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**Preparatory Committee for the 2005 Review  
Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the  
Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons**

1 May 2003

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**Second Session**

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**Implementation of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons**

**Report submitted by the Republic of Bulgaria**

1. Bulgaria is firmly convinced that the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons will continue to be one of the pillars of international security in the new millennium and the cornerstone of the nuclear non-proliferation regime. We believe that the future viability of the non-proliferation regime is dependent on the thorough implementation of obligations assumed under this major Treaty by all states-parties as well as on the process of achieving its universality.
2. Maintaining and further strengthening of the universal non-proliferation norms is gaining even more significance in the context of the international fight against terrorism. Comprehensive and strict enforcement of all multilateral instruments and mechanisms, NPT in the first place, is imperative to prevent the use of nuclear material and technology for terrorist purposes.
3. As a state which does not possess nuclear, chemical and biological weapons and among the first ones to become Parties to NPT, Bulgaria strongly believes that no effort should be spared to reaffirm the validity of the Treaty as a permanent stabilizing factor in the international relations and to consider ways and means to promote its full implementation and universality.
4. We believe that the goal for nuclear disarmament in the context of Article VI can be best achieved through a series of balanced, incremental and reinforcing steps at the multilateral, bilateral and unilateral levels. To move the process forward Bulgaria stresses the crucial importance of systematic efforts in some essential areas including the nuclear strategic arms reductions, commencement of negotiations for a fissile material cut-off treaty, early entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test Ban Treaty (CTBT), retention of unilaterally imposed moratoriums as an interim measure and, as a whole, an overall strengthening of the nuclear non-proliferation regime.

5. Bulgaria is of the view that regular reporting on the implementation of Article VI as outlined in p. 15, subparagraph 12 of the 2000 Final Document is an important confidence-building measure designed to promote transparency in the overall NPT regime. Even if the scope, format and timing remain undefined this requirement per se will create a more favorable environment for nuclear disarmament and will further reaffirm the principle of accountability among states-parties.
6. Bulgaria maintains the view of the paramount importance of the CTBT and its entry into force for the strengthening of the nuclear non-proliferation regime and disarmament. Being one of the 44 states whose ratification is required for the entry into force of this Treaty, Bulgaria was among the first countries to sign (September 1996) and to ratify it (September 1999) and was actively involved in the work of the two conferences on facilitating the entry into force of the CTBT.
7. The establishment of an effective verification regime, being the core of the Treaty compliance, is of particular importance for its entry into force. We confirm our full support and readiness to contribute to the efforts of the Preparatory Commission for the CTBTO to establish the verification regime in a timely and effective manner. To take full benefit of the comprehensive information provided through the International Monitoring System, we are currently in process of creating a national data center connected to the International Data Center in Vienna.
8. Bulgaria is strongly committed to the reinforcement of the non -proliferation regime through strengthening the safeguards of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). As a country operating nuclear facilities, Bulgaria closely cooperates with the Agency as well as with the EU on the issues of nuclear safety and physical protection of nuclear material. The Safeguards Agreement between Bulgaria and the IAEA was signed on 21 January 1972 and entered into force on 29 February 1972. On 20 September 2000 the Bulgarian Parliament ratified the Additional Protocol to this Agreement, in force since 10 October 2000.
9. Since the inception of the Additional Protocol four IAEA inspections have been carried out in Bulgaria in accordance with its strengthened provisions for a broader and complementary access to the relevant Bulgarian sites.
10. As a current member of the IAEA Board of Governors Bulgaria has rendered its full support to the measures proposed by the Director -General for upgrading worldwide protection against acts of terrorism involving nuclear and other radioactive materials. In 2002 Bulgaria contributed in practical terms to the fight against terrorism by donating \$ 15 000 to the voluntary fund established in support of IAEA programs and activities in this field.
11. Bulgaria has adhered to the Code of Conduct Against Ballistic Missile Proliferation (the Hague Code) and welcomes it as the most meaningful and promising global response to address the missile proliferation challenge. The Code has emerged as a landmark political

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document designed to complement and reinforce present disarmament and non-proliferation multilateral instruments. We believe that its early adoption and implementation will streamline and boost the international efforts aimed at preventing the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery worldwide. The implementation of the ICOC measures will help increase confidence and promote regional and global security among participating countries in a cooperative and transparent manner. Its core multilateral function and viability can only benefit from the larger number of states to adhere.

12. Bulgaria regrets the failure of the Conference on Disarmament to adopt a program of work for the sixth consecutive year, which, by no means, negatively affects the overall activities of the sole disarmament negotiating body. As a result, the negotiations on the two important issues: nuclear disarmament and a treaty banning the production of fissile material have been stalled. Bulgaria is committed to a constructive and pragmatic approach allowing for a speedy reconvening of work of the Conference in the most effective manner.
13. The application of adequate export control measures is an essential tool for achieving nuclear non-proliferation. As a member of Nuclear Suppliers' Group and Zangger Committee Bulgaria shares responsibility of partnering countries in ensuring that the international cooperation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy does not contribute to the spread of nuclear weapons. Bulgaria strictly applies the NSG Guidelines and supports the recent amendments. It is our understanding that the NSG should discharge its business in an open and transparent environment by promoting dialogue and cooperation with non-member states. In a broader context, we underscore the need for further strengthening of IAEA safeguards in order to achieve viable export control and early detection of undeclared activities as well as to ensure that the declared activities continue to meet the non-proliferation requirements. In the same vein Bulgaria has rendered its full support to the amended NSG Guidelines so as to further enhance the potential of this non-proliferation tool vis-à-vis nuclear terrorism.
14. We attach particular importance to the Guidelines and activities of the Missile Technology Control Regime and reaffirm our willingness to join this export control regime.
15. The introduction of strict national export control regulations remains a high priority task for the Bulgarian Government. Bulgaria is applying rigid export controls to ensure that weapons and sensitive goods and technologies do not end up in the hands of terrorist groups or embargo states. Recently the Bulgarian export control legislation has been further developed and improved to meet the most advanced European and international criteria.
16. Bulgaria highlights the need and works towards the goal for full compliance with and fulfillment of obligations under the NPT by all States-Parties as well as for universal adherence to its norms.

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