

**OPENING STATEMENT  
BY H.E. AMBASSADOR DATO'SYED MD HASRIN SYED HUSSIN  
CHAIRPERSON OF THE THIRD PREPARATORY COMMITTEE FOR THE  
2020 REVIEW CONFERENCE OF THE  
TREATY ON THE NON-PROLIFERATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS,  
NEW YORK, 29 APRIL 2019**

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Ministers,  
Ms. High Representative,  
Excellencies,  
Distinguished Participants and Guests,  
Dear Colleagues,

With the objective of using time efficiently, my opening statement will be brief.

2. Since assuming the nomination of being the Chairperson and the responsibility and trust that goes with it, in mid-February of this year, I have continued the work started by the previous Chair of the Third Session of the Preparatory Committee, Ambassador Shahrul Ikram Yaakob. Since then, I have engaged in extensive and intensive consultations with States, international organisations, and civil society. I will continue to perform my role in an open, impartial and transparent manner.

3. On behalf of all the States parties as well as on my own behalf, I wish to extend my gratitude to Ambassador Shahrul for the work that he started for this Third Session, as well as to the Chairs of the previous Sessions, Ambassador Henk Cor Van der Kwast of Netherlands and Ambassador Adam Bugajski of Poland, respectively. Their outstanding professional experience and diplomatic skills during the preparatory process has facilitated a sound basis for our work during this session. I am also grateful for the valuable assistance the members of the bureau, including Ambassador Gabrielse, have extended to me during my preparations for this session and look forward to their continued support, guidance and cooperation.

4. The High Representative has illustrated a sobering picture of where the world stands and the responsibilities facing States parties..

5. We have a number of procedural and substantive matters to address in the course of this Preparatory Committee.

6. As we move forward, it is important to keep focused on the promises of the NPT – furthering the goal of achieving nuclear disarmament and general and complete disarmament, preventing the spread of nuclear weapons and weapons technology, and promoting cooperation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

7. The Review Conference in 2020, for which we are laying the ground, will mark the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Treaty, and the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of its indefinite extension, and which will review the operation of the Treaty to ensure that the purposes of its Preamble and provisions are being realized. To support that task, we have to maintain the sanctity and integrity of the Treaty itself, and of the Review Cycle.

8. I encourage all to listen to one another. Understanding, sensitivity and respect is important. Collectively, all stakeholders need to demonstrate support to the Treaty.

9. We have many tasks ahead, and I look forward for all of us to set a positive stage of ensuring our utmost for a successful Review Conference.

I thank you.