STATEMENT
by the delegation of Ukraine at the First session of
the Preparatory Committee for the 2015 NPT Review Conference
Security assurances to non-nuclear-weapon states (cluster 1)

Mr. Chairman,

Ukraine would like to address one specific issue in this cluster, which remains at stake until the purposes of nuclear disarmament are reached, namely the legally binding security assurances to non-nuclear-weapon states.

According to the Charter of the United Nations, Member States have an obligation to refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any Member State.

We welcome announcement by the US on April 5, 2010 of a new US nuclear posture review, indicating that the United States will not use nuclear weapons against non-nuclear nations. We believe that this new policy is a part of a broader effort to edge the world toward making nuclear weapons obsolete, and to create incentives for countries to give up any nuclear ambitions.

Ukraine also welcomes the recent announcement by the United Kingdom of a new, stronger security assurance to the non-nuclear weapon States. This decision makes the United Kingdom a second country after China that declared to do so. We call upon all nuclear-weapon states to follow this approach as well as to make security assurances unconditional.

Ukraine stands for the elaboration of a multilateral, unconditional and legally binding instrument on negative security assurances to non-nuclear-weapon states. This document should be opened for signature by all states and include a clear mechanism of its implementation.

Given the geopolitical location of Ukraine and its non-block status, such legal instrument is of particular importance to our country. We are convinced that it would be of equal importance to any other state which renounced its nuclear arsenal and is not a member of any military alliance.

Ukraine is convinced that granting of credible security assurances in the form of an international legally binding instrument will substantially enhance the nuclear non-proliferation regime, improve mutual trust and overall stability. We also believe that such a measure would also provide a significant benefit to the parties of the Treaty and could serve as a stimulus to those who remain outside the NPT.

For many years a number of efforts have been taken in various forums to elaborate formal security assurances that would be uniform, unconditional and legally binding. The legitimate interests of non-nuclear-weapon states to receive security assurances were unanimously recognised by the UN Security Council Resolution 984 (1995). The UN General Assembly adopted several resolutions recommending the conclusion of an international convention on the non-use of nuclear weapons against non-nuclear-weapon states.

In our view, such future instrument should contain the following key provisions:

- an obligation of nuclear-weapon states to refrain from the threat of use or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of non-nuclear-weapon states and to respect their sovereignty and existing borders;
- an obligation of nuclear-weapon states to refrain from political, economic and other forms of coercion designed to subordinate to their own interest the sovereign rights of non-nuclear-weapon states;
- an obligation to provide assistance to any state that became a victim of an act of aggression or an object of a threat of aggression in which nuclear weapons are used;
- accountability of a nuclear-weapon state for violation of those obligations.

Ukraine hopes that this session of the Preparatory Committee will reaffirm its call to all nuclear-weapon states to strictly adhere to their existing obligations and will propose appropriate measures to urgently address the issue of legally binding security assurances to non-nuclear-weapon states.

We stand strong that real and effective disarmament and non-proliferation should be pursued simultaneously with the provision and practical implementation of the global security assurances. Therefore Ukraine reiterates its proposal to convene a special international conference under the UN auspices to consider this issue. We believe such a conference could contribute to finding a mutually acceptable solution concerning negative security assurances that would substantially enhance the NPT regime.