



CZECH REPUBLIC

Statement by

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**at the Thematic Discussion on Nuclear Weapons
of the First Committee of the 69th Session
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Mr. Chairman,

The Czech Republic is fully aligned with the statement delivered by the European Union. I would like to add the following remarks in my national capacity.

First of all, we express our enduring support to universal adherence to the Non-Proliferation Treaty and to full compliance with the obligations under the Treaty. We are convinced that even the most turbulent political and social unrest does not dismiss or diminish the responsibility of states for securing all nuclear and radioactive material on their territories. We agree that The Non-Proliferation Treaty is more important today than ever. It remains the cornerstone of the global nuclear non-proliferation regime as well as nuclear disarmament. We must preserve and strengthen its authority and integrity. However, we have witnessed several cases of noncompliance and breaches of internationally recognized commitments which go in an opposite direction:

By annexing Crimea, Russia has acted not only in flagrant breach of its obligations under the Budapest Memorandum but it has endangered the integrity of the non-proliferation regime of the NPT as such.

The DPRK's nuclear test of February 2013 is another blatant challenge to the non-proliferation regime. While violating its nuclear non-proliferation commitments, the DPRK threatens not only its regional environment but also international security and the nuclear non-proliferation regime and jeopardises the authority of the Security Council and the IAEA. In our view, the only way for a peaceful solution to this nuclear issue is the resumption of the Six Party Talks.

The Czech Republic notes with appreciation recent developments including the agreements between Iran and the IAEA. At the same time, we regret that the International Atomic Energy Agency was up till now not allowed by Iran to provide the international community with credible assurances about the absence of undeclared nuclear material and activities in Iran, and thus conclude that all nuclear material in Iran is used only in peaceful activities. We hope to see such assurances in the nearest future.

Mr. Chairman,

The Czech Republic would like to reaffirm its continued support to the entry into force of the CTBT, which will significantly strengthen the international security architecture. We welcome the moratoria on nuclear tests, declared by several States that have not yet ratified the Treaty. However, such voluntary moratoria can never substitute the legal ban constituted by the CTBT.

The Czech Republic further attaches great importance to the development of internationally recognized nuclear weapon free zones, especially in the Middle East. We agree that the issue deserves more comprehensive solution including elimination of all categories of weapons of mass destruction and peace settlement in the region. We appreciate the efforts of the Facilitator in preparing the Helsinki conference. We understand that the Helsinki Conference is only a starting point of a long lasting process that could bring us to a solution mutually acceptable for all parties of the Middle East region.

Mr. Chairman,

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 newcomer 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 and possible

misuse of nuclear materials and technologies. Nuclear disarmament, whatever distant in time, should remain a final goal for the international community.

I thank you for your attention.