STATEMENT
by H.E. Ambassador Yurii KLYMENKO,
Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations Office and other
International Organizations in Geneva

Nuclear disarmament and security assurances (cluster 1)
(April 26, 2018, Geneva)

Mr Chairman,
While aligning with the statement of the European Union delivered yesterday, I would like to make the following remarks in my national capacity.

Mr Chairman,
We consistently stand for reducing the nuclear arsenals, stopping the modernization of nuclear weapons, and overall decrease of nuclear weapons' role in military and strategic doctrines of states. While recognizing the difficulties in the implementation of existing international treaties and in bringing the other ones into force, as well as a deadlock in the global disarmament negotiations, we reaffirm our commitment to maintaining and strengthening the NPT, as well as broader international cooperation in order to reinforce the non-proliferation regime and the NPT review process.

Mr Chairman,
We look forward to practical progress on achieving the objective of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation of nuclear-weapons.

The approach in this area of Ukraine, which 32 years ago exactly on this date faced the Chornobyl nuclear disaster, was embodied in abandoning its nuclear capability and acceding to the NPT in 1994. Concrete steps were taken to eliminate the use of highly enriched uranium for civilian purposes through the removal of all of its existing stocks from Ukraine in 2012.

Ukraine's historic decision to renounce its nuclear weapons was backed up by international security guarantees, enshrined in the Budapest Memorandum.

Nevertheless, 20 years later, one nuclear weapon state-signatory violated almost every point of the above-mentioned document, attempting to annex a part of Ukraine's sovereign territory by military force, and waging a hybrid war in the eastern part of Ukraine.

If anyone would even implicitly accept the intervention of this kind, then the NPT seems to be in as much jeopardy as Ukrainian territory as a result of outside aggression.

Mr Chairman,
Another serious challenge for the international nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation process is North Korea's nuclear and ballistic missile programs.
In this regard, Ukraine shares the common view of necessity to address the North-Korean nuclear threat collectively and resolutely.
Illegal activity of Pyongyang urges the international community to undertake in-depth investigation into the development of the North Korean nuclear and missile programmes and expose any possible foreign assistance and technology transfers to Pyongyang in this area.

Ukraine remains ready for substantial work with all states on this matter with an aim to ensure positive changes in the current situation and move closer to denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula.

Mr Chairman,

This year marks the golden jubilee of the NPT. Does it mean that the world has become more safe and reliable since inception date of the Treaty? It is upon all of us to decide.

Let’s not forget that Ukraine, which voluntarily renounced its nuclear arsenal, has become a victim of the aggression from one of the nuclear states. The brutal violation of the Budapest Memorandum by it seriously challenges the global security. Such development makes of exceptional importance the restoration of confidence to security assurances.

The above-mentioned is also relevant from the point of view of excluding the occurrence of such situations in the future. That is why achievement of real collective security assurances remains a key task of our agenda.

Mr Chairman,

We deem necessary to urgently develop and conclude a multilateral legally binding instrument in order to provide security assurances to non-nuclear-weapon states against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons.

Ukraine is convinced that granting 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.

Non-nuclear states must be provided with substantive international support based on the concrete security assurances in a crisis situation.

To conclude, Mr Chairman, let me express a belief that the total elimination of nuclear weapons, irrespective of different positions on the means how to achieve it, is the only absolute guarantee against the scourge of nuclear warfare.

I thank you.