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From: General Secretariat of the Council

To: Delegations

Subject: Council Conclusions on the 10th Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT)

Delegations will find in the annex the Council Conclusions on the 10th Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), as approved by the Council at its 3826th meeting held on 15 November 2021.

**COUNCIL CONCLUSIONS ON THE TENTH REVIEW CONFERENCE OF THE
PARTIES TO THE TREATY ON THE NON-PROLIFERATION OF NUCLEAR
WEAPONS (NPT)**

1. The Council welcomes the upcoming Tenth Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) and reaffirms its unequivocal support for the NPT as the cornerstone of the global nuclear non-proliferation regime, the essential foundation for the pursuit of nuclear disarmament in accordance with Article VI of the NPT and an important element in the development of nuclear energy applications for peaceful purposes in accordance with Article IV of the NPT. The Council reiterates the Union's unwavering support for the safeguarding and strengthening of the nuclear disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control architecture. We are firmly convinced that a multilateral and treaty-based approach provides the best way to maintain and reinforce international peace and security.
2. The Council regrets the unavoidable postponement of the Tenth Review Conference and stresses the valuable contribution of Review Conferences to the NPT's implementation.
3. The Council reaffirms the importance of universalising the NPT and calls on all States that have not yet done so to join the Treaty as non-nuclear weapon States and, pending their accession, to adhere to its terms. The Council recognises the NPT's historic achievements in limiting the proliferation of nuclear weapons, in facilitating cooperation on nuclear energy for peaceful purposes and in significantly reducing nuclear weapon stockpiles in previous decades. The NPT has an enduring value and its full implementation is needed now more than ever.

4. The Council strongly supports all three pillars of the NPT and will continue to promote comprehensive, balanced and substantive full implementation of the 2010 Review Conference Action Plan. We stress the need to implement all obligations under the NPT, and commitments during previous Review Conferences, including the need for concrete progress towards the full implementation of Article VI, with the ultimate goal of total elimination of nuclear weapons. We are resolved to seek a safer and more secure world for all in accordance with the goals of the Treaty in a way that promotes international stability, peace and security. The Council welcomes the engagement by EU Member States to mobilize political will and promote implementation of the goals of the NPT through various initiatives during the current review cycle such as the Stockholm Initiative.

5. In the current security environment marked by increasingly high tensions and serious proliferation crises and challenges, renewed efforts must be pursued in the area of disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control. The Council calls on all States concerned to abstain from any steps that would risk further escalating tensions and undermine the significant reductions achieved after the end of the Cold War. A new nuclear arms race must be avoided.

6. The Council wishes to underline that ensuring the implementation of the 64 actions in the 2010 Action Plan is a collective responsibility shared by all States Parties to the NPT without exception.

7. The Council highlights the following issues:
 - Its commitment to advance nuclear disarmament, in accordance with Article VI of the NPT, especially through the overall reduction in the global stockpile of nuclear weapons, and taking into account the special responsibility of the States that possess the largest nuclear arsenals.

- Its support for intensified dialogue, including on strategic stability, increased transparency and confidence building measures by the nuclear weapon States to promote further progress in disarmament.
- The benefits of concrete work on strategic and nuclear risk reduction, and therefore the urgent need for all States concerned to discuss, agree and implement practical measures to that end.
- The value of multilateral cooperation advancing nuclear disarmament verification. In this regard, the Council welcomes the convening of the Group of Governmental experts (GGE) to consider the role of nuclear verification in advancing nuclear disarmament in 2021. The Council also welcomes the contribution of practical cooperation such as the Quad Nuclear Verification Partnership and practical exercises, such as the Belgian exercise regarding the plutonium measurement methods, the Franco-German Nuclear Disarmament Verification (NuDiVe) exercise as well as the research and demonstration on high explosive detection methods carried out by the Netherlands, within the International Partnership for Nuclear Disarmament Verification (IPNDV) format. While verification is not an end in itself, further development of the international cooperation on nuclear disarmament verification instruments would assist in the achievement and maintenance of a world without nuclear weapons.
- Its call for the immediate commencement and early conclusion of negotiations in the Conference on Disarmament of a Treaty banning the production of fissile material for use in nuclear weapons or other explosive devices and that it can support the start of the negotiations in accordance with document CD/1299 and the mandate contained therein. Pending a future FMCT in force, the Council calls on all States concerned to declare and uphold an immediate moratorium on the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear devices.

