republic is a steadfast supporter of the right to peaceful use of nuclear energy exercised in a responsible manner, honouring non-proliferation obligations and safeguards agreements. In this regard, it is important to reaffirm the central role of the IAEA. We actively participate in and financially contribute to the Peaceful Uses Initiative under the auspices of the IAEA. We are convinced that exercising the right to peaceful use of nuclear energy in a responsible manner can provide numerous benefits in non-energy nuclear
applications, such as advancements in cancer therapy, disease control, food and water safety, etc.

The Czech Republic attaches great value to the role of export control regimes, the Nuclear Security Summit and its follow-up as well as relevant international initiatives and confidence building measures in non-proliferation, fostering nuclear security and building trust among all players. We call on those still outside this ever growing system to adhere to norms and principles embedded therein.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.