



**United Nations Office
for Disarmament Affairs**

Opening remarks for regional consultations for States Parties to the NPT

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*Statement delivered by Fiona Simpson, Deputy Chief of Weapons of Mass Destruction Branch

Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,

It is a privilege to join you in Amman for these regional consultations for States Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. I wish to express my sincere appreciation, and that of the High Representative, to the Government of Jordan for hosting this meeting and for its valuable support in bringing us together.

I also thank the European Union for its generous support, which has made these consultations possible.

I have the honour to deliver these remarks on behalf of Ms. Izumi Nakamitsu, Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for Disarmament Affairs.

Excellencies,

Ladies and gentlemen,

Allow me to congratulate His Excellency Ambassador Do Hung Viet on his election as President-designate of the 2026 Review Conference. His leadership will be crucial as we approach a pivotal moment in the Treaty's history. The United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs is fully committed to supporting him and his efforts to achieve a successful Review Conference.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Multilateral cooperation, along with the architecture that underpins it, is under strain. Geopolitical tensions are rising, while dialogue among nuclear-weapon States has stalled.

Decades of hard-won progress in nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation – progress that has vastly contributed to global stability – are being seriously challenged.

A qualitative nuclear arms race is underway, while the risk of a renewed quantitative one cannot be ignored. All elements of the nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime, including the NPT, face increasing pressure.

The NPT, long the cornerstone of global stability, now faces deepening divisions and distrust among States Parties. Preserving the Treaty and with it, international peace and security, begins with a renewed collective commitment by States Parties.

A third consecutive Review Conference without consensus would carry real consequences for the health of the Treaty. It could lead to a “hollowing out” of the regime as States lose confidence in the Treaty’s ability to deliver on its core promises, across all three pillars.

Since the Treaty’s indefinite extension in 1995, its credibility has rested on the mutually reinforcing nature of those three pillars. When one is weakened, the others invariably suffer. Preserving this balance, therefore, is essential.

Underpinning a balanced Treaty is the continued need to strive for a universal NPT. This remains a fundamental priority for States parties.

This is why the 2026 Review Conference is so important. It provides an opportunity not only to reaffirm long-standing commitments, but to chart a practical and forward-looking pathway to strengthen the Treaty for the years ahead.

Achieving this will require political will and a shared understanding that no State Party benefits from a weakened NPT.

These consultations are designed to support that process. They offer space for open, regionally focused dialogue and for identifying areas where convergence is possible.

They are an opportunity to articulate priorities, share concerns and lay the groundwork for a constructive and realistic outcome this year. The President-designate has emphasized his commitment to an inclusive and listening approach, and these consultations are an integral part of that effort.

While views may differ among States on what success should look like, we know that flexibility, creativity and a commitment to constructive engagement will be indispensable.

Excellencies,

The substance of the NPT's pillars is essential to the maintenance of both international and regional peace and to sustainable development.

The Middle East and North Africa region holds a unique and longstanding place in the history of the NPT. The resolution on the Middle East adopted in 1995 remains an important part of the package that enabled the Treaty's indefinite extension. Its full implementation, alongside other commitments under the Treaty, remains fundamental to preserving the credibility and balance of the NPT review process.

In this context, the Conference on the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction represents a valuable, region-owned effort mandated by the General Assembly. I wish to commend the States of the region that have engaged constructively in this process, and I welcome the continued work of the Conference as a forum for inclusive dialogue.

The United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs remains committed to supporting this process in its role as Secretariat.

At the same time, persistent regional tensions and the risk of miscalculation underscore the urgency of measures that reduce nuclear risks and build confidence. Efforts to enhance transparency, communication and dialogue are not substitutes for disarmament, but they are necessary and complementary steps to strengthen both international and regional security and to prevent catastrophe.

Nuclear non-proliferation remains indispensable to international peace and security. It is central to sustaining confidence among States Parties and the effective functioning of the NPT. Full compliance with non-proliferation obligations, together with the universal application of safeguards, is essential to preserving the integrity of the Treaty.

The Middle East and North Africa region encompasses a wide range of perspectives and capacities, including States with advanced nuclear programmes and States seeking to expand the peaceful use of nuclear science and technology. Effective safeguards, robust regulatory frameworks and sustained cooperation are therefore critical to maintaining confidence and preventing proliferation.

Emerging developments, including those related to the next generation of nuclear reactors, also require sustained attention. The 2026 Review Conference will need to address these matters carefully, ensuring that innovation advances in a safe, secure and proliferation-resistant manner.

The peaceful uses of nuclear energy go beyond power generation, however. Nuclear applications in this region contribute to health care, water resource management, agriculture, energy diversification and climate resilience.

The Review Conference should therefore reaffirm the importance of equitable access to these benefits for all States Parties, particularly developing countries, alongside the highest standards of safety, security and non-proliferation. Continued investment in capacity-building, cooperation and partnerships will be important.

Excellencies,

The forthcoming Review Conference is a moment to renew commitment, rebuild trust and strengthen the foundations of the Treaty. There is no template for a successful outcome. What matters is that the outcome strengthens the NPT and the confidence that sustains it.

Every State Party has a stake in this effort, and every region brings unique perspectives, energy and political will. The NPT has endured for more than fifty years because it has adapted to changing realities. It must do so again, guided by realism, determination and a shared sense of responsibility.

I encourage you to use these consultations to listen to one another, reflect candidly on the challenges before us and to work together toward a strengthened NPT in 2026 and beyond.

I wish you productive deliberations and look forward to the insights and recommendations that will emerge from your discussions.

Thank you very much for your attention.