United Nations Security Council discussion on nuclear non-proliferation, disarmament and security

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In his address to the United Nations Security Council discussion on nuclear non-proliferation, disarmament, and security on 19 April 2012, United Nations Secretary-General (UNSG) Ban Ki-moon again reiterated his aspiration to eliminate weapons of mass destruction. While he noted the many “welcome developments” since the Council’s September 2009 summit, he lamented the existence and threat of tens of thousands of nuclear weapons, the lack of ratification of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) and the deadlock in the Conference on Disarmament (CD).

UNSG Ban repeated his evaluation of the current CD deadlock as “unacceptable”. “If the Conference cannot begin work this year, then the General Assembly must exercise its primary responsibility in carrying forward the disarmament process.” He further suggested that the five nuclear weapon states consider “elaborating elements” on a fissile material cut-off treaty (FMCT) in order to begin talks. He reiterated the idea of creating a group of eminent persons to help in that task.

Council members joined the UNSG in stressing the importance of ending the stalemate in the CD. A number of Security Council representatives also echoed his call to use the talks to bring the CTBT into force. Whilst many members expressed their “grave concerns” about the threat of nuclear terrorism and the risk of non-state actors acquiring, developing, trafficking, or using weapons of mass destruction, the nuclear weapon possessors on the Council failed to adequately address their own obligations to disarm.

The representative for France claimed that his country’s number one priority is to counter proliferation and that the international community “must stop arming”. However, in reality France is in the middle of a broad modernization of its nuclear forces involving submarines, aircraft, missiles, warheads, and production facilities that will continue for another decade. The French government has indicated that it spends approximately US$4.6 billion on its nuclear forces each year, though a recent report from Global Zero estimates that the total cost for 2011 was approximately $6 billion. France was among the P5 allies in espousing ‘non-proliferation rhetoric’ at the Council meeting, whilst in reality domestic policies allow large budgets for modernization of nuclear arsenal.

Guatemala was the only delegation to express dissatisfaction with both the lack of attention to disarmament and with the fact that “after several days of discussions on a draft text that would have distilled [the] conversation here today, disarmament and non-proliferation has been fully left out”. The Guatemalan representative said that the differences that persist among the members of the Council makes it all the more necessary to advance towards a world free of nuclear weapons. He argued that nuclear disarmament is the only sensible way to secure the world and that nothing would do more to reduce the risk of proliferation of nuclear weapons than their total elimination. Recognizing “certain positive signs” from the nuclear weapon states, the Guatemalan delegate expressed hope that these signs would translate into concrete measures in the near future.

Double standards

The Security Council repeated calls for stricter international controls over nuclear capabilities. In their statements, several representatives condemned the Democratic
People’s Republic of Korea’s (DPRK) recent missile launch and criticized Iran for its perceived lack of cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

However, stricter controls over nuclear capabilities in the current context is seen as a double standard by many developing countries and by those facing sanctions for developing their nuclear programmes, as such controls go beyond those articulated in the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

Togo’s delegation stated that developing countries in Africa “should be able to use nuclear technology in the fields of health, industry and agriculture, which would help them overcome challenges to achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).” Not everyone agrees that nuclear energy will help achieve the MDGs. The MDGs aim to halve poverty by 2015, yet not enough effort or money is being expended to achieve this goal. The money spent on nuclear technology not only detracts from the resources available to tackle ecological, economic, and energy crises, but also reinforces the institutions that benefit from weapons and war.

“The dream that failed”

In a post-Fukushima world it is hard to imagine how states can continue to proclaim that nuclear energy is not only environmentally friendly, but also cost-effective. The representative of the Russian Federation even went so far as to say that it is a safe source if “treated responsibly” and if a high level of physical and technological safety is maintained. Coupled with the recent events in Japan and the Chernobyl disaster (which was under the direct jurisdiction of the central authorities in Moscow), it is perplexing that the Russian Federation, along with a number of other countries, intends to build its nuclear energy capacity as one of its “strategic development pillars”.

Pakistan also used “growing energy needs” as the reason to expand its nuclear energy programme. The representative from Pakistan claimed that safety and sustainability of so-called “peaceful uses” of nuclear energy is necessary for economic needs. His statement contended that Pakistan has an approved plan for nuclear expansion and urged the international community to give Pakistan access to nuclear technologies.

