



**PERMANENT MISSION
OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN
TO THE UNITED NATIONS
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CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

**THIRD PREPARATORY COMMITTEE FOR THE
2020 REVIEW CONFERENCE OF THE NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY
STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR CHRISTIAN WENAWESER**

PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN TO THE UNITED NATIONS

Mr. Chair,

Liechtenstein welcomes your leadership and commitment in bringing us closer to a substantive agreement during the Review Conference of the Non-Proliferation Treaty in 2020. Liechtenstein will engage constructively in this process in the hope that the NPT framework will be strengthened as a result and that we make progress in finding a balance among the NPT's three pillars as envisioned by the treaty's drafters. We also hope to find in our upcoming discussions a reflection of the good faith that NPT reflects in its key provision towards a world free of nuclear weapons – a goal that has united us since the very beginning of the United Nations.

Almost fifty years of NPT put into spotlight the achievements as well as the shortcomings of the NPT framework. As we are mandated to review the implementation of the treaty, we have a collective responsibility to address the biggest gaps, which we continue to locate in the disarmament pillar. For Liechtenstein the NPT is the cornerstone of the international nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament architecture. We attach the highest importance to safeguarding the treaty's integrity, which can only mean to build on the set of our joint commitments, not to backtrack on them. The NPT framework has proven its essential value for international security

many times and it has shown that it can be a sound basis to help address even very complex non-proliferation crises, such as the Iran nuclear crisis.

Mr. Chair,

The primacy of international law needs to be preserved as the fundamental consensus that guides our efforts towards nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament. The NPT embodies such a rule of law approach, in which the acceptance of obligations cannot be decoupled from their implementation. As a result of the NPT the world has become a safer place, but we cannot take the NPT for granted if its implementation continues to lack progress to such a significant degree.

Mr. Chair,

Liechtenstein takes its obligations under the NPT extremely seriously and has – since the last review cycle – been issued a broader conclusion by the IAEA under the additional protocol to its comprehensive safeguards agreement. The strength of the NPT depends on a consistently high level of commitment to implement its provisions by all States Parties. We fully share the sentiment expressed by USG Nakamitsu at her recent briefing on the NPT to the Security Council: gains in the non-proliferation pillar go hand in hand with progress in disarmament. A lack of progress in the disarmament pillar, or even a backtracking, puts the achievements of non-proliferation at serious risk. The close linkage between both pillars appears to be underestimated by those advocating for the modernization and upgrade of nuclear arsenals and for lower thresholds for the use of nuclear weapons – in direct contravention of their obligations under article VI of the NPT.

Mr. Chair,

In abrogating the INF treaty, we risk losing an important measure towards the implementation of article VI of the NPT. Liechtenstein has previously put its detailed views on record in the General Assembly, in particular on the cause of the INF's precarious state, and we will therefore not repeat them here¹. However, it needs to be stated in the NPT framework that the absence of

¹ https://www.regierung.li/media/medienarchiv/friedenundsicherheit/2018-12-20_INF_Treaty_EoV.pdf?t=636910564810345899

any serious attempt to solve the INF dispute within the framework of the treaty amounts to a violation of the good faith obligation contained in article VI by both parties.

The signs of a new nuclear arms race put the NPT at risk. They undermine the NPT's authority at a time when we should make every effort to push for its universalization. They burden our discussions and limit the deliverables of the review process. As State parties to the NPT our response to a more polarized and difficult security environment should be to build confidence through the NPT. The review process provides an opportunity to make progress, in the area of nuclear disarmament, the areas identified by succeeding chairs and beyond – progress that is urgently needed. We fully support the Chair's efforts to further pin down elements for a substantive outcome in the next days and weeks.

Mr. Chair,

The broad recognition – political, judicial and societal – of the grave humanitarian consequences of the use of nuclear weapons has led to the most significant development in nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation in the past years – the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, which Liechtenstein strongly supports. The TPNW strengthens the NPT framework in that it defines new and concrete perspectives for nuclear disarmament and thereby helps implement obligations contained in article VI of the NPT. In fact, the process leading to the TPNW was itself a response to article VI, which defines an obligation on all Parties to the NPT, not only nuclear weapon States, to undertake to pursue negotiations in good faith on effective measures relating to cessation of the nuclear arms race at an early date and to nuclear disarmament. The view of the overwhelming majority of States is that the clear legal prohibition contained in the TPNW is such an effective measure and the open-ended nature of the multilateral negotiations testify to their good faith nature. We sincerely hope that significant further measures can be reflected in the outcome of the review process, in particular also from those who can directly contribute to nuclear disarmament.

I thank you.