

First Meeting of States Parties to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons

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Agenda item 15

Consideration and adoption of the final document of the Meeting

Interpretative statement of the delegation of the Holy See

1. The Holy See reiterates its full commitment to and support for the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons and, while sharing most of the objectives of the Vienna Action Plan and the Vienna Declaration adopted at the first Meeting of States Parties to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, wishes to express its concerns as regards the strong emphasis given in the texts to some particular issues that are not given that same emphasis in the Treaty itself. Along those lines, my delegation regrets the inclusion of new and yet undefined language related to “gender”, which departs from the original approach of the Treaty and unnecessarily risks prejudicing its proper implementation.
2. Moreover, my delegation wishes to make the following interpretative declaration on certain terminology contained therein.
3. The Holy See underlines the uniqueness of each and every person, girl, boy, woman and man and promotes a holistic and integrated approach, in assisting victims, that is firmly centred on human dignity and integral development.
4. Moreover, the Holy See emphasizes that any references to “gender” and related terms are understood according to the ordinary, generally accepted usage and meaning of the word “gender”, based on the biological identity that is male and female. The Holy See does not accept any other interpretation, adaptation or connotation different from this accepted prior usage (see also the Holy See’s final statement at the Fourth World Conference on Women, held in Beijing in 1995).

