
Conference on Disarmament

4 May 2020

English

Original: English/Russian

Note Verbale dated 30 April 2020 from the Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation, transmitting Statement by the Foreign Ministry of the Russian Federation concerning the 10th anniversary of the signing of the Treaty on Measures for the Further Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms (New START)

The Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva presents its compliments to the Secretariat of the Conference on Disarmament and has the honour to request the latter to circulate among Member States the attached Statement by the Foreign Ministry of the Russian Federation concerning the 10th anniversary of the signing of the New START as an official document of the Conference.

The Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Secretariat of the Conference on Disarmament the assurances of its highest consideration.



Annex

Statement by the Foreign Ministry of the Russian Federation on the tenth anniversary of the signing of the Treaty between the Russian Federation and the United States of America on Measures for the Further Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms

On 8 April 2010, the Russian Federation and the United States of America signed the Treaty on Measures for the Further Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms (New START). The Treaty was an important new step in developing interaction between Russia and the United States around nuclear weapons control in the interests of strengthening international security and strategic stability. It led to a reduction in the strategic arsenals of the two countries to unprecedented levels and the formation of an effective mechanism assuring mutual transparency and predictability. Since the New START came into effect, the parties have conducted over 300 reciprocal inspections at each other's strategic facilities and have exchanged nearly 20,000 notifications. Matters related to the implementation of the Treaty are reviewed regularly by the Bilateral Consultative Commission established for that purpose.

The role and importance of the Treaty are growing significantly in today's difficult international conditions, as it remains effectively the only mechanism of arms control and limitation in relation to the strategic weapons of our two countries. We believe that this proven mechanism must be maintained and must remain viable. We are convinced that this would meet the interests of both Russia and the United States, as well as those of the entire international community, would guarantee predictability in the nuclear weapons sphere and would help maintain strategic stability.

On the initiative of Russian President Vladimir Putin, in December 2019, an official offer was made, without preconditions, to the American side to extend the New START and to begin working through related practical issues. We look forward to a speedy and positive response from the United States.
