

National Statement of Finland
11th Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the
Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

Main Committee II, 4 May 2026

Statement by Counsellor Hanne Ristevirta,
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Chair,

Let me congratulate you on your election as the Chair of Main Committee II. You have Finland's full support in your important task.

Finland aligns itself with the statement of the European Union. Our priorities are also reflected in the working paper provided by the Vienna Group of 10. I would like to add the following remarks in my national capacity.

We meet at a moment of profound non-proliferation challenges. At the times of weakening trust and growing tensions, the international community needs the NPT more than ever.

Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine has severely undermined the integrity of the non-proliferation regime. Russia's reckless nuclear rhetoric and the occupation of Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant continue to cause grave risks to regional and international security. Finland commends the International Atomic Energy Agency for its continuous presence at all Ukrainian nuclear facilities and reiterates that Russia must withdraw its forces and return full control of the plant (ZNPP) to Ukraine.

Chair,

The IAEA safeguards system remains the backbone of the NPT's verification regime. The Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement, together with the Additional Protocol, provides the most effective framework for detecting and verifying the diversion of nuclear material. Finland continues to provide extrabudgetary support to the IAEA safeguards through the national safeguards support programme. We call on all states who have not yet done so to bring both the CSA and the Additional Protocol into force. Finland also strongly supports the state-level concept, which enables the IAEA to apply safeguards in a more efficient manner.

Nuclear security is an integral element of global non-proliferation efforts. The entry into force of the Amended Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (A/CPPNM) and strengthening its implementation are critical steps toward better security for all. Finland supports a stronger role for the IAEA in assisting states to meet their nuclear security responsibilities, including through capacity-building and the development of international guidance.

For Finland, the global cooperation to ensure that nuclear and other radioactive materials do not fall into the hands of non-state actors is a priority. Finland is a member of the steering committee of the Global Forum to Prevent Radiological and Nuclear Terrorism and we also support the work of the UN Office of Counter-Terrorism. We are actively involved in organizing exercises to build capacity to prevent nuclear terrorism. We also underscore the importance of the Security Council Resolution 1540, which obliges all states to prevent non-state actors from acquiring weapons of mass destruction.

We call on strengthening the export control regimes' guidelines in order to prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. Finland welcomes increasing adherence to export controls with a view to strengthening the global nuclear non-proliferation regime.

Chair,

Finland remains deeply concerned of the DPRK's nuclear and ballistic missile programmes, which are a clear violation of multiple Security Council resolutions. We urge the DPRK to abandon its nuclear weapons and return to full compliance with its international obligations, including the NPT.

Iran's nuclear programme has created a grave risk to international security and is undermining the global non-proliferation regime. Iran's accumulation of highly enriched uranium and its unwillingness to cooperate with the IAEA is completely unacceptable. We highlight the importance of finding a diplomatic solution to Iran's nuclear programme and remind that it is a legal obligation for Iran to fully implement its safeguards agreement.

Chair,

The NPT remains the key shield against the spread of nuclear weapons. Despite the challenges, its norm against proliferation is still strong. Over the decades, the NATO's nuclear deterrence arrangements have been an important factor to prevent proliferation of nuclear weapons. NATO's nuclear policy is longstanding and predates the NPT. It actively contributes to the Treaty's non-proliferation objectives by having effectively reduced the incentive for non-nuclear Allies to seek their own nuclear weapons. Without this arrangement, more countries could have developed nuclear weapons.

Finland stands ready to work with all states parties to strengthen the non-proliferation regime, uphold the authority of the IAEA, and ensure that nuclear technology is used exclusively for peaceful purposes.

Thank you, Chair.