



CZECH REPUBLIC

Permanent Mission of the Czech Republic to the United Nations

**10th Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the
Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons,
New York, 1 – 26 August 2022**

Main Committee I

**Statement by Mr. Jaroslav Štěpánek,
Head of the Disarmament, Non-Proliferation and Export Control Unit,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs**

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Mr. President,

Since I am taking the floor for the first time, allow me to express my delegation's sincere congratulations to you on your election as the President of this somewhat specific Review Conference of the 50 years old Non-Proliferation Treaty. Let the circumstances not be a hindrance in our common endeavour to make it a success. You can always rely on our cooperation and support. The Czech Republic fully aligns itself with the statement delivered by the European Union. I would like to add the following remarks in the national capacity.

The Czech Republic subscribes to a balanced approach to all three pillars of the NPT. The right to peaceful use of nuclear energy cannot be denied to any new entity to the field of nuclear applications, both energy and non-energy ones. Yet all existing rules and obligations should be strictly respected and duly verified, in order to prevent proliferation of nuclear weapons and possible misuse of nuclear materials and technologies. Complete nuclear disarmament, however distant in time, should remain a final goal for the international community. We shall never recognize the nuclear status of any other State beyond the current P5 members of the NPT. We are of the view that the longstanding objective of the complete elimination of nuclear weapons may be achieved only under certain conditions. The effective functioning of the non-proliferation regime on a global scale coupled with a robust verification regime providing assurances of irreversibility of nuclear disarmament are indispensable for a world without nuclear weapons. Therefore, we stress the need to faithfully implement all steps agreed in the 2010 Action Plan.

The Czech Republic attaches high priority to the commencement and early conclusion of negotiations in the Conference on Disarmament of a legally-binding treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices (FMCT). We remain convinced that FMCT is the next logical step on the way to nuclear disarmament.

Every occasion must be used to call upon those States that have not yet signed or ratified the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) to do so. Pending the CTBT entry into force, we welcome the moratoria on nuclear test explosions and we call on all States to refrain from conducting any action contrary to the obligations and provisions of the Treaty. Recognizing the importance of the CTBT, the Czech Republic was honoured to serve as the Chair of the Preparatory Commission in 2021 and fully supports the efforts of the Provisional Technical Secretariat of the CTBTO to further develop the CTBT verification regime as a strong non-proliferation and confidence-building instrument.

We would like to underline the importance of internationally recognized nuclear weapons free zones, established on the basis of arrangements acceptable to and accepted by all States of the regions concerned. In our view, this is overwhelmingly valid for the Middle East today.

As a non-nuclear weapon state, the Czech Republic will continue to fulfil its obligations under the NPT and remains fully committed to its objective of achieving and maintaining of a world without nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction.

Thank you, Mr. President