

DRAFT PHILIPPINE STATEMENT

**3rd Preparatory Committee for the 2020 Review Conference of the Parties
to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT)
29 April to 10 May 2019, United Nations Headquarters, New York**

Cluster 1: Nuclear Disarmament

Mr. Chair,

1. The Philippines attaches high priority to the nuclear disarmament pillar of the NPT and has consistently called for nuclear weapons states to honor their obligations to eliminate their nuclear weapons without further delay and with no conditionalities.
2. We agreed by consensus on actions to accomplish this in the 64-Point Action Plan at the 2010 NPT Review Conference, mainly the following:
 1. reductions and elimination of all types of nuclear weapons, placing the biggest responsibility on the two nuclear weapons states with the largest arsenals;
 2. pursuing unilateral, bilateral, regional and multilateral measures to promote such undertaking; and,
 3. moving forward on the 13 practical steps leading to disarmament, as agreed during the 2000 Review Conference.
3. These are straight-forward commitments, reached by consensus, that could not be clearer. We thus share the concerns raised by other States Parties on initiatives that seek to reframe or review these commitments with the effect of justifying delays in implementing them. We reject the notion that nuclear disarmament is pre-conditioned on a certain set of circumstances. This endeavor is a matter of collective responsibility, particularly between and among the nuclear weapons states, and it must not be made conditional on the interests of a few.
4. Likewise, we recall the following commitments:
 1. the extension by nuclear weapon states to the non-nuclear weapon States of effective, universal, unconditional, non-discriminatory and irrevocable legally binding assurances against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons;
 2. negotiation of a legally binding instrument banning the production of fissile material for use in nuclear weapons and other nuclear explosive devices.

3. signing and ratification by the eight remaining Annex II States of the CTBT to facilitate its entry into force;
 4. accession of the nuclear weapons states to the nuclear-weapon-free zones, including the Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone and its relevant protocols;
 5. establishment of new nuclear-weapon-free zones and a Middle East zone free of nuclear and all other weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems.
5. It is critical that we do not renege in our commitments. We must not water down what we already agreed by consensus.

Mr. Chair,

6. During this review process, it is important to take stock of the collective efforts of States Parties within the UN and relevant multilateral frameworks to achieve progress on these action points. All these efforts on these action points at the global and regional level are mutually-reinforcing and they strengthen the Treaty. We underline the critical responsibility of the Conference of Disarmament in this regard.
7. In 2017, the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, was adopted in line with Article VI of the NPT. To date, the number of States that signed it increased from fifty-eight (58) last year to seventy (70) this year, and the number that ratified it increased from seven (7) to twenty-three (23). The TPNW complements the NPT in achieving the goal of a nuclear weapon-free world.
8. In August last year, ASEAN Foreign Ministers reiterated the region's commitment to preserve the Southeast Asian region as a Nuclear Weapon Free Zone and free of all other weapons of mass destruction as enshrined in the SEANWFZ Treaty and the ASEAN Charter. They also reaffirmed their commitment to continuously engage the Nuclear Weapon States and intensify ongoing efforts of all Parties to resolve all outstanding issues in accordance with the objectives and principles of the Treaty.
9. The Philippines recognizes the contributions of the NGOs, scientists and scholars, and think-tanks including UNIDIR to the discourse on nuclear disarmament. Their invaluable efforts help sustain public discourse on the compelling argument for the urgency of elimination of nuclear weapons.

Mr. Chair,

10. The wealth of working papers in this Session, which promotes systematic and progressive action under this cluster, including, among others, on negative security assurances, de-alerting, verification and safeguards, manifests the enthusiasm of Parties to explore next steps that we can all support. My delegation associates itself with the NPDI and the NAM and their working papers.
11. We urge all States Parties to participate in constructive discussions on possible practical and tangible outcomes of this review process. These discussions have been taking place during and in between the Prepcom sessions and must be sustained in the lead-up to 2020.

Mr. Chair,

12. In closing, we call on the nuclear weapons states to intensify dialogue amongst themselves on approaches to meeting their commitments under this pillar, without the intent to evade obligations and resort to minimalist actions. We consider the role of nuclear umbrella states in helping developing such approaches to be useful. The nuclear weapons states' transparency in terms of sharing with the non-nuclear weapon states progress on their dialogue will help build trust – a key currency in the NPT. Promoting sustained conversation and engagement among States Parties is critical in our work moving forward on this pillar of this Treaty.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.