

UNITED KINGDOM

CLOSING STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR JOHN DUNCAN
TO THE FIRST PREPARATORY COMMITTEE FOR THE EIGHTH REVIEW
CONFERENCE OF THE TREATY ON THE NON-PROLIFERATION OF NUCLEAR
WEAPONS

Mr Chairman

You will recall, at the beginning of last week, the statement I made when you opened this key meeting. I said then how important it was that we move on after the disappointments of 2005, and improve the atmosphere among States Party to the Treaty.

Mr Chairman, let me say now that this meeting has been a resounding success in this regard. The degree of interaction across regional divides has been remarked upon on a number of occasions over the past ten days; and also how delegations have communicated strongly and positively at all levels. This has broken down the barriers of mistrust and allowed us to appreciate collectively the need to move forward together on the important tasks we share in implementing this Treaty; all aspects of this Treaty. We must not allow this positive atmosphere to dissipate in the coming months. Rather we must continue, through the remaining PrepComs, to nurture our new understanding and confidence so that, when we meet in 2010, we are able to be successful also in strengthening the NPT for the future.

I must congratulate you Mr Chairman for having been instrumental in bringing us closer together as an NPT community.

It is with considerable regret, therefore, that I note this improved atmosphere has not included one delegation. That delegation's attempts to disrupt and undermine our work here have meant we were not able to discuss all issues in the depth we would all have wished.

Nevertheless, statements and working papers that will go on the record of this meeting represent a considerable and meaningful body of work. They will form the basis of our future work in this Review Cycle which will examine compliance, and which will discuss the provisions for withdrawal from the Treaty. No amount of chicanery on the part of a single delegation can, in the end, prevent our collective resolve from being realised.

Thank you, Mr Chairman.