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General and complete disarmament: nuclear disarmament

**Letter dated 28 April 2021 from the Permanent Representative of
Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

I have the honour to address you in my capacity as Chair of the Coordinating Bureau of the Non-Aligned Movement and to convey herewith a joint communiqué by the Group of Non-Aligned States Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, adopted on 23 April 2021.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 103 (b), and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Yashar Aliyev
Ambassador
Permanent Representative



Annex to the letter dated 28 April 2021 from the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Joint communiqué by the Group of Non-Aligned States Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

1. The Group of Non-Aligned States Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) expresses its deep concern about the declared review of the United Kingdom's nuclear weapons policy, as contained in the "The Integrated Review 2021", that includes increasing its stockpile ceiling of nuclear weapons by up to 44 percent, lowering the threshold for the possible use of such weapons, and reducing transparency about its nuclear weapons.
2. This policy is against the spirit and objectives of the NPT and demonstrates a clear case of noncompliance with the legal obligations of its Article VI. Furthermore, it violates the agreed commitments adopted by consensus at the 1995, 2000, and 2010 sessions of the NPT Review Conference, in particular the commitments made to "undertake further efforts to reduce and ultimately eliminate all types of nuclear weapons, deployed and non-deployed";¹ to "further diminish the role and significance of nuclear weapons in all military and security policies, doctrines and policies";² and to increase transparency with regard to the nuclear weapons capabilities.³
3. The Group notes with utmost concern that this policy stipulates the reservation of the right to review the existing negative security assurances. The Group remains profoundly concerned by military and security doctrines of Nuclear Weapon States (NWS) that set out the rationales for the use of nuclear weapons and consider expanding the circumstances in which these weapons could be used.
4. The Group expresses concern at the sustained modernization of nuclear weapons, the continuous improvements in existing nuclear weapons, and the development of new types of nuclear weapons as provided for in the military doctrines of some NWS.
5. The Group reaffirms the principled positions of the Non-Aligned Movement on nuclear disarmament, which remains the highest priority, and reiterates that each article of the Treaty is binding on all States Parties at all times and in all circumstances.
6. The Group underscores that non-proliferation derives its legitimacy from the objective of nuclear disarmament and that the Treaty must be implemented in a comprehensive and balanced manner. The Group also rejects any notion that would subject the previously agreed obligations and commitments to preconditions that are not within the purview of the Treaty.
7. The Group calls on all NWS to promptly implement their long overdue obligations under the Treaty and the commitments agreed by consensus at the NPT Review Conference without further delay. Furthermore, the Group also urges all NWS to refrain from any action that would run counter to the Treaty's objective of total elimination of nuclear weapons and the cessation of the nuclear arms race.

New York, 23 April 2021

¹ Action item 3 of the 2010 Review Conference Final Document.

² Action item 5.c. of the 2010 Review Conference Final Document.

³ Steps 9.2 of the 2000 Review Conference Final Document.