



# PHILIPPINES

## STATEMENT

by

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to the United Nations

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Mr. Chairman,

The Philippines associates itself with the statement delivered by Indonesia on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

This year's First Committee session is proving to be not business as usual given the number of new resolutions that are being tabled by delegations particularly on the topic of nuclear disarmament.

This also proves that while many of us may have been disheartened by the lack of progress in the nuclear disarmament agenda, especially after the 2015 NPT Review Conference failed to adopt a progressive and balanced outcome document, there remains the collective will to move the process forward.

The Philippines continues to co-sponsor the draft resolution, "Taking Forward Multilateral Nuclear Disarmament Negotiations."

The draft resolution lives up to its name and intends to go a step further by convening an Open-Ended Working Group (OEWG) in 2016 that will come up with specific recommendations on measures that will advance multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations.

The OEWG will provide Member States a venue to come together, with our eyes trained on a singular goal, and come up with ways on how to jumpstart the process towards the achievement of global zero.

The Philippines looks forward to the adoption of the draft resolution and eventually to the convening of the OEWG next year.

We invite all Member States to participate in the Working Group.

The Philippines has openly and strongly supported the initiative to highlight the humanitarian consequences on the use of nuclear weapons.

We particularly welcome two new draft resolutions entitled, "Humanitarian Consequences of Nuclear Weapons" and "Humanitarian Pledge for the Prohibition and Elimination of Nuclear Weapons".

The Philippines will support and co-sponsor these draft resolutions.

In April 2014, the Philippines together with the Global Security Institute, held a side event at the margins of the Third NPT Review Conference here in New York on the topic, nuclear weapons and the moral compass.

We argued that ongoing efforts towards nuclear disarmament will be further bolstered by bringing the moral and ethical dimensions into the debate, to complement the legal and the humanitarian aspects of nuclear weapons.

The Philippines believes that the fusion of the legal, humanitarian, and moral/ethical arguments makes for a very strong case in pushing for the total elimination of nuclear weapons.

We further argued that the moral and ethical responsibility to achieve nuclear zero does not only rest on the shoulders of the nuclear-armed states; it is the collective responsibility of all States.

It is for this reason that we lend our strong support for the new draft resolution, "Ethical Imperatives of a Nuclear-Weapons-Free World" tabled by South Africa. The Philippines is proud to co-sponsor such a resolution.

It is our fervent hope that these new resolutions will create the much-needed momentum and allow us to finally break the cycle of failures in the nuclear disarmament agenda.

As we have posited since the early days of the United Nations, complete agreement on nuclear disarmament could, and should be reached, through the United Nations.

We remain confident that we will be able to seize the day, set aside our differences, and finally team up under this World Body, and work towards the objective of the total and complete elimination of nuclear weapons.

Thank you.