



Statement by

H.E. Dell Higgin
Ambassador for Disarmament
at the

2017 Preparatory Committee for the 2020
Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty
on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

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Thank you Mr Chair.

New Zealand associates itself with the comments to be delivered here by Ireland on behalf of the New Agenda Coalition.

We accept that the Chair of an NPT Preparatory Committee - or, for that matter, even more so the President of a Review Conference - has a very difficult and challenging task to produce any agreed summary or outcome document given the divergent views increasingly apparent within our NPT community.

We are grateful for the energy, inclusiveness and positive attitude you, Mr Chair, and your team have brought to this task.

That said, we regret that it has not been possible to include within the Chair's summary the amendments which have been sought last night by the New Agenda Coalition as well, to similar effect, by other members of our NPT community here.

These amendments would, in our view have provided a more positive reflection of recent developments in connection with nuclear disarmament particularly relating to the Humanitarian Initiative relating to Nuclear Weapons (HINW) and to the negotiations, currently under way, in the UNGA to prohibit nuclear weapons in accordance with A/RES/71/258. We believe that would, indeed have ensured a more factual and accurate presentation of these developments and of our debate here.

But, again, you have our gratitude for all your efforts, Mr Chair.