



**NPT Review Conference Reception with Performance by the Kronos
Quartet –
hosted by Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists**

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As delivered



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Excellencies,

Distinguished delegates,

Colleagues,

Ladies and gentlemen,

I am pleased to be here this evening to join you at this concert by the Kronos Quartet and on the first day of the Eleventh Review Conference of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT).

There is a poetic logic to pairing the Kronos Quartet with the Bulletin of Atomic Scientists' Doomsday Clock. In mythology, Kronos was the god of time. And the Doomsday Clock measures how precariously our own time now stands.

Ladies and gentlemen,

The Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, whose implementation will be reviewed over the next four weeks, is much more than words on paper. It is the cornerstone of international peace and security.

For more than half a century, it has provided a framework that prevents the spread of nuclear weapons, advances disarmament, and enables the peaceful use of nuclear science and technology.

These three mutually reinforcing pillars are not abstract commitments. They are practical tools that have helped shape a safer and more stable world.

Today, the global security environment is marked by rising geopolitical tensions, rapid technological change, and an erosion of trust. In such a moment, the NPT is not simply relevant; it is indispensable.

It is the only Treaty in which nuclear-armed and non-nuclear-armed states have committed, together, to pursue a world free of nuclear weapons. That shared commitment is the foundation on which all other nuclear-related agreements and initiatives rest.

And it has also enabled extraordinary progress in peaceful nuclear applications. From medicine to agriculture, from energy to climate research, the benefits of international cooperation under the Treaty are felt around the world.

These achievements underscore two important truths:

First, that when States work collectively, they can deliver tangible improvements to human well-being.

And second, that what happens over the next four weeks matters. This Conference is not a process for its own sake. Its outcomes will affect all of us.

At a time when nuclear risks are increasing, we must reaffirm the commitments that lie at the heart of the NPT. We must preserve and strengthen the norms against proliferation. We must reduce the role of nuclear weapons in security doctrines. And we must take concrete, measurable steps toward disarmament.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Kronos was not simply the god of time. According to the stories, he also devoured his own children, out of fear that they would one day overthrow him. And in the end, one of them did, and his attempt to contain the danger only ensured it would return to defeat him.

We must work for a better future. One in which our creations do not become our undoing.

The NPT has served the international community well for more than five decades. Its continued success will require renewed dialogue, sustained cooperation, and recognition that our security is indivisible.

The world cannot afford complacency. Upholding and advancing the NPT is not only a legal obligation. It is a responsibility we owe to the future.

I thank you very much for your attention.