Similarly, India sited energy needs as the motivation for its nuclear power programme. The representative spoke about utilizing proliferation-resistant nuclear technologies in order to generate 62,000 megawatts of nuclear energy by 2032. He also mentioned an awareness of threats of terrorists and traffickers “seeking nuclear materials for malicious purposes”. He did not, however, mention the very active and vocal public resistance to the construction of nuclear power plants ongoing in India.

In parallel to India’s “proliferation-resistant” and supposedly “non-malicious” nuclear material, the representative from the Russian Federation maintained that all nuclear materials on its territory are under reliable physical protection and provide no “cause for fear”. This might have been an interesting statement for the Azerbaijan representative, who earlier in the meeting had expressed concerns about the safety of the nuclear power plant in neighboring Armenia, claiming the plant is in the “oldest and least reliable category”. The Armenia nuclear power plant is one of sixty-six plants built in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union, and illustrates that some states are not comforted by current practices for safeguarding nuclear material.

A number of delegations spoke about the right to the nuclear energy. However, the question to be addressed is not whether there is a ‘right’ but whether it will be safe.
Can safety be assured across many facilities operated by a variety of organizations with multiple priorities, including cost cutting and profitmaking, who use multiple technologies, each with their own vulnerabilities? These issues were addressed in an article published in the *Economist* in March 2012. It argued that for reasons of cost as much as safety, the future for nuclear power is not bright.

Nuclear material is inherently “malicious”; the cost and safety risks far outweigh any perceived benefit. The UNSC should encourage support for development of commercially viable renewable and non-carbon emitting sources of energy. As a measure to strengthen both non-proliferation and disarmament efforts, nuclear power must be phased-out.

**In the end**

Council members used their statements to call upon states to improve national capabilities to detect, deter, and disrupt illegal trafficking in nuclear weapons throughout their territories, enhance global partnerships and capacity-building towards that end, participate in the IAEA’s illicit trafficking database programme, strengthen export controls, and prevent financing of nuclear proliferation.

The meeting on 19 April 2012 on nuclear non-proliferation, disarmament, and security reinforced the lack of progress by the nuclear weapon states to eliminate their nuclear weapons as required by article VI of the NPT. At the same time, it illustrated that non-nuclear weapon states that are party to the NPT do not want to accept stricter regulation of their development of nuclear energy while the nuclear weapons states are not complying with their obligations on nuclear disarmament.

Stricter controls over nuclear technology and materials are necessary to mitigate the risks posed by their proliferation. However, the current two-tiered system, where some states are allowed to have nuclear weapons and others are not, and where the rules are broken for some states but are applied beyond the letter of the law for others, appears to be obstructing serious negotiations.

Reaching Critical Will continues to call upon Council members—and all other members of the United Nations—to work toward a nuclear free world through real, concrete actions and commitments.

**Statements**

**United Nations Secretary General** In his address to the Security Council meeting on nuclear non-proliferation, disarmament and security United Nations Secretary-General (UNSG) Ban Ki-moon again reiterated his aspiration to eliminate weapons of mass destruction.

The UNSG noted many welcome developments since the Council’s Summit, chaired by the President of the United States, Barack Obama, in 2009. The 2010 Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) Review Conference adopted a 64-point Action Plan and he looked forward to the constructive discussions at the first Preparatory Committee for the 2015 NPT Review Conference in May this year. He commented on US and Russia’s reduction in deployed arsenals and their consultations on implementing disarmament commitments and increasing transparency. He reasoned that the Chicago would provide an opportunity for the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) to develop a common approach on its recent addition to its agenda: the goal of a nuclear weapons free world.
The UNSG also praised the innovative efforts by non nuclear weapons states, such as promoting Nuclear Weapon Convention, the Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Initiative (NPDI), African Commission on Nuclear Energy, and progress on the Southeast Asian Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty (SEANWFZ). The UNSG also highlighted efforts to prevent terrorist financing: the 1540 is enhancing international cooperation to prevent terrorist acquisition of nuclear materials and the HLM will be convened this fall to promote efforts against nuclear terrorism. However, the UNSG maintained that in spite of progress much work remains: nuclear weapons continue to threaten humanity and billions continue to be spent on modernization despite growing social needs. While he welcomed ratification by Indonesia he stated “16 years after its adoption, the CTBT has not entered into force”. He repeated that the continued CD remains deadlocked is “unacceptable” and echoed previous statements that if work can not begin this year then General Assembly must exercise primary responsibility in carrying forward the disarmament process. He stated that to facilitate progress in CD NWS should consider elaborating elements on a fissile material cut-off treaty (FCMT) and expressed his willingness to consider a group of eminent persons for this task. He underscored the urgent need to enhance nuclear safety and the international emergency response framework, by speaking about the tragic nuclear accident at Fukushima.

