



**United Kingdom  
Permanent Representation  
to the  
Conference on Disarmament**

**Regional Issues Statement  
to the 2009 Non-Proliferation Treaty Preparatory Committee**

**by  
Ambassador John Duncan**

**Ambassador for Multilateral Arms Control and Disarmament**

**NEW YORK, 8 May 2009**

**Final**

## **Mr Chairman**

The United Kingdom fully associates itself with and supports the statement made by the Czech Republic on behalf of the European Union. I would now like to add a few national comments.

Mr Chairman, Colleagues

Yesterday I made clear the United Kingdom's views on the concerns felt by the international community about some States Party's non-compliance or apparent non-compliance with the Treaty. I will not repeat that now.

Let me therefore now turn in the context of the regional perspective to the three countries that remain outside the Non-Proliferation Treaty. I have already made very clear the United Kingdom's commitment to strengthening the NPT and the broader international nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament regime. We believe that universal adherence to the NPT would strengthen both the Treaty and global security and will be an essential part of our collective effort towards a world free of nuclear weapons.

The NPT can, and should, be strengthened without achieving universalisation. Progress on one cannot be subject to progress on the other. Some would indeed argue that a stronger, more robust NPT would make access more attractive to the so-called D3. But nor should we abandon the vision of a truly global NPT and give up on efforts to bring those outside the Treaty on board as being impossible.

A world free from nuclear weapons must be exactly that. A world free from nuclear weapons cannot be achieved in the NPT Nuclear Weapon States. In parallel to efforts to achieve a universalised NPT, we must work to bring those outside the NPT closer to the nuclear non-proliferation mainstream through a universalised CTBT and FMCT and to accept the constraints on their inalienable rights that all those who have signed the NPT have done.

Mr Chairman, Colleagues

The United Kingdom co-sponsored the Middle East Resolution at the 1995 NPT Review and Extension Conference. And we have consistently supported relevant resolutions at First Committee over the intervening years. The United Kingdom does so because it wishes to see a Middle East zone free of all weapons of mass destruction.

It is clear that a Middle East peace settlement, together with closure of the Iranian nuclear dossier, would be of enormous utility to achieve the mandate of the 1995 Middle East Resolution. The United Kingdom is fully committed to achieving that goal. But we do not see the absence of a Middle East peace settlement as an excuse for inactivity in striving for progress on the Middle East Resolution. It is not for the United Kingdom or other outside parties to dictate. To be successful the process must be inclusive and the countries of the region must have a sense of ownership. But the United Kingdom does wish to see dialogue and to see that dialogue prosper. Our

experience in Northern Ireland shows that progress can be made in parallel on a political settlement and on practical confidence-building measures to replace tension and mistrust with predictability and an increasingly positive dynamic.

We listened carefully to the intervention by the distinguished Representative of Egypt a few moments ago. Our agreement on the procedural issues before us now allows us to move into a phase of more substantive dialogue rather than simply make statements about our positions. We are encouraged by the emergence of working papers on this issue from Egypt, Iran and the Russian Federation, and by the comments of the distinguished Russian Ambassador. The latter, in particular, contain some pragmatic and concrete proposals drawing on a range of existing initiatives, which we would support. We look for substantive discussion on these important issues. The United Kingdom will contribute wherever it can add value.

Thank you.