



# **NEW ZEALAND**

**PREPARATORY COMMITTEE FOR THE 2010 REVIEW CONFERENCE OF  
THE PARTIES TO THE TREATY ON THE NON-PROLIFERATION OF  
NUCLEAR WEAPONS**

**REGIONAL ISSUES**

**STATEMENT BY H.E. JENNIFER MACMILLAN  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE TO THE UNITED NATIONS IN VIENNA**

**5 May 2008**

***CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY***

Mr Chairman

We have already addressed some regional issues within our general Cluster II statement, but I should like to add some additional elements on issues relating to the Middle East and nuclear-weapon-free zones.

The Resolution on the Middle East was an essential component of the package of agreements that enabled the indefinite extension of the Treaty in 1995. As we have already heard from a large number of delegations, both during the General Debate and cluster discussions, the poor lack of progress on the Middle East Resolution is a source of tension within the Treaty, and goes toward the broader question of the status of previous Review Conference outcomes. As we have said before, commitments agreed by consensus at review conferences need to be effectively implemented in good faith to ensure the ongoing viability of the NPT regime.

At the First PrepCom, we talked about the value of analysing progress made against the benchmarks provided by the 1995 and 2000 outcomes. In the Middle East context, such an exercise might point to some concrete measures that could facilitate the Resolution's more effective implementation during the current review cycle. There have also been a number of working papers addressing the Middle East Resolution submitted to this PrepCom. These need to be carefully studied in advance of the 3<sup>rd</sup> PrepCom, as they may also provide some useful thinking on ways to achieve progress on this issue. In our view, some concrete shared recommendations as to how to progress implementation of the Middle East Resolution will be required to enable the 2010 Review Conference to reach a successful conclusion.

Mr Chairman,

New Zealand is a long-established supporter of nuclear-weapon-free zones, as a key regional measure to facilitate nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. This support is clearly shared by many delegations in this room, as evidenced by statements already made during this PrepCom. Nuclear-weapon-free zones remain one of the most powerful demonstrations of collective will toward the elimination of nuclear weapons.

We mentioned the encouraging progress made towards entry into force of the Pelindaba Treaty in the New Agenda Coalition General Debate statement at the outset of this PrepCom. Also welcome is the progress made on ratifications for the Central Asian Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone, with Turkmenistan acceding most recently last month.

We support the comments made by South Africa in our interactive dialogue which touched on nuclear-weapon-free zones last Friday. Mongolia provides a useful example of the national measures a States can take if their geographical positioning makes the conclusion of a regional nuclear weapon free zone unlikely in the short term. New Zealand took a similar national step in the creation of our own nuclear-weapon-free zone prior to the conclusion of the Rarotonga Treaty.