8. The Council welcomes the agreement reached between the United States and the Russian Federation to extend the New START Treaty for an additional five years. The Union attaches the highest importance to the New START Treaty and regards it as a crucial contribution to international and European security. The reduction of deployed strategic nuclear arsenals under the New START Treaty, enhanced notably by its robust verification mechanism, contributes to the implementation of Article VI of the NPT through the overall reduction in the global stockpile of deployed nuclear weapons. The Council stresses the need to preserve and further advance arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation processes. Recalling the obligations for all nuclear weapon States arising from Art. VI of the NPT, we underline that the two nuclear weapon States with the largest arsenals hold a special responsibility in the area of nuclear disarmament and arms control. The Council encourages seeking further reductions to their arsenals including strategic and non-strategic, deployed and non-deployed nuclear weapons and to pursue further discussions on confidence-building, transparency, risk reduction, verification activities, laying the ground for even more robust future arms control agreements and reporting. We call on China to actively contribute to these processes.
9. The Council welcomes the launch of the Strategic Stability Dialogue and the restatement of the Reykjavik Summit declaration at the Summit between the Russian Federation and the United States of America in Geneva.
10. The Council notes the very severe consequences associated with nuclear weapons use and emphasises that all States share the responsibility to prevent such an occurrence from happening.
11. The Council stresses the need to renew multilateral efforts and revitalize multilateral negotiating bodies, in particular the Conference on Disarmament, looking in this regard into enhancing the organisation of its work as well as its future enlargement. Its ongoing stalemate, including its persistent failure to agree on a Programme of Work and to grant observership status to all UN Member States, remains a source for concern.

12. The Council considers the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) to be of crucial importance to nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation and its entry into force is a top priority and remains a political imperative for the Union. The Council calls on all States that have not yet done so, in particular those listed in Annex II, to sign and ratify the CTBT without preconditions or further delay. The Council also calls on all States to abide by the moratorium on nuclear weapon test explosions or any other nuclear explosion, and to refrain from any action contrary to the object and purpose of the Treaty.
13. The Council acknowledges the critical importance of existing nuclear weapons free zones for peace and security and remains committed to the implementation of the Resolution on Middle East adopted at the 1995 NPT Review Conference. The Council notes the convening of the UN Conference on 20 November 2019 on the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems and it is encouraged by its outcome. The Council recalls that, as stated in the 2010 NPT Review Conference Action Plan, such zones can only be established on the basis of arrangements freely arrived at between all States of the region concerned.
14. The Council remains seriously concerned in the face of persistent proliferation crises and challenges, which continue to be a threat to international security, and it underlines its resolve to increase non-proliferation efforts and to strengthen, universalize and render more effective the nuclear non-proliferation architecture. The Council recognizes the need to find peaceful and diplomatic solutions and stresses that the international community needs to remain vigilant and be ready to face up to these challenges and to address them in a resolute way. The Council underlines the primary responsibility of the UN Security Council in cases of non-compliance.

15. The Council recognises the important work of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and in particular that its safeguards system is a fundamental component of the non-proliferation regime and plays a fundamental role in the implementation of the NPT. The close cooperation between EURATOM and IAEA allows for effective and efficient safeguards. The Council stresses that the Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement (CSA) together with the Additional Protocol (AP) constitute the current verification standard under the NPT and it calls for their universalisation without delay.
16. The Council reiterates its resolute commitment to and continued support for the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA). The JCPOA is a key element of the global nuclear non-proliferation architecture, endorsed unanimously by the UN Security Council through its resolution 2231 (2015). The Council acknowledges the issues connected to the unilateral withdrawal of the United States from the JCPOA and the reimposition of sanctions by it. The Council expresses its grave concern at Iran's continued actions inconsistent with the JCPOA and with severe and in certain cases irreversible proliferation implications. It urges Iran to reverse all activities that are inconsistent with the JCPOA and return to full implementation of its nuclear commitments without delay, in particular the implementation of the Additional Protocol and JCPOA transparency provisions. The Council supports the ongoing intensive diplomatic efforts within the JCPOA Joint Commission and the contacts of the EU High Representative as the Coordinator of the Joint Commission with all relevant partners. The Council remains gravely concerned by Iran's ballistic missile activity and calls upon Iran to refrain from activities that are inconsistent with UN Security Council resolution 2231 and not to undertake any activity related to ballistic missiles designed to be capable of delivering nuclear weapons, including launches using such ballistic missile technology. The Council further calls on Iran not to transfer any missile or missile component or missile technology to non-state actors.
17. The Council deeply regrets that Syria has still to remedy its non-compliance with its Safeguards Agreement by cooperating as a matter of priority and transparently with the IAEA to resolve all outstanding issues and calls on Syria to sign, bring into force and implement in full an Additional Protocol with the IAEA as soon as possible.

