

STATEMENT
by Mr. Nguyen Khanh Toan, Delegate,
Permanent Mission of S.R. of Viet Nam to the United Nations
Thematic discussion on Nuclear Weapons
First Committee of the 70th Session of the United Nations General Assembly
New York, 20 October 2015

Mr. Chairman,

1. Our Delegation associates itself with the statement delivered by the distinguished representative of Indonesia on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement and wishes to make some comments from our national perspective.

Mr. Chairman,

2. Over the last 70 years, tremendous efforts have been made to prevent another use of nuclear weapons. The NPT has been the cornerstone of this global endeavor. We are of the view that the three pillars of the regime, namely nuclear disarmament, nuclear non-proliferation and peaceful use of nuclear energy, should be implemented in a balanced manner.

3. Viet Nam welcomes all ongoing efforts and initiatives vis-à-vis nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, including bilateral and multilateral agreements and the Nuclear Security Summits. We note with appreciation the agreement reached on 14 July 2015 between Iran and the P5+1 on the Iranian Nuclear Program. This Agreement once again showed that political and diplomatic means are the only effective way to overcome differences among States. We should now move towards a full and effective implementation of the reached agreement.

Viet Nam particularly applauds the outcomes of the Conferences on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons, especially the Humanitarian Pledge adopted in Vienna. We welcome the renewed interest and resolve of the international community to address the catastrophic consequences of nuclear weapons, and believe that the best way to prevent such catastrophe is the total elimination of these horrendous weapons.

Mr. Chairman,

4. Much more, however, remains to be desired and needs to be done. We regret that nearly 20 years after its adoption, the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty has not yet come into force, that negotiations on a Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty have not begun in earnest and that the Conference on Disarmament still can not break the two decade-long stalemate to commence substantial work on nuclear disarmament. We also regret that despite intensive consultations, the 2015 Review Conference of the NPT was not able to adopt its Final Declaration.

5. That is the reason why we urge all Member States to overcome current differences and to make further steps towards the total elimination of nuclear weapons. We call on nuclear weapon states to honour and take concrete steps to implement their commitments on nuclear disarmament. In the meantime, we note the important role of regional nuclear weapon free zones in providing non-nuclear weapon states with the necessary security assurance, and in this connection urge nuclear weapon states to soon sign and ratify relevant protocols to the Bangkok Treaty on the Southeast Asian Nuclear Weapon Free Zone.

Viet Nam looks forward to working with all others Member States to achieve these common goals.

I thank you.