PERMANENT MISSION OF SERBIA AND MONTENEGRO
TO THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICE

STATEMENT

BY

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AT

THE SECOND SESSION OF THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE FOR THE
2005 REVIEW CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE TREATY ON
THE NON-PROLIFERATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS (NPT)

GENEVA, 29 APRIL 2003
Mr. Chairman,

Let me start with warm congratulations to you on your election as a chair of this important meeting of the Member States of the Non-proliferation Treaty. I associate myself to all those speakers before me who highly praised your skill and expressed their conviction that, under your guidance, the second session of the Preparatory Committee will fulfill its main tasks. You can count on full cooperation.

Mr. Chairman,

Serbia and Montenegro, as a state that does not itself possess any weapons of mass destruction, strongly supports all efforts with the aim towards their total elimination, including the nuclear weapons. As a member of a large family of States Parties to the Non-proliferation Treaty, my country attaches great importance to the Treaty, as a core international legal nuclear non-proliferation instrument, as well as one of the most important instruments in the field of nuclear disarmament. As such, it is an important pillar of the global peace and security.

For this, its validity and a need for further strengthening of the non-proliferation regime set up by this Treaty, go far beyond the interests of individual countries - States Parties to the NPT. During more than three decades of its existence NPT proved to be truly of a lasting and universal value. That creates an additional obligation to each State Party to make its own contribution in preventing any attempt to undermine the existing NPT regime, as well as to protect it from any threats and challenges. This is particularly important at this very moment when we are facing some negative developments that threaten to challenge the implementation of the Treaty norms or impede the fulfillment of its goals. In the context, it should be mentioned that increasing threat from international terrorism, make the importance of NPT today even more growing than ever. We expect this meeting of the Prepcom to reaffirm the commitment of all States Parties to spare no efforts in working together towards further strengthening of the NPT regime. To that end, we are for the universality of the NPT membership and associate ourselves with the appeal to all those countries outside the Treaty to join it as soon as possible.

Although my country took no part in review processes over the elapsed period, it supports the stands contained in the decisions passed by consensus during the NPT Review Conferences of 1995 and 2000. We attach undivided importance to the implementation of the NPT and the "13 steps", agreed by consensus at the 2000 Review Conference, as well as to the provisions 3 and 4c
of the 1995 decision on "Principles and objectives on non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and nuclear disarmament".

Mr. Chairman,

By its Statement on Succession of 29 August 2001, my country renewed its full-fledged membership to the NPT. It is fully committed to strict respect of all obligations stemming from the Treaty. It is our firm belief that only full compliance with its norms could bring us to reaching the goals set forth by the Treaty. My country stands ready to responsibly take its share along this path. We are convinced that by doing this we make our own contribution to maintaining peace and strengthening international security, in our region in particular.

I use this opportunity to reiterate that my country is fully committed to use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes only. On 8 of June 2001 the Government signed the CTBT. The ratification procedure, in accordance with the internal legal requirements, is underway.

We attach particular importance to the IAEA safeguards regime and support its further strengthening. To that end we support the efforts to have the IAEA provided by all necessary funds and other means so that it could fulfil all its responsibilities within the non-proliferation regime.

At the beginning of 2002 the safeguard agreement with the IAEA was renewed, providing a legal basis for further broadening of the cooperation between Serbia and Montenegro and the IAEA. We support even more substantial control measures conducted by the IAEA and stand open for further improvement of the IAEA activities in general, as well in our country. At present, the IAEA conducts its control over all nuclear research programs for peaceful purposes in my country, including all activities at the main facility of that kind, the "Vinca" Nuclear Institute in Belgrade. In this context, I wish particularly to point out that with the help of the Governments of the USA and the Russian Federation, and in full cooperation of the IAEA, on 22 August 2002, radioactive material from the "Vinca" Institute was transferred to the Russian Federation.

In conclusion, I would like to express our conviction that it is our common interest that this meeting ends with an outcome that would provide a solid basis for successful finalizing the preparations for the 2005 Review Conference at the next year meeting in New York.

I thank you for your attention.