NPT Review Process 2010
PrepCom II
Cluster I
Specific time: Negative security assurances
Statement by Norway

Mr. Chair,

The question of negative security assurances is important for sustaining the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. It is the view of my delegation that negative security assurances can contribute to making it less attractive for states to acquire nuclear arms. In this perspective negative security assurances will serve the cause of non-proliferation.

Negative security assurances are also contributing to nuclear disarmament by removing the option of using or threatening to use nuclear weapons against non-nuclear weapons states. That would lead to a diminished role of nuclear arms in security policies.

Against this background Norway supports the commencement of negotiation within the framework of the NPT to reach legally binding negative security assurances.

In the meantime, we call upon the nuclear-weapons states to abide by their unilateral security assurances, which were noted by the UN Security Council in resolution 984 in 1995. We appreciate that the nuclear-weapons states on various occasions have reconfirmed their intention to honour their commitment, and particularly the statement by the UK on Wednesday.

Mr. Chair,

Norway considers nuclear weapon free zones on the basis of established UNDC guidelines as a major contribution to reach a world free of nuclear weapons. Such zones will lead to enhanced regional confidence and stability, which will facilitate further arms reduction.
The concept of regional nuclear weapon free-zones is also an important feature in the overall global non-proliferation architecture.

Zones will facilitate the process of achieving legally binding negative security assurances. In this way, regional nuclear weapon free zones contribute to our agreed objective in reducing the role of nuclear weapons in security policies.

My delegation hopes it will be possible to move forward on the question of promoting nuclear weapons free zones. A de-nuclearised Korean Peninsula would be an important disarmament achievement. So would a zone free of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery for the Middle East.

We call upon those countries that have not yet done so to ratify the Pelindaba Treaty so that it can enter into force during this review cycle. This would be an important step in the right direction.

With respect to other zones, we encourage the concerned parties to intensify deliberations to solve outstanding issues, so that the relevant protocols can be signed and ratified by the nuclear weapons-states.