



United States Mission to the OSCE

Statement on START Treaty, NPR and NSS

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This has been a very dynamic period in the U.S. efforts to address arms control and nonproliferation issues.

First, on April 6, the Department of Defense released the Nuclear Posture Review -- a comprehensive review of U.S. nuclear deterrence policy, strategy, and force posture. Today's most pressing nuclear threats come from terrorists and additional countries seeking nuclear weapons, not the risk of large-scale nuclear attack as during the Cold War. The conclusions of the Nuclear Posture Review reflect that reality. The NPR directs us to preserve the effectiveness of our nuclear deterrent for as long as it is required, reduce the potential for conflict, enhance strategic stability worldwide, and strengthen the nonproliferation regime. Our updated Negative Security Assurance (NSA) reinforces the President's objectives of reducing the roles and numbers of nuclear weapons by making it clear that the United States will not use or threaten to use nuclear weapons against non-nuclear-weapons states that are party to the NPT and in compliance with their nuclear nonproliferation obligations. The purpose of this change is to emphasize to non-nuclear states the security benefits of adhering to and fully complying with the NPT and their nuclear nonproliferation obligations. The NPR outlines a new approach that will ensure that our defenses and diplomacy are geared toward those objectives and sends a clear message about this Administration's priorities and resolve. Our commitment to defend our national security interests and our allies and partners in Europe, the Pacific and elsewhere has never been stronger. In this regard, the NPR emphasizes close co-operation with our allies around the world and maintains our firm commitment to mutual security.

Second, President Obama and President Medvedev on April 8 signed the Treaty between the United States of America and the Russian Federation on Measures for the Further Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms. The new Treaty limits U.S. and Russian nuclear forces significantly below the levels established by the 1991 START treaty and the 2002 Moscow Treaty, and advances the security of the entire planet. It reaffirms American and Russian leadership on behalf of nuclear security and global nonproliferation, and represents our shared commitment to cooperate substantively and effectively on issues of mutual interest.

Finally, President Obama on April 12-13 hosted a Nuclear Security Summit to enhance international cooperation to prevent nuclear terrorism, the most immediate threat to global security. Over 40 nations participated, including many OSCE participating States, representing a diverse set of regions and various levels of nuclear capabilities. The Summit focused on the security of nuclear materials, leaving other broad topics such as non-proliferation, disarmament, and peaceful nuclear energy to different forums.

Among the OSCE participating States at the Summit that made commitments to strengthen nuclear security and reduce the threat of nuclear terrorism, we want to acknowledge the historic contribution of Ukraine in pledging the removal of all of its highly-enriched uranium.

This is a significant and essential step in helping us all reach our nonproliferation goals. As it did in giving up its nuclear weapons in 1994, Ukraine has shown itself to be a global leader on non-proliferation.

We would also like to highlight Kazakhstan's many years of continued cooperation and success in reducing nuclear threats. This includes the decommissioning of the BN-350 nuclear reactor at Aktau, and the conversion of the research reactor in Alatau and the elimination of highly enriched uranium stored there, as called for in the Nuclear Security Summit Communique.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.