He welcomed the “firm and unified message” in the Council’s 16 April presidential statement that strongly condemned the launch of the alleged ‘application satellite’ by the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK). He urged DPRK to immediately comply with its obligations under Council resolutions, and not conduct any further launches that used ballistic missile technology or nuclear tests. He renewed his call to improve the lives of its people, who faced serious food needs, while reaffirming his commitment to working for stability and peace on the Korean peninsula.

The UNSG claimed the only acceptable outcome was a peacefull settlement that restored international confidence in the exclusively peaceful nature of Iran’s nuclear program, in compliance with the NPT. He welcomed the initial round of talks held in Istanbul and called on parties to agree on concrete, reciprocal steps towards a comprehensive negotiated solution.

He encouraged the Council to continue discussions on the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. “As I have often said, the 2009 Security Council Summit chaired by President Obama should not be a one-time event,” he said, calling on Council members to seriously consider follow-up at this year’s opening of the General Assembly.

Colombia The representative from Colombia spoke about the Treaty of Tlateloco being a blueprint for establishment of NWFZs in other parts of the world. He reasoned that refraining from nuclear weapons significantly contributions to non-proliferation and to regional and international security. He reiterated Colombia’s support for universalization and implementation of the NPT.

Colombia’s representative argued for a legally binding Nuclear Suppliers Association, reasoning that as long as the category of NWS continues to exist it is imperative. He also voiced the need for a treaty on FMCT, which should prevent access to fissile material technologies and knowledge. Like other representative he acknowledged the deadlock in the CD and called for work to be undertaken to move forward.

The representative from Colombia stressed that nuclear terrorism is a threat to all states. While resolution 1540 compliments efforts in disarmament and non-proliferation, it also identifies a new threat: possession of WMD and delivery systems
by terrorists and non-state actors.

Colombia’s representative stated that disarmament and non-proliferation are part of process for general and complete disarmament; he called for all organs of UN within purviews to commit to achieving tangible objectives such as adoption of ATT, strengthening UNPoA, and EIF of CTBT.

Azerbaijan In his statement the representative for Azerbaijan argued that nuclear security and non-proliferation are closely interrelated. He hoped that the proposal of a NWFZ in south Caucasus would be welcomed by the international community and neighboring countries.

The representative for Azerbaijan expressed his countries concern about the nuclear power plant in neighboring Armenia, claiming it is the “oldest and least reliable category available in Eastern Europe/former USSR”. Azerbaijan has developed a comprehensive national export control system, for preventing nuclear trafficking, however it is unable to protect a considerable part of the State border, in light of Armenian reactor.

The representative confirmed his countries commitment to combatting nuclear terrorism, stating that Azerbaijan recently endorsed the statement of principles for joining Global Initiative for suppressing acts of nuclear terrorism.

India The representative from India welcomed the initiatives taken by US on this issue and expressed India’s shared concern regarding the serious threat posed by nuclear terrorism and clandestine proliferation. India recognized threats of terrorists and traffickers seeking nuclear materials for “malicious purposes”. In respect to this, India, welcomes the outcome of nuclear security summit in March 2012, which set new benchmarks for nuclear security and new frameworks for international cooperation.

India’s representative claimed that India is not a source of proliferation. Nuclear energy is an important component of India’s energy mix. India is currently taking forward a three-stage energy program based on closed fuel cycle and proliferation resistant technologies. India prides itself on the highest standards of nuclear safety and security.

The representative expressed his hope this meeting helps draw attention to challenges posed by nuclear terrorism and reaffirm commitments to strengthen global nuclear security architecture.

Morocco The representative for Morocco claimed that commitment to disarmament is a strategic choice, reflecting Morocco’s commitment to peace, security and peaceful settlement of disputes. Morocco is committed to strengthening multilateralism for general and complete disarmament, especially of nuclear weapons. The representative conveyed that nuclear weapons pose capital risk on future of world, and stated that the risk of acquisition of nuclear weapons by non-state actors is not a mere hypothesis; therefore states must do their utmost to achieve objectives of NPT.

