

**Statement by the United States to the NPT Review  
Conference**

**Statement by Assistant Secretary Dr. Christopher Yeaw  
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Excellencies, colleagues, it is a pleasure to be here with you today. And congratulations to Ambassador Viet on your election to the presidency. I trust we are in good hands with you.

For over 50 years, the NPT has underpinned the global nuclear nonproliferation regime, enabled cooperation on peaceful uses, and set the obligation for all States Parties to pursue negotiations related to nuclear disarmament and arms control.

This room holds some of the world's foremost experts on these issues. Together, we have tremendous capacity to make progress over the next four weeks.

But it will not be easy.

China's mysterious and opaque, and even reckless, nuclear expansion has already multiplied its arsenal severalfold in just a decade and a half. This disturbing trend could be interpreted as

Beijing seeking to drive an arms race. China has even conducted yield-producing nuclear tests.

Meanwhile, Russia unlawfully purported to suspend its New START obligations while it was in force, developed novel nuclear weapons, and has deepened its relationship with the DPRK, which continues to pursue its own weapons of mass destruction and ballistic missile programs in violation of UN Security Council Resolutions.

And of course, since the last RevCon, Iran accelerated its production of highly enriched uranium – accumulating a stockpile enriched to a level for which it has no credible, conceivable civilian justification – and has refused to provide the IAEA critical access to or information about the status of this material for nearly a year.

This conference convenes during a time of undeniable crisis. But that is not an excuse for inaction.

Rather, it is why we must act now.

The United States is ready to do so.

President Trump has been very clear: The power of nuclear weapons is too immense, and the cost of their employment is too

great. He has repeatedly expressed his desire to see a world with fewer nuclear weapons and to move further to the goal of eventual worldwide elimination.

Those are our marching orders. That's why we have proposed multilateral strategic stability and arms control. We provided detailed proposals to Russia and China, and among the P5, on possible initial steps, including on transparency, risk reduction, and nuclear testing. On an optimistic, forward-looking note, we are encouraged our Russian and Chinese colleagues have shown some willingness to engage on these topics. But this is only the beginning. Under Article VI, all nuclear-weapon States must engage in good faith on negotiations on arms control and disarmament to avoid an arms race.

This RevCon should affirm the value of these multilateral talks and call on nuclear-weapon States to engage in them, endorse measures to reduce risk, and emphasize transparency, including through interactive discussion of national reports with participation by all nuclear-weapon States. This would generate real momentum.

States Parties must also support and strengthen the Treaty's nonproliferation pillar. We are inspired by the tremendous progress that has been made towards Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement universalization. We congratulate Guinea and

Somalia on entering CSAs into force. And we hope Equatorial Guinea will soon join them before this conference is over. If they do so, this RevCon will have made history.

At the same time, we are deeply concerned by the failure of some States Parties to comply with their treaty obligations, including Iran's flagrant violation of Article III. Iran has been found by the IAEA to be in noncompliance with its NPT-required safeguards agreement not once, but twice – I repeat, two separate findings over the course of 20 years.

To defend the foundation of the nonproliferation regime, this conference should reaffirm support for the vigilant work of the IAEA, hold violators to account, and explore ways to ensure violations do not happen again. I call on all States Parties to use this conference to defend this treaty and the safeguards system. The time is now, and the need is urgent.

After all, there are many ways the States in this room benefit from them. The time is ripe for tremendous progress on peaceful uses. Under President Trump, the United States is unleashing a golden age of American energy and empowering partner countries to deploy nuclear energy under the highest standards of security, safety, and nonproliferation. We are also committed to supporting the IAEA's important peaceful uses work. But we must do more - that is why, with the UK, we are

launching the ASCENT initiative to amplify non-power peaceful uses and pave a pathway to future civil nuclear power programs for responsible NPT States.

This conference should reaffirm the tremendous benefits of the peaceful atom and the central role of the IAEA in realizing its full potential.

Finally, the United States is committed to reforming multilateral bodies to be more effective and efficient. We have a real opportunity to do so through strengthening the NPT review process.

After living with years of inefficiency, now is the time to get it done.

Colleagues, that statement rings true for *all* the issues I have raised today. Now is the time to ensure the NPT regime is prepared to face the challenges of today – and those of tomorrow.

This conference can be remembered as a turning point, so long as we drive momentum forward rather than backward.

This is the approach the United States will take at this RevCon. My team and I stand ready to work with you.