Statement by High Representative Catherine Ashton on the outcome of the NPT Review Conference

Catherine Ashton, the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President of the Commission, made the following statement:

"I warmly welcome the consensus reached by the NPT Review Conference on the final document which contains an action plan on the three pillars of the NPT: disarmament, non-proliferation and the peaceful use of nuclear energy.

This shows that the multilateral non-proliferation and disarmament regime is alive and supported by all. It also shows that all states party are committed not only to uphold, but also to strengthen it in order to meet all the existing challenges.

The final document also reflects the agreement on a process leading to the full implementation of the 1995 NPT Resolution on the Middle East. The Review Conference has endorsed a number of practical steps, including a conference, to be convened in 2012, on the establishment of a Middle East zone, free of WMD.

The EU and its Member States intend to start promptly the implementation of the measures of the action plan for the three pillars. In addition, the EU will immediately engage in the preparation of its contribution to the process for the implementation of the Middle East Resolution."

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