Morocco’s representative stressed the importance of concluding safeguards agreements with IAEA, especially for Middle Eastern states, including Israel. He also said it was crucial to meet the 2012 deadline for convening a conference towards establishing a zone free of nuclear and other mass destruction weapons in the Middle East. He conveyed that the 2012 conference is a historic opportunity to trigger
a process to free this zone from WMD. The appointment of facilitator, host and the consultations that have been convened were welcomed, and it was suggested that the pace of consultations should increase.

The representative stated that the establishment of NWFW requires use of UN disarmament machinery, especially of the CD. Efficacy and effectiveness of this machinery of course depends on political resolve of member states and compliance with obligations they have entered into. The representative articulated that lethargy is in marked contrast with new security challenges the world faces and the shared goals of international community, of general and complete disarmament. Problems in CD are due to political events and Morocco appealed for political flexibility.

**Portugal** The representative for Portugal maintained that it is crucial to continue advancing the agenda of Obama’s Prague speech and underlying bargain of the NPT. He stated that the NPT treaty must remain at the core of nuclear disarmament and called for states to build on the positive outcome of the 2010 Review Conference, taking forward implementation of all three pillars in balanced approach. The representative urged all States to renew their political commitment to strengthening the NPT treaty and promoting the IAEA nuclear safeguards regime.

The representative argued that the CTBT is vital element of disarmament machinery, and states have to address the risk posed by terrorist groups acquiring technology and equipment for nuclear devices. While Portugal views resolution 1540 and strict export controls as key. The full use of non-proliferation mechanisms like NSG and global initiative to combat nuclear terrorism and PSI are also important.

Portugal’s representative expressed concerned with paralysis of multilateral negotiations in CD. He called for a consensual program of work to be formulated and negotiations on FMCT to begin. Portugal views the expansion of CD membership as an important step to revitalize negotiations.

Compliance and enforcement are important steps and mutual trust and confidence must be strengthened; therefore Portugal appeals for greater importance to be placed on NWFZ, especially in the Middle East.

**China** the representative for China commented that nuclear disarmament has a long way to go. He told the Council that an enhanced coordination and cooperation approach is needed. He expressed China’s view that to maintain international peace and stability, thereby realizing general security in the world, states must uphold a security concept based on mutual trust, coordination, and cooperation for stable international environments. He called for states to eliminate the root cause of nuclear proliferation and nuclear terrorism by building on inter-state relations, adhering to multilateralism and to the principles of the UN Charter, and solving disputes through dialogue and negotiations.

China’s representative stated that the states must promote disarmament, maintain stability, and abandon nuclear security policy based on first use. He called for the consolidating of international nuclear non-proliferation mechanisms, and the total respect PUNE by all states. He claimed this could be achieved if states adhere to scientific and rational concept of nuclear security, strengthen capacity building in this regard, and enhance cooperation and global nuclear security.

The representative for China said states should promote denuclearization of Korean peninsula, reasoning that dialogue and consultations are the only way to move forward. He expressed hope that all sides will remain calm and exercise restraint,
and ultimately commit to six-party talks. He articulated that commitment to dialogue and negotiations in addressing the Iran nuclear issue is of great significance for avoiding greater upheaval in the Middle East region. He proposed that the solution would be in engaging in constructive dialogue, gradually building mutual trust, and eventually addressing the nuclear issue in comprehensive manner. The representative echoed his opening sentiments in saying nuclear disarmament, non-proliferation, and security is a long-term task.

**Germany** The representative for Germany said that the 2010 Review Conference outcome was extremely important when considered within the proliferation challenges. It spells out commitment by NWS to advance disarmament of all types of nuclear weapons with a final objective of a NWFW.

Germany’s representative welcomed the opportunity to take stock of achievements almost three years after UNSCR1887, where the Council accepted the vision of a world without nuclear weapons. He acknowledged that the EIF of New START was a first step in right direction; however more steps toward the long-term goal of a nuclear free world are necessary.

He emphasized that together with NPD1 countries, concrete proposals to promote implementation of 2010 action plan are being made. He articulated that non-proliferation and disarmament are joint interests of all nations and have to be pursued simultaneously; he further urged Annex II states to sign and ratify CTBT.

