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To: Hellenic Parliament

Directorate of Parliamentary Scrutiny

- Department of Questions and Applications and Filing of Documents

CC: Members of Parliament Mrs/Mss Yianis Varufakis, Kleon Gregoriades, Maria Apatzidi, Kriton Arsenis, George Logiades, Fotini Bakadima, Sofia Sakorafa.

- Diplomatic Bureau mr. Prime Minister
- Diplomatic Bureau mr. Deputy Minister
- Diplomatic Bureaux mrs Deputies Ministers
- Mr General Secretary's Office
- 4<sup>th</sup> General Secretary's Office
- D1 Directorate
- Special Legal Dpt / Public Section of International Law
- Information Service and Public Diplomacy

**SUBJECT: Answer to the parliamentary question number 109, as of the 05.10.2022, by MPs of MeRA25**

Our country's participation in the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), which is the cornerstone of the international nuclear disarmament effort, clearly demonstrates our keen interest in a **gradual** ban of such category of weapons.

It should be noted that the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW), to which Greece is indeed not part, **has no verification mechanism**. Another counter-argument to our non-participation in the TPNW is the non-participation of the nuclear-weapon states of the NPT (the five permanent members of the UNSC), which makes its objectives unrealistically achievable.

Given the reluctance of the nuclear-armed countries to abandon their nuclear arsenals in the maximalist manner set out in the TPNW compared to that promoted by the NPT, there is a real risk of creating a rift between the NPT member states that have signed the TPNW and those that have not. It could be said that in the attempt of some countries to realize the ambitious intention of a world without nuclear weapons, they are, in effect, calling into question its realization.

After all, Greece is, as it is well known, a member of both NATO and the EU, a fact that gives rise to allied obligations, which our country takes into account in formulating its positions in this regard.

For all the above reasons, it is our conviction that **the only realistically possible solution** for producing the desired outcome of nuclear disarmament is that of **the formulation of a road map**, as defined by Article 6 of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. In this context, our country agrees with the establishment of an international verification regime for the steps towards the **gradual** elimination of nuclear weapons, an approach to which there is no opposition by the nuclear powers themselves and, therefore, has a better chance of success for a comprehensive settlement of this issue.

The Foreign Minister

Nikolaos Dendias