

Statement by the United States to the NPT Review Conference
Main Committee 1 Statement
As Delivered by Assistant Secretary for the Bureau of Arms Control and
Nonproliferation Christopher Yeaw
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New York City

Mr. Chair, Distinguished Delegates,

President Trump has boldly advocated for addressing nuclear threats. His vision is for a world with fewer nuclear weapons and reduced nuclear risks. The United States has been working tirelessly to make progress on that goal. We are seeking willing partners to establish new multilateral strategic stability and arms control agreements fit for purpose in the current security environment. It's one thing to come to international forums and simply talk about preventing nuclear war and a nuclear arms race. It's another thing to demonstrate action.

For example, this month, among the P5, the United States presented concrete proposals including on issues related to transparency, risk reduction, and confidence-building measures. If agreed, those measures would benefit all States Parties here, and would have a real impact in preventing unintended escalation and provide a basis for further arms control arrangements.

Article VI of the Treaty is unambiguous. It obligates all NPT States Parties – including all five nuclear-weapon States – to pursue negotiations in good faith on

effective measures relating to nuclear disarmament. This is not a selective obligation. This is not an aspiration.

The United States takes this obligation to pursue effective measures seriously. Since the 1990s, we have eliminated thousands of nuclear weapons and maintained a unilateral moratorium on fissile material production for use in nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices. We have provided public transparency on our nuclear weapons stockpile, including as recently as September 2023. We routinely publish our nuclear security policies—most recently in the 2026 National Defense Strategy and National Security Strategy —demonstrating transparency in our pursuit of Article VI effective measures. And we recently released a national report to this Conference and yesterday held a voluntary side event to discuss it.

We believe that we stand on the precipice of the next era of arms control, but we must be clear-eyed about the threats we face. For years, the United States has taken concrete steps, including with Russia, to steadily reduce nuclear weapons. President Trump has been unequivocal that a future arms control agreement should be modernized to include not one, but both nuclear peers. We need these nuclear-weapon States to demonstrate serious commitment to their Article VI obligations – again not just with words, but with action.

Russia’s unlawful purported suspension of New START undermined the last remaining bilateral nuclear arms control agreement that limited strategic nuclear weapons. Even when New START was in force, Russia developed novel nuclear weapons and maintained a large arsenal of non-strategic (or theatre) nuclear weapons estimated to number in the thousands. China and Russia's nuclear efforts

stand in stark contrast to U.S. nuclear modernization efforts, which are primarily designed to replace aging systems to ensure the safety, security, reliability, and effectiveness of our nuclear arsenal.

Meanwhile, the DPRK continues to develop its unlawful weapons of mass destruction and ballistic missile programs. This should be of great concern to anyone committed to the NPT.

Such actions undermine core goals of the NPT; preventing the spread of nuclear weapons and pursuing good-faith negotiations toward their complete elimination. As a result, nuclear risks continue to grow, threatening our collective security.

Mr. Chair, the global security environment demands action.

The United States is demonstrating leadership by proposing new multilateral strategic stability and arms control talks. This is the natural evolution of arms control to take account of the arsenals and threats we face today.

We call on every delegation in this room to join us in strongly encouraging China and Russia to come to the table and take action without further delay. After all, isn't that why we're all here? To take meaningful steps to implement this Treaty?

The United States has come to this Review Conference with concrete proposals. And we are also here to listen and adapt. Overall, we will demonstrate our continued commitment to responsible behavior as a nuclear-weapon State under the NPT.

Thank you, Chair.