Germany views the FMCT as the next crucial step to achieve the ambitious goal of NWFW and is entirely engaged to see early start of negotiations. The representative expressed the wish to see a CD that is effectively working, claiming that progress on disarmament can help diminish proliferation risks; and at same time an effective non-proliferation regime to make substantive disarmament possible. Therefore the UNSC cannot turn a blind eye to ongoing proliferation crises.

Germany remains engaged in finding negotiated solutions to the Iranian nuclear situation that restores international confidence in the peaceful nature of Iran’s program. The last meeting in Istanbul opened the prospective of new negotiating process. However, the E3+3 efforts aimed at sustained process of serious dialogue, must lead to concrete measures based on reciprocit. Germany maintained that the Council must ensure that all obligations are met by Iran while fully respecting Iran’s right to PUNE.

The representative for Germany maintained the international community must remain firm and committed against DPRK’s unsanctioned activity: no more nuclear tests, no more use of missile technology; abandonment of nuclear program; and a swift return to IAEA safeguards. Germany argues that all countries have to be accountable for their obligations under NPT, and views the activity by DPRK as representing “a violation of its obligations”. Although one wonders why Germany only criticises Iran and DPRK, and not the NWS who have failed their NPT obligations.

Germany welcomed the 10-year extension of 1540 Committee, contending, “nuclear security is a precondition for nuclear non-proliferation”. The representative requested that efforts must be focused on civilian uses of nuclear materials, especially regarding the risk of dirty bomb. Acknowledging that almost every country has radioactive sources for medicine, etc., it is important that international safety measures be put in place, because the “chain is only as strong as its weakest link”.

The representative for Germany concluded his statement by arguing that
disarmament does not endanger world security, it increases it — similarly with non-proliferation.

**Russian Federation** The representative for the Russian Federation claimed that “no nuclear materials in Russia are cause for fear” and that Russia intends to build on nuclear energy capacities, which it considers one of the strategic areas for developing the country. He claimed that despite the accident at Fukushima, alternatives to nuclear energy do not exist because “out of all major sources of energy, nuclear energy is not only environmentally friendly”.

In 2011 the Russian Federation initiated amendments to convention on nuclear safety and early notification of accidents and strengthening IAEA standards, the representative expressed hope that this will minimize negative consequences of nuclear accidents.

**Togo** The representative for Togo welcomed the success of recent dialogue and negotiations, mentioning the HLM on 24 September 2010 (underpinning multilateralism as a fundamental principle); EIF of New START; P5 meeting on 30 June and 1 July 2011 in Paris (making it possible for NWS to renew full support for the NPT); and the Seoul summit. Togo praised these initiatives, which attest to increased political resolve of NWS and the international community to promote disarmament and non-proliferation.

Togo’s representative stated that the UNSC debate takes place when the international community is continuing efforts to make progress on these issues, however, Togo’s enthusiasm cannot mask the fact that the non-proliferation regime still faces considerable difficulties; in particular the threat of nuclear or radiological materials in hands of non-state actors. He expressed Togo’s concern at violations of certain states commitment, to an extent that they shake confidence of the international community and undermine NPT.

The representative for Togo noted that Iran and DPRK are salient and subject of sanctions. Iran has continued its sensitive nuclear activities, and according to latest report of IAEA, it violated UNSC resolutions. Togo maintained that while reaffirming the right to PUNE, it invites them to comply with resolutions and commitments. Togo is of the opinion that states should spare no effort to continue good faith negotiations to preserve rights of all parties and guarantee international and regional peace and security.

Togo’s representative reasoned that if Article IV entitles all countries to PUNE Developing countries in Africa, which the representative of Togo claimed had yet to benefit, should be able to use nuclear technology in the fields of health, industry and agriculture, which would help them overcome challenges to achieving the Millennium Development Goals. However, Togo believes that African countries will only be able to meet objectives in cooperation with countries that possess these technologies. The representative called for all countries to create the necessary security environment, allaying regional tensions, promoting collective security, and bolstering the non-proliferation regime in order to create conditions for nuclear disarmament.

