



Madam President,

As this is the first time that I take the floor under your Presidency, please allow me to congratulate you on your assumption of the Chair. I can assure you and your P6 colleagues of the UK's full support in your determined efforts to forge a solid and mutually acceptable foundation to allow us to begin substantive work at the earliest possible opportunity.

I would like to take this opportunity to share with colleagues a recent UK initiative related to the NPT. On July 16th, my Prime Minister, Gordon Brown, announced the UK Government's 'Road to 2010' plan. This paper brings together - for the first time - the UK's detailed vision for a renewed nuclear global bargain on the key strategic challenges of the modern nuclear era:

- the safe expansion of civil nuclear power;
- nuclear security;
- non-proliferation; and
- the reduction and eventual elimination of all nuclear weapons

It is a coherent strategy that we believe will lead us into the 2010 Nuclear Non-Proliferation (NPT) Review conference and beyond. The Review Conference is an opportunity to renew the bargain at the heart of the NPT.

- For non-nuclear weapon states - this is about the right to access civil nuclear power in return for continuing to forego nuclear weapons
- For nuclear weapon states this involves tough responsibilities to show leadership on the question of disarmament and being at the forefront of developing global solutions that allow wider and secure access to civil nuclear power.

Our 'Road to 2010' plan sets out a phased approach that will enable progress on non-proliferation and multilateral disarmament.

- The first stage is improving transparency of current weapons capabilities as we seek greater control to prevent expansion
- The second is verifiable multilateral reductions in arsenals
- And the final stage is to create the security conditions and overcome the technical and political challenges of a world free from all nuclear weapons

Speaking to this forum in February last year, the UK's then Defence Minister Des Browne offered to host a technical conference of P5 nuclear laboratories on the verification of nuclear disarmament before the next NPT Review Conference in 2010. Since then, the UK has worked closely with the other recognised nuclear weapon states to develop this proposal. We are pleased to confirm that the UK will host a Conference on Confidence Building Measures towards Nuclear Disarmament in London on 3-4 September 2009, bringing together both policy officials and technical experts from the five recognised nuclear weapons states.

The 'Road to 2010' plan underlines the UK's commitment to ensure that all nations can access nuclear technology for peaceful purposes. To make a reality of the right to all countries to access civil nuclear power we are establishing a new Nuclear Centre of Excellence. This Centre:

- will promote the development of cost effective civil nuclear power that is much harder for terrorists and states with hostile intent to divert for use in weapons programmes
- will receive £20 million in funding from the Government over the first five years
- be developed in partnership with academia, industry and international partners.

We are calling on international partners to work with us to establish nuclear security as a fourth pillar of the international nuclear framework - alongside non-proliferation, disarmament and access to civil nuclear power. This does not mean re-opening the NPT itself, but ensuring that nuclear security issues are placed firmly on the international agenda.

Finally, there is growing momentum across the globe to tackle these challenges - which is why the Road to 2010 also sets out steps to strengthen international governance, particularly the role of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

- We will work with the incoming Director General and international partners to develop robust plans for organisational reform
- The UK also plans to host a meeting of the main financial donors of the Agency to drive progress on future funding and staffing issues

Madam President, Colleagues,

The 'Road to 2010' sets out what we can do in the run-up to the NPT Review Conference and beyond, to ensure a safe and secure nuclear future.

We will be circulating electronic copies of the text to CD delegations following this meeting. Colleagues can also access the document via our website www.uknuclearcontrol.fco.gov.uk