

**CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT**  
**PLENARY MEETING ON SECURITY ASSURANCES**

**STATEMENT BY FIONA PATERSON**

**CHARGÉ d'AFFAIRES**

**DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED KINGDOM**

**7 JULY 2005**

Mr President

Since the United Kingdom ratified the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and formally recognised its responsibilities as one of the Nuclear Weapon States, we have set about meeting our disarmament obligations under Article VI of the Treaty. We are fully committed to those obligations. They contribute to the ultimate objective of the Treaty: a safer world free from the dangers of nuclear weapons.

The United Kingdom gave Negative and Positive Security Assurances to Non-Nuclear Weapon States in our letter to the UN Secretary General in 1995, subsequently noted in the United Nations Security Council Resolution 984. We remain committed to those Security Assurances.

In addition we have given legally binding NSAs in Treaty form through the Protocols we have signed to the Nuclear Weapon Free Zone Treaties. The United Kingdom fully supports the principle of Nuclear Weapon Free Zones and plays an active and constructive role as a Nuclear Weapon State in their development. We believe they can make a valuable contribution to nuclear non-proliferation and global and regional peace and security, as long as they are based on arrangements freely arrived at by all the States in the region concerned. And for that reason the United Kingdom has signed and ratified protocols to the zones which cover Latin America and the Caribbean – the Tlatelolco Treaty; Africa – the Pelindaba Treaty; and the South Pacific – the Raratonga Treaty. We continue to work with the ASEAN States to produce an agreed protocol to the treaty of Bangkok, and hope ASEAN will continue consultations with the Nuclear Weapon States so that the Protocol can be concluded. We continue to support the principle of a Central Asia Nuclear Weapon Free Zone and look to the 5 Central Asian States to resume and conclude their consultations with the Nuclear Weapon States, in accordance with UNDC guidelines, before signing the Treaty establishing the Zone.

We believe that our 1995 NSA and the Protocols we have signed offer Non-Nuclear Weapon States the assurance they seek regarding nuclear use. Furthermore we consider that the way forward is to make further progress with the Nuclear Weapon Free Zone Treaties and Protocols, which will provide, on a credible, regional basis, the internationally binding legal instruments on NSAs that many are looking for.

Thank you, Mr President