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# **Preparatory Committee for the 2005 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons**

26 April 2004

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## **Third session**

New York, 26 April-7 May 2004

### **Implementation of the Non-Proliferation Treaty**

#### **Report submitted by Slovakia**

This report presents a general overview of steps undertaken by Slovakia in the implementation of the Non-Proliferation Treaty as a whole. The report does not sum up all achievements of Slovakia in this area. Instead it is focused on measures and steps undertaken by Slovakia since the Second Preparatory Committee Meeting for the 2005 Review Conference. It complements Slovakia's first report submitted at the aforementioned event.

#### **Article I**

It is a long-term policy of Slovakia to encourage repeatedly nuclear weapons states to commit themselves in even more stringent way not to assist or make possible for others to acquire nuclear weapons. In reflection of the „new,, phenomenon present in the international relations, Slovakia is seriously concerned about the growing threat posed by aspirations of non-state actors to acquire weapons of mass destruction. In this regard Slovakia welcomed the G8 Global Partnership Initiative Against the Spread of Weapons and Materials of Mass Destruction and aligned itself with its agreed principles.

#### **Article II**

Slovakia is unequivocally committed to its NPT obligations not to transfer, manufacture or receive control over nuclear weapons. Trade in, import, export, acquisition, brokering or transport of weapons of mass destruction through the Slovak territory, namely nuclear, chemical or biological weapons and their components, are explicitly prohibited in the Slovak legislation.

#### **Article III**

Slovakia regards the IAEA's international safeguards regime as an essential part of the global nuclear non-proliferation system. Slovakia signed its Safeguards Agreement and the Additional Protocol to it in 1999 as a substitution for previous arrangements concluded between the IAEA and the former

Czechoslovakia. The conclusion of all necessary steps for the Additional Protocol to come into effect for Slovakia is expected as soon as possible.

#### Article IV

Slovakia ranks among countries that operate peaceful nuclear facilities. Large portion of energy produced in Slovakia comes from its nuclear power plants. According to the national energy strategy plan, nuclear energy will remain a substantive source of our energy production in the medium term. The safe operation of nuclear facilities continues to be our utmost priority. With this in mind, we have promoted and enjoyed a fruitful cooperation with the IAEA and more than two dozen countries. In the EU context, while deepening co-operation with individual Member States and EURATOM, Slovakia seeks to harmonise its operation requirements and programs with policies and priorities of the EU.

#### Article V

Slovakia has been reiterating its firm commitment to the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT). It calls upon all States, especially those 44 whose accession is necessary for the Treaty to enter into force, to give a new impetus and strengthen overall efforts to achieve its entry into force at an earliest possible date.

Slovakia ranks among strong supporters of the Treaty, Preparatory Commission and its Provisional Technical Secretariat which, we believe, forms necessary prerequisites for successful building up of the effective verification regime, including International Monitoring System. Recognising the important role of the verification regime of the CTBT and in particular on-site inspections, Slovakia offers its experiences and capacities in this field to be used in co-operation with the Preparatory Commission for mutual benefits. In this respect Slovakia has expressed its readiness to host the CTBT Field Exercise in 2004.

The pro-active approach of Slovakia towards the promotion of the CTBT was once more confirmed at the Third Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the CTBT in 2003 and in its foreign minister's speech in the general debate.

#### Article VI

Slovakia, as a non nuclear-weapon state, continues to encourage all nuclear-weapon states to make further progress in reducing their nuclear arsenals with a view to achieve the long-term objective of complete elimination of nuclear weapons.

At the Conference on Disarmament (CD) Slovakia has persistently called for adoption of a balanced substantive agenda that would also include nuclear disarmament. Its priority in this respect remains that the CD renew negotiations on a fissile material cut-off treaty as soon as possible.

Slovakia similarly attaches great importance to the discussion on nuclear disarmament on wider multilateral forums including UNGA where it has consistently extended its support to a number of First Committee resolutions that promote constructive approaches on the issue:

- Resolution 58/59 "A path to the total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons"
- Resolution 58/71 "Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty"

- Resolution 58/57 “The Conference on Disarmament decision (CD/1547) of 11 August 1998 to establish, under item 1 of its agenda entitled "Cessation of the nuclear arms race and nuclear disarmament", an ad hoc committee to negotiate, on the basis of the report of the Special Coordinator (CD/1299) and the mandate contained therein, a non-discriminatory, multilateral and internationally and effectively verifiable treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices”
- Resolution 58/68 “The risk of nuclear proliferation in the Middle East”

#### Article VII

Slovakia encourages efforts aimed at establishing nuclear weapon free zones in regions of the world where consensus on establishing such a zone exists. Slovakia welcomes signature and ratification of nuclear weapon free zone protocols by the nuclear-weapon states. It supports the UNGA resolution on establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East.

#### Article VIII

As in its report submitted at the second session of the Preparatory Committee, Slovakia reiterates its support to the strengthened review process of the NPT. In this context, Slovakia understands the practice of reporting by States Parties on their implementation of the Treaty as an essential element of the review process. Slovakia encourages other States Parties and particularly the nuclear-weapon States to submit their national reports on implementation of the Treaty. It is also looking forward to further discussion on the format of the reporting.

#### Article IX

Slovakia calls on all States to intensify efforts aimed at achieving universal adherence to the Treaty and to sustain its effectiveness and integrity. Slovakia, as a new member of the EU, joins its appeals to states that stand outside the NPT to accede to it as non nuclear-weapon states.

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