18. The Council is seriously concerned by the ongoing proliferation of missile technology, as it is clearly a destabilizing factor. In this regard, the Council recalls its strong support for the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR) and the Hague Code of Conduct (HCoC) against Ballistic Missile Proliferation. The Council calls for the universal subscription to, and the effective implementation of the HCoC, the only multilateral transparency and confidence building instrument concerning the spread of ballistic missiles.
19. The Council expresses its serious concern that the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) continues action to further develop its illegal nuclear weapons and ballistic missile programmes. The Council condemns steps taken by the DPRK to enhance its nuclear weapons and missile capability, including repeated launches of missiles and the maintenance of related facilities. The Council urges the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) to refrain from all nuclear tests and ballistic missile launches. The Council calls on the DPRK to take concrete steps in dismantling its weapons of mass destruction, ballistic missile and existing nuclear programmes in a complete, verifiable and irreversible manner as decided by United Nations Security Council Resolution 2397 (2017). The Council urges the DPRK to engage in meaningful discussions with all relevant parties to build a basis for sustainable peace and security and to take steps aimed at pursuing Complete, Verifiable, Irreversible Denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula. The Council insists that the DPRK return to compliance with the NPT and the IAEA Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement, bring into force the Additional Protocol, and urges it to sign and ratify the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty. The Council calls on all States to abide by their obligations under relevant UN Security Council resolutions including the full and effective implementation of all sanctions.

20. The Council is resolved to ensure the highest standards of nuclear safety, security and safeguards, recognizes IAEA's central role in this regard and the Union's significant funding of its activities. The Council recalls that the new European Instrument for Nuclear Safety Cooperation, with a budget of 300 million EUR for 2021-2027, will support third countries in the areas of nuclear safety and radiation protection, nuclear waste management, and nuclear safeguards. The Council welcomes the ministerial declaration of the International Conference on Nuclear Security (ICONS), reflecting the political will of Member States and adding further value and political guidance to the process of strengthening nuclear security globally.
21. The Council reaffirms its support for the inalienable right of all Parties to the NPT to develop research, production and use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes without discrimination and in conformity with the NPT, including in the framework of the IAEA's Technical Cooperation Programme. The Council acknowledges the need to ensure energy security at affordable cost and respects the right of Member States to decide on their energy mix and choose the most appropriate technologies to collectively achieve the 2030 climate target. The Council recognizes the IAEA's activities in supporting Member States in their efforts to achieve the UN Sustainable Development Goals and in particular the possible contribution of nuclear science and technology in areas such as human health, agriculture and food security, water management, climate change, environmental protection, preservation of cultural heritage.
22. The Council underlines that gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls is an important horizontal priority for the Union and believes it is important to integrate gender perspectives into discussions across the three pillars of the NPT. Furthermore, the Council fully supports and promotes the equal participation of women and men in the field of disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control and encourages women's participation at the NPT Review Conference.

23. The Council supports disarmament and non-proliferation education, to which the EU Non-Proliferation Consortium, the European network of independent think tanks, is contributing with various activities.

24. The Council underlines the importance of securing a positive and substantive outcome of the Tenth NPT Review Conference, in reviewing the implementation of the Treaty and the past commitments, as well as by identifying areas in which, and the means through which, further progress should be sought in the future. The Council decides to contribute actively to the NPT's Review Conference, including through proposals for concrete, future-oriented actions to the Tenth Review Conference. To that end, it has contributed with Working Papers to the current Review Cycle and national implementation reports by EU Member States. The Union and its Member States will take an active and constructive approach to the negotiations at the Review Conference.

