



**PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

STATEMENT

**by H. E. Mr. Victor Moraru, Ambassador, Permanent Representative
of the Republic of Moldova to the United Nations
at the General Debate of the Third Session of the Preparatory Committee
for the 2020 Review Conference of the Parties
to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons**

(New York, 30 April 2019)

Mr. Chairman,

Let me start by congratulating you for assuming the important task of chairing the Third Session of the Preparatory Committee. My delegation thanks you for your efforts devoted to the preparation of this meeting. We look to your leadership to turn this last and most important PrepCom into a solid foundation for forward-looking decisions at the Review Conference next year.

The Republic of Moldova associates itself with the comprehensive statement made by the European Union. Being in full agreement with the EU statement, I would like to highlight a few points that are of particular importance for my delegation.

Mr. Chairman,

One year from the 2020 Review Conference, the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) is confronted with serious challenges.

We are clearly short of progress on the non-proliferation agenda and in nuclear disarmament.

Moreover, the role of nuclear weapons in security policies has been increased and the option of creating new types of and new uses for nuclear weapons remains an indispensable part of the strategic planning of some countries, including some NPT States Parties.

The recent years presented significant proliferation challenges and risks for the NPT, including the nuclear program of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK).

As the UN Secretary General, Antonio Guterres, rightly observed in his new Agenda for Disarmament *the current nuclear risks we face are unacceptable, and they are growing.*

The Republic of Moldova considers that all States Parties must pursue policies that are fully compatible with the Treaty and the objective of achieving a world without nuclear weapons.

The Review Conference must produce, therefore, a clear commitment by all NPT States Parties to comply fully with all of their obligations under this vital Treaty and as agreed at the 1995, 2000 and 2010 Review Conferences.

More specifically, the 2020 Review Conference should adopt a set of concrete, effective and consensual measures for stepping up global efforts against proliferation, pursuing nuclear disarmament and ensuring a responsible development of uses of nuclear energy.

If we want to preserve the central role of the Non-Proliferation Treaty, we must further strengthen the non-proliferation regime, promote NPT's universalisation, support the maintenance of nuclear-weapon-free zones and establishing new such zones, including in the Middle East, on the basis of arrangements freely arrived at among the States of the regions concerned.

To strengthen the NPT regime, it is also essential that the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) enters into force without further delay, and that the Conference on Disarmament begins negotiations on a verifiable fissile material treaty.

Universalisation and strengthening of the IAEA safeguards system, including the Additional Protocol remains another important priority that should be reaffirmed during the next NPT review cycle.

Mr. Chairman,

The 2020 Review Conference must advance the goal of achieving full and effective nuclear disarmament.

We want to see a final outcome that reaffirms our unity against nuclear weapons in all circumstances.

We cannot continue to condemn the existence of some weapons of mass destruction while allowing the existence of others.

My delegation agrees with the prevailing view that the indefinite extension of the NPT established at the 1995 Review Conference should not be viewed as justifying indefinite possession. The continued possession of nuclear weapons will continue to fuel their proliferation and maintain the nuclear danger.

Accordingly, the Republic of Moldova supports the working papers, submitted to the Preparatory Committee, stressing the urgency of Article VI's implementation. Likewise, we subscribe to the working papers that highlight the humanitarian consequences and associated risks of nuclear weapons.

Like other States Parties, we believe that the adoption of the 2017 United Nations Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) represents an effective measure under Article VI of the NPT, complements the Treaty and strengthens existing disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation regimes.

The existential threat that nuclear weapons pose to humanity must motivate us to identify and reflect in the outcome document of the 2020 NPT Review Conference effective measures for the achievement of a world without nuclear weapons.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.