

REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA



**STATEMENT
BY
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RELATIONS AND COOPERATION OF THE REPUBLIC
OF NAMIBIA, AT THE 2015 NPT REVIEW
CONFERENCE**

NEW YORK, 28 APRIL 2015

Madam President,

On behalf of the Namibian delegation, I wish to congratulate you on your election as President of the 2015 NPT Review Conference. I am confident that with your rich background and extensive knowledge on disarmament issues, you will guide the deliberations of the conference to a successful outcome. I also wish to congratulate the other members of the Bureau on their election.

I assure you of my delegation's support.

My delegation aligns itself with the statements delivered on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement and the African Group.

Madam President,

15 years ago, in this very Hall, at the Millennium Summit, world leaders committed themselves to bring about a world of peace, stability and prosperity for all. Today, we live in a world characterized by growing instability and increased insecurity. It is within this context that we view the significance and importance of the 2015 NPT Review Conference. In September this year, world leaders will gather here for the 70th UN Session. This should therefore be an opportunity for them to take stock of the achievements since 1970 when the NPT came into force.

The preamble of the NPT embodies the fears and hope of humanity. The NPT was born out of a calamity that the parties have vowed never to befall humanity again. Therefore, when the crafters of the NPT "*undertook to cooperate in facilitating the application of International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards on nuclear technology*" they understood already the importance of disarmament and non-proliferation through the IAEA. While we commend the work of the IAEA we would like to emphasize the unique and unrivaled competency of this important Agency. It is in the same vein that we have ratified the CTBT which is an integral part of the disarmament architecture. We call for the earliest entry into force of the CTBT.

Madam President,

Namibia is among the major sourced material producers. Given our strong believe in the atoms for peace, we are signatories and party to all disarmament related instruments. We believe that it is important for all parties to abide by the full scope of the IAEA safeguards.

Namibia remains committed to the ideals and objectives of the NPT for we believe that the only effective way to total elimination of nuclear weapons in the world is through nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament.

Madam President,

To ensure credibility of the NPT, efforts should be made to realize its universality. This can be done along with carrying out agreed practical steps to implement disarmament obligations of the NPT by the Nuclear Weapon States, to accomplish the total elimination of nuclear arsenals. This however, can only happen if there is a clear political will.

Namibia strongly believe that the General Assembly Resolution 69/58, entitled "Follow-up to the High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on Nuclear Disarmament" is an appropriate outline to pursue the objective of nuclear disarmament.

We are confident that implementation of this Resolution will enable the international community to make tangible progress on nuclear disarmament. Improving or modernizing the existing nuclear weapons, including developing new types of nuclear weapons, contradict the objective of achieving nuclear disarmament.

Madam President

Africa is a nuclear weapon free zone. The same cannot be said about other regions. Notwithstanding, we view the Pelindaba Treaty as a necessary political instrument in denuding Africa from nuclear weapons and thus building confidence. However, the indiscriminate destructive nature of

nuclear weapons, warrants universal nuclear weapon free zone. In the same vein, Namibia supports the establishment of a nuclear weapon-free-zone in the Middle East, and expresses concern over the fact that commitments and obligations of the Action Plan of the 2010 NPT Review Conference regarding the establishment of a zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East, have not yet been implemented.

Furthermore, it is disappointing to note that while different nuclear doctrine reviews have been undertaken so far, they have not yielded the lowered levels of alert. Lowered operational readiness of nuclear weapons systems would represent an important step towards the global vision of a nuclear-weapon free world.

We call for the full implementation of the Action Plan adopted at the 2010 NPT Review Conference on nuclear disarmament, nuclear non-proliferation, peaceful uses of nuclear energy, and the implementation of the 1995 Resolution on the Middle-East.

Madam President,

Namibia believes that adherence to the NPT by all would not only safeguard the world from potential devastation by nuclear weapons, but also contribute to economic development and prosperity of nations. In view of this, we need to work collectively at creating an atmosphere that encourages universal adherence to the Treaty and greater commitment to its tenets without further delay. We must strive for Non-Proliferation dividends by accentuating the advantages of the peaceful uses of nuclear technology. However, it is important to note the need for the peaceful use of nuclear technology in a balanced approach. Namibia subscribes to Article 4 of the Treaty that provides for the inalienable right of all the parties to the Treaty to develop research, production and use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes without discrimination and in conformity of Article 1 and 2 of this Treaty. For this reason, Namibia supports the efforts

by the International Atomic Energy Agency to promote international cooperation on the use of nuclear energy for development purposes. The three pillars of the NPT should be pursued in a balanced and non-discriminatory manner.

The 5 years review of the NPT should serve as a yardstick to the realization of the provision of the treaty. For us, the NPT is a vital instrument for the promotion of global peace and security however, for decades now the international community has pursued nuclear disarmament without much success. There is need to invest more efforts in this area.

In conclusion, we wish to highlight that multilateral disarmament negotiations will achieve tangible results only when there is genuine and sincere political will to support the process. We must all learn from the past, rise above our differences and work together to make the 2015 NPT Review Conference a resounding success.

I thank you