



# PHILIPPINES

## PHILIPPINE STATEMENT

### Main Committee I (Nuclear Disarmament)

#### 2015 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

4 May 2015

United Nations, New York

Mr. Chairman,

On behalf of the Philippine Delegation, allow me to extend our warm congratulations to you for presiding over this crucial Main Committee of the 2015 NPT Review Conference. Bearing in mind the challenging task before us, we assure you of the Philippines' support as well as assistance in finding the necessary middle ground that will take us a step closer to our goal of nuclear disarmament.

The Philippines aligns with the statement delivered by Iran, on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM).

The Philippines has always pushed for balanced implementation of the Treaty's three pillars. Regrettably, while we are making much headway in the areas of non-proliferation and the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, the execution of our commitments and obligations under the first pillar remains lacking.

Progress in the field of nuclear disarmament continues to stall despite the fact that more than ever, the world has become fully aware of the humanitarian consequences of the use of nuclear weapons.

That, as concluded in the Conferences on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons convened since 2013, the world has no capacity to address, in an adequate and immediate manner, the humanitarian emergency or long-term consequences that will ensue after a nuclear weapon detonation.

The Philippines lauds non-nuclear weapon States for acting on their NPT commitments by clearly stating the case against nuclear weapons and promoting nuclear disarmament education through these Conferences.

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Clearly, these Conferences have not distracted us from the goal but have in fact made us even more aware of what needs to be done.

Time and again, we have heard a set of prescribed steps or a single approach toward a world free of nuclear weapons. While the Philippines supports these specific steps, there is nothing written in the NPT that obliges us to limit our efforts within these measures. There is also nothing in the Treaty that sets pre-conditions before we can pursue nuclear disarmament actions.

Article VI is clear – we must pursue negotiations in good faith on effective measures relating to the cessation of the nuclear arms race at an early date and to nuclear disarmament, and on a treaty on general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control.

The Treaty is also clear about the time given to us to fulfill our obligations. Forty-five years since the NPT entered into force, we have failed to meet the “early date” requirement of the Treaty. It is high time that we set concrete actions under agreed benchmarks and timelines.

The Philippines believes that a Nuclear Weapons Convention that is comprehensive and universal, or a series of mutually reinforcing legal instruments with a credible system of verification, would allow us to fulfill our Article VI obligations.

The Philippines will continue to push for such a Convention while at the same time stressing the urgent need for the Comprehensive Nuclear Test ban Treaty (CTBT) to enter into force and for negotiations on a Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty (FMCT) to start.

While we await progress on these two crucial treaties, the Philippines stresses the need for a firm agreement on a moratorium on all nuclear testing as well as universal, unconditional and legally binding instruments on security assurances to non-nuclear weapon States.

Mr. Chair,

The Philippines urges nuclear weapon States to adopt a No First Use Policy to demonstrate good faith pending progress in nuclear disarmament measures. The current crises the international community continues to face and the current global political climate cause grave concern. These crises, however, do not and should not give renewed meaning to the Cold War concept of deterrence. On the contrary, these crises must compel us even more to immediately eliminate nuclear weapons so they may never be used, be it by accident or by purpose.

The Philippines also calls on the nuclear weapon States to sign and ratify Protocols to Nuclear Weapons Free Zones. In Southeast Asia, we will continue to work

with our partners in ASEAN and the P5 for the latter to finally become parties to the Southeast Asian Nuclear Weapon Free Zone (SEANWFZ), without reservations.

In closing Mr. Chair, the Philippines would like to express its readiness to engage as we consider the many commendable working papers that we have at our disposal. We are surely not lacking in ideas. It is our hope that this Review Conference will be one that will drive us to finally transform these ideas into actions. Thank you.