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STATEMENT

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to the Preparatory Committee
for the 2015 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty
on the Nuclear Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons**

Cluster 1: disarmament (on the application of security assurances)

New York, 2 May 2014

Mr. Chairman,
Distinguished delegates,

During the first days of work of the Preparatory Committee, the Ukrainian and some other delegations in their statements reproached Russia with the alleged non-compliance with the Budapest Memorandum of 5 December 1994 on Security Assurances in connection with Ukraine's accession to the NPT. On the margins of the Committee, it was often heard that the existing situation might negatively affect the integrity of the nuclear non-proliferation regime and the trust to the concept of negative security assurances to non-nuclear-weapon States, and encourage certain non-nuclear-weapon States to ensure their security by obtaining nuclear weapons. To the best of our knowledge, the authors of the last statement are certain Ukrainian ultra-radical nationalists who already tried to raise the question of Ukraine withdrawing from the Treaty.

Let us try to understand how the Budapest Memorandum is linked with the concept of negative security assurances. The only common element is the obligations to refrain from the threat or use of nuclear weapons against non-nuclear-weapon States. In no way has Russia violated these obligations with regard to Ukraine. I assume that even our most zealous opponents would not claim the opposite.

All other obligations provided for in the Budapest Memorandum replicate the political principles of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE). They have nothing to do with negative security assurances and the NPT as a whole. Therefore, any attempts to assert that Russia's actions undermine the nuclear non-proliferation regime are groundless and unscrupulous.

As for the general political issues beyond the NPT, including accusations against Russia of "aggression" and "annexation of Crimea", I would like to say the following.

The Ukraine's loss of its territorial integrity is the result of complicated domestic processes rather than of external influence, which Russia and its obligations under the Budapest Memorandum have nothing to do with. I would like to remind you that on 5 December 1994 in Budapest, at the same time with the Memorandum, the Joint Declaration of leaders of Russia, Great Britain, the United States and Ukraine was adopted, reaffirming, among other things, the importance of the OSCE obligations to counter the growth of aggressive nationalism and chauvinism. It is absolutely clear that Ukraine has not fulfilled these obligations and had been conniving for a long time at the growth of extremely aggressive nationalism.

As a result of such policy, a rather important role during the well-known events on Maidan was played by the nationalists of the so-called the Right Sector and the Svoboda Party. For those who do not know or do not want to remember, I will cite Resolution of the European Parliament 2012/2889 dated 13 December 2012 on the situation in Ukraine. In paragraph 8 of this document the European Parliament stated that it "is concerned about the rising nationalistic sentiment in Ukraine, expressed in support for the Svoboda Party, which, as a result, is one of the two new parties to enter the Verkhovna Rada". The resolution also "recalls that racist, anti-Semitic and xenophobic views go against the EU's fundamental values and principles and therefore appeals to pro-democratic parties in the Verkhovna Rada not to associate with, endorse or form coalitions with this party".

Contrary to this appeal, after the unconstitutional coup and overthrow of the legitimate President of Ukraine, the Svoboda Party entered the bodies of government. Some of its members have been appointed to high posts, including the post of Ukraine's acting Defence Minister and Ukraine's acting Deputy Prime-Minister. The latter has been charged cynically – it is the only way to put it – with the issues pertaining to interethnic relations, protection of national minorities' rights and the state language policy. It comes as no surprise that the first decisions of the new

authorities that have usurped the power in Kiev concern the downgrading of the Russian language and the glorification of Nazis. Today's Ukraine has become accustomed to torchlight processions of nationalists taking after the German SA of the 1930s.

Consequently, the policies of the current Kiev regime has actually brought Ukraine's integrity to a collapse almost literally pushing a whole region away from the country. 97% of the Crimean voters who took part in the 16 March referendum conducted under the supervision of international observers are known to have spoken in favour of joining the Russian Federation. Alleging that they did so under the barrel of a gun is just ridiculous. How is it possible to force around one and a half million citizens to come to the ballot boxes? Anyone who saw the broadcasts from Crimea on the day of the referendum is aware that it was held amid the popular jubilation. The major slogan across the streets was 'Back home, to Russia!'

It is necessary to bear in mind that back in Budapest Russia did not assume any obligations to force a part of Ukraine to stay within the country against the will of the local population. The Budapest Memorandum does not provide for the circumstances engendered by internal political or social and economic processes.

As to all the talk about an aggression, we would like to draw your attention to the fact that the reunification of Crimea with Russia was achieved through the expression of popular will without a single gunshot. All that despite the number of Ukrainian troops exceeding greatly that of the Russian soldiers who were stationed there in accordance with the bilateral agreements in effect back then.

It is of concern that the current Kiev authorities have not yet learnt the lesson from what has transpired. When in the course of the Maidan along with their supporters they were seizing government buildings in Kiev and setting them on fire, for some reason it was called a fight for democracy. Whereas now that the people in the east and southeast of Ukraine have stood up to defend their rights and protect their

families, they have immediately been labelled as ‘separatists’ and ‘terrorists.’ Instead of engaging in a dialogue with the people in order to preserve the unity of the country and resolve the crisis the newly-arrived authorities have sent troops, including aviation and tanks, against civilians. Incidentally, unlike the so-called democrats that are now in power, the ousted President V. Yanukovich had considered it absolutely inadmissible to use troops against those who instigated the riots and bloodshed in the centre of Kiev early this year.

Today the Kiev junta began a punitive operation in the eastern part of the country with the assistance of the ultranationalist Right Sector. These felonious actions against one’s own people are fraught with disastrous consequences.

Russia insists that Kiev should immediately cease its belligerent rhetoric aimed at intimidating their own citizens, cease the use of force and insists that an internal Ukrainian dialogue should be launched with a view to achieving national reconciliation.

To conclude, coming back to the actual subject of work of this PrepCom, we would like to call upon those concerned, to refrain from any attempts to exploit the Ukrainian crisis for destabilizing the nuclear non-proliferation regime. Such attempts are irresponsible and unforgivable.

With regard to legal security assurances to non-nuclear weapon states, the position of Russia is well-known: we are ready to substantial work on this issue in the framework of the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva.