



**CONFIDENTIALLY**

***TRIALOGUE CLUB INTERNATIONAL SESSION  
ON THE TOPIC  
«50 YEARS AFTER RATIFICATION OF THE NPT BY THE SOVIET UNION  
AND ITS ENTRY INTO FORCE: LESSONS LEARNED AND PROSPECTS  
FOR STRENGTHENING OF THE NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION  
REGIME»***

**SPEECH THESIS OF  
DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION  
ALEXEY RYABKOV**

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## **Thesis of the Speaker**

1. The NPT has still been the cornerstone of the non-proliferation regime. Over the past half century, the NPT has become practically universal. The treaty has proved its effectiveness and now it's one of the most important elements of the existing system of international relations.
2. However, we are currently experiencing a number of negative trends such as global crisis in the area of arms control and attempts to shift a balance within the NPT towards restrictive and force-based measures. Besides, the demands of non-nuclear weapons states in the area of disarmament are overly excessive in Russian assessment.
3. Russia is fully committed to the NPT verification mechanism and the IAEA safeguards system but there are concerns about the IAEA reform of the safeguards system.
4. The establishment of nuclear weapon free zones is considered as an important element of the non-proliferation regime and is supported by Russia. Creation of the WMD Free Zone in the Middle East is seen as the next important step towards the improvement of the non-proliferation regime.
5. The NPT is very important because it provides its states parties with access to the benefits of peaceful use of nuclear energy. Russia actively supports numerous initiatives regarding peaceful nuclear energy technologies.
6. The NPT has been a major contributor to the slowing of the nuclear arms race and reduction of nuclear arsenals. As a responsible state party to the NPT, Russian Federation strictly complies with its obligations in the field of nuclear disarmament, especially, regarding the New START Treaty, and was fully committed to the INF Treaty.
7. Russia is committed to the reduction of the nuclear arsenals but believes that the demands to accelerate disarmament mainly in the Russia-US format are groundless. It is deeply concerned with the presence of American tactical nuclear weapons on the European NATO-member countries' territories.
8. Russia is concerned with a recent breakdown of a number of widely recognized mechanisms of nuclear nonproliferation regime and arms control. This is taking place because the US administration, or rather administrations look for a complete reshape of the system of international agreements in this area.
9. Russia is all for the extension of the New START Treaty and the US return to the JSPOA which has become a clear example of possibility and necessity to resolve disputes in nuclear nonproliferation in accordance with the NPT.
10. Russia is concerned with the situation around the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty and the possibility of American withdraw from the unilateral moratorium on nuclear tests.
11. States parties should use the upcoming Review Conference to strengthen the NPT rather than increase disputes and clashes in relation to the Treaty.
12. The Review Conference should not become a platform for concentrating on so-called regional challenges to the nonproliferation regime, as well as for raising debatable and controversial issues about variables of peaceful use of nuclear energy.
13. It is still possible that the New START Treaty will be extended but Russia and the US need to engage in a meaningful political conversation as soon as possible in order to achieve this aim.

14. China is unlikely to get involved in bilateral Russia-US agreements on arms control.
15. Russia claims that the Russian President initiative about the P5 summit is still on the table and it is open to discuss both place and time which will be mutually agreeable for all the participants.
16. Along with the arms control agenda, Russia is ready to discuss conflict prevention issues, in particular, early warning, proper communication, and deconflicting. But Russia doesn't push through its own agenda and remains open to ideas and proposals of other participants.
17. While discussing numerous issues of nuclear nonproliferation and arms control, the parties should be specific in their views and suggestions and should elucidate vague and abstract concepts proposed earlier.