

## **On the Completion of the Work of the Review Conference of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons**

The Eighth Review Conference of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons completed its work in New York on May 28. It was attended by representatives of 172 States Parties to the Treaty. More than 130 intergovernmental and nongovernmental organizations were observers.

Participants and guests were addressed by President of the Russian Federation Dmitry Medvedev with a message of greetings. It reflects the comprehensive vision of benchmarks, priorities and objectives of the Review Conference.

The Conference produced a comprehensive and balanced overview of the NPT's functioning across all three pillars of the Treaty – non-proliferation, disarmament, and peaceful uses of atomic energy. The statements made by delegations and the documents they submitted have confirmed the main thing: that the NPT remains the “cornerstone” of the international security system, containing the threat of the spread of nuclear weapons and ensuring progress towards nuclear disarmament and the development of broad international cooperation in peaceful uses of atomic energy. Also confirmed was the need for further efforts aimed at strengthening and universalizing the Treaty.

The Conference ended with the consensus adoption of a final document reflecting the results of the debate and identifying the concrete measures to further strengthen the Treaty.

For the first time in ten years, States Parties to the Treaty sent a strong political signal of their unity in support of the NPT norms and their readiness to take practical steps to strengthen it across all three pillars on the basis of the balanced action plan endorsed by the Conference.

As a result one can draw a fundamental conclusion which is shared by all – the new challenges to the nuclear non-proliferation regime that have arisen in recent years can and should be eliminated in the first place on the basis of the NPT.

For Russia, this Treaty is an important component of the system of international security which over the 40 years of its operation has proved its effectiveness. Accordingly, the Russian delegation vigorously pursued at the Conference a principled line on strengthening the NPT in every way.

Throughout the Conference the Russian delegation maximally assisted its successful conclusion and the uniting efforts by all States Parties in achieving this goal.

We are satisfied that the practical suggestions and ideas put forward by Russia during the Conference found reflection in its outcome document. This applies in particular to the action plan to implement the resolution on the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear and all other weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery, adopted at the 1995 NPT Review and Extension Conference.

The discussions highlighted our contribution to the process of nuclear disarmament. Primarily, this refers to the new Treaty with the United States of America on Measures to Further Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms. We submitted a national report on

Russia's compliance with the obligations under the NPT, and conducted a series of briefings and presentations on our initiatives and approaches to all three pillars of the Treaty.

We are pleased with the outcome of the Conference. The Russian Federation is ready, without delay, to proceed with the approved plan of action and looks forward to constructive cooperation in this effort with all other States Parties to the NPT.