Togo reiterated it commitment to the objective of general and complete disarmament and elimination of all nuclear stockpiles. The representative called for a return to CD negotiations, especially regarding fissile material. Togo’s representative reasoned that it can no longer be held hostage by small minority of states at a time, and invited IAEA to continue to play central role in negotiations on disarmament and non-proliferation. As the IAEA remains the international mechanism of reference when it
comes to non-proliferation, and the international community must have firmer response to crises.

**France** the representative for France reported back on the successful P5 meeting, which in France’s opinion underscores NWS intention to undertake specific actions to ensure full compliance with their NPT commitments. He also mentioned the progress on protocol to SEANWFZ, and expressed a hope that it would be shortly signed.

The representative noted that the two countries that make up 95 per cent of nuclear arsenal have undertaken important measures by bringing into force New START and welcome ratification of CTBT by Indonesia and Guatemala.

France’s representative noted that some progress has been made with non-proliferation by further ratifications of additional protocol, extension of 1540 committee, and actions on nuclear suppliers countries. He commended the meaningful efforts to improve nuclear security and take into account terrorist threat, which need to be continued with view to next summit in 2014. The representative acknowledged the initiatives launched IAEA plan of action on nuclear safety (post Fukushima accident) and the MEWMDFZ process. However, he claimed that all of these efforts will be meaningless if the current challenges faced by the NPT regime are not met, specifically if “we don’t firmly deal with serious threat of proliferation before this Council”.

The representative contended that the number one priority should be to counter proliferation, arguing, “proliferation poses threat to security of all”. He called for those who “violate common rules” to be dealt with. He condemned Iran’s secret enriching uranium. France’s representative reported that talks were had resumed with Iran in Istanbul, with the six united in determination to pursue serious dialogue. He demanded that Iran meet demands of the international community as well as its obligations. He called for Iran to make specific gestures to restore confidence in accordance with UNSC resolutions.

The representative claimed that the strengthening NPT regime is priority, through IAEA safeguards, the generalization of AP. He called for the need to prevent nuclear and radiological terrorism and stated that states must undertake efforts on disarmament in all areas.

He claimed France fully meets its responsibility under Article VI and reiterated its 1887 request that states move forward together by all NWS and NNWS contributing to disarmament by establishing necessary security environment.

France’s representative voiced the need to reduce WMD, and stop arming which is ironic when France spent billions last year on modernization.

France’s representative called the end to nuclear testing and ratification of CTBT by all states. He also articulated that the CD negotiations should begin with the negotiations of the FMCT.

The representative for France claimed that to meet the challenges of climate change we cannot “deny the benefit of nuclear energy”. He continued by arguing that states should ensure the responsible development of PUNE; however he was insightful enough to recognise that Fukushima has reminded us that we need confidence of public.

**Guatemala** The representative for Guatemala expressed his dissatisfaction that
“after several days of discussions on a draft text that would have distilled our conversation here today, disarmament and non-proliferation has been fully left out”. This demonstrates the differences that persist among members of the Council, which shows how necessary it is to advance on the road to a world free of nuclear weapons. The representative questioned how the American Head of State could articulate, in a visionary manner, the ultimate goal the UNSC should aspire to, yet it does not appear in the text.

The representative expressed Guatemala’s view that nuclear disarmament is the only sensible way to secure the world. Nothing would do more to reduce the risk of proliferation than the total elimination; he then aligned his statement with NAM, S/2012/223.

Guatemala promotes the universality of NPT and strict observance of each of its provisions. It considers compliance legally biding, with all parties obliged to clearly signal their commitment to the spirit and letter of this instrument. It supports CTBT, which was ratified by Guatemala on 12 January 2012.

The representative of Guatemala argued that means to strengthen actions to support nuclear disarmament must still be found. The need for clear political will on the part of NWS as well as set of concrete, time bound and verifiable actions that will allow the setting aside of rhetoric that obliges states to recognize progress while nuclear weapons not only still exist in vast quantities but with widening scope. The representative recognizes certain positive political signs from NWS on renewed commitment, but expressed hope that it would translate into concrete measures in the near future. He recognised the New START is a step in right direction, as are initiatives to support nuclear security and agreements reached between participants at Seoul and Washington summits.

Guatemala appreciates that nuclear terrorism must be addressed through global commitment, and recognizes 1540 as a key to this. However, all efforts must be implemented with verification and transparency to restore confidence. This includes underlining the role of IAEA in ensuring PUNE.

South Africa The representative for South Africa argued in his statement that WMD do not guarantee security but detract from it. Nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation is key for collective security as envisioned in UN Charter. Non-proliferation requires disarmament implementation, and NNWS have made great strides to implement non-proliferation commitments, it is the now the NWS who must abide by their commitments.

He said that non-nuclear-weapon States, for the most part had made developments to implement their non-proliferation obligations, similarly nuclear-armed States had abided by their obligations. The representative then called for the international community to remain respectful of the need for developing countries to use nuclear energy for economic growth. Claiming that the peaceful use of nuclear energy should be respected; national policies and international arrangements should not be jeopardized.

South Africa welcomed the focus on nuclear security, and highlight the role of IAEA. The representative concluded that a true cooperative approach could deal with risks.

Pakistan The representative for Pakistan expressed total commitment to the IAEA’s efforts and claimed that Pakistan had taken steps to establish secure world without nuclear terrorism, calling for nations to move together and learn from each other.
Pakistan’s representative committed to continued cooperation with international efforts aimed at effectively resolving nuclear security concerns, however, he also stated that the Council should refrain from assuming stewardship of global disarmament, which in his view should be achieved in a more universal forum. Noting the realities in South Asia, he said that, as a nuclear weapon state, Pakistan could not accept the “unrealistic” reference for it to join the NPT. He then called for the international community to have confidence in Pakistan’s safety standards and security measures, and claimed Pakistan qualifies to become a member of the Nuclear Suppliers Group.

Pakistan used the growing energy needs as the reason for work to expand the nuclear energy program. The representative claimed that safety and sustainability of PUNE is necessary for economic needs. He concluded his statement by claiming that Pakistan has an approved plan for nuclear expansion; therefore it urges international community to give Pakistan access to nuclear technologies.

**The United Kingdom** The representative for the United Kingdom claimed that nuclear terrorism is one of the greatest threats to global peace and security. The UK representative said that the Seoul Summit reinforced the political will, with 53 countries making 100 commitments. He contended that to maintain that momentum, there must be serious discussion around common rules and security. He urged those who had not yet done so to ratify the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism, and called on all States to work through the Nuclear Suppliers Group to control nuclear exports.

The UK representative stated that the UK would work with international community to control proliferation, enhance multilateralism, build safer and stable world, and where possible ultimately relinquish our nuclear weapons.

The representative reiterated the UK’s commitment to a peaceful solution to Iran’s nuclear development issue, welcoming the new talks and calling for an agreement on practical steps. He called on the DPRK to suspend all missile and nuclear-related activity, arguing that all Member States should fully comply with their obligations under Council resolutions on nuclear activity.

The United Kingdom is committed to a fissile material cut-off treaty, which is critical for achieving the long-term goal of a world without nuclear weapons, and to the immediate start of negotiations in the Conference on Disarmament. He stated that the universalizing the NPT and strengthen IAEA (through CSA and AP) should continue, along with the expansion of PUNE is imperative. He stated that the NPT PrepCom must build on 2010 and maintain momentum to 2015. The UK representative concluded by arguing that the UNSC has responsibility to ensure the atom is used for peace not a threat to peace, to power development not conflict.

**The United States** The representative for the United States again quoted President Barack Obama’s Prague speech. She called on states to build on the momentum noting the progress of the 1540 committee and the role of IAEA. She also discussed the rigorous provisions of New START speaking to verification and transparency. She reported that the US will host a P5 meeting later in 2012 to continue conversations about transparency, verification, and confidence-building measures. This will also incorporate US-Russia dialogue, which will expand to P5 in accordance with Article VI obligations.

The US representative maintained that ratification of the CTBT is sought, and a moratorium maintained. She called for continued strengthening efforts. She said the
international community could not allow the NPT to be weakened by tolerating non-compliance or violations of the IAEA safeguards. Any case of non-compliance, whether by North Korea or Iran, concerned more than just the offending country or its neighbors; every violation, if left unchecked, erodes confidence in nuclear non-proliferation.

While arguing that the CD cannot move forward because of one country, she claimed that the FMCT is next logical step.

The representative for the US maintained that Fukushima is a reminder of shared vulnerability while world looks to expansion of PUNE; however, the US supports efforts to facilitate safety training and response capacities.

At the conclusion of the meeting, the Council President read out the presidential Statement (S/PRST/2012/14).