

Non-Aligned Movement

Statement by

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on behalf

of the NAM States Party
to the Non-Proliferation of nuclear weapons Treaty (NPT)

before

The 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Non-Proliferation of nuclear weapons Treaty

Mr. President,

I am honoured to speak on behalf of the NAM States Party to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT).

At the outset, let me congratulate you on your election to preside over this crucial 2010 NPT Review Conference. The NAM States Parties are confident that under your able stewardship the review can yield tangible outcomes. We earnestly hope that at the end of this Conference States Parties would have produced a clear and balanced roadmap that will enable a strengthened implementation of the NPT as well as the commitments and undertakings that were agreed at the 1995 NPT Review and Extension Conference and the 2000 NPT Review Conference.

The NAM States Parties assure you and your Bureau of our full cooperation to further the implementation of the Treaty. We also assure all Non-NAM States Parties that you will always find us ready to work and cooperate with you to effectively fulfil the agenda of the Review Conference. Our mutual collaboration is vital to the success of the Conference.

Forty years after the entry into force of the Treaty and 20 years after the end of the Cold War, the world is still at a critical juncture. While there are some positive signs in the field of nuclear disarmament, much more needs to be done to achieve complete nuclear disarmament. We need to capitalise on those emerging signs, and build further progress.

The realisation of the objective of a peaceful world free from nuclear weapons is the NAM States Parties' highest priority. The NAM States Parties have struggled hard to attain a world devoid of nuclear arms for a long time. Every step forward to that end should be consolidated and used as a building block to advance toward the final goal for complete nuclear disarmament.

There is absolutely no doubt that the NPT is the cornerstone of global nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament efforts. The full implementation of the Treaty in a balanced manner would safeguard the world from the potential devastation of nuclear weapons. Our collective efforts should be for the universalisation of the NPT and an enhanced commitment and adherence to it on a global scale. In doing this, all three pillars of the Treaty - nuclear disarmament, non-proliferation, and pursuit of the inalienable right to peaceful uses of nuclear energy, should be pursued in a balanced and non-discriminatory fashion.

NAM takes note of the new Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START) between the United States and the Russian Federation as a step in the right direction. Such reductions, although a positive development, remain below the international community's expectations which anticipate more concrete uniform and systematic nuclear disarmament effort involving all Nuclear Weapon States in accordance with their obligations under the Treaty. We encourage Nuclear Weapon States to bring about such reductions applying the principles of transparency, irreversibility and verifiability at a significantly faster pace.

We recognise that where global nuclear disarmament is a clearly identified goal under the NPT, it is also a "process" requiring careful and sustained engagement among all States Parties. For our part, the NAM States Parties would continue to engage constructively on the full implementation of the NPT. But we expect that the Nuclear Weapon States (NWS) will also demonstrate greater political will and discharge their multilaterally agreed obligations and commitments on nuclear disarmament.

Consolidated efforts to realise the universality of the Treaty along with the full implementation of the 13 practical steps for systematic and progressive efforts to implement the disarmament obligations of the Treaty, particularly the unequivocal undertaking by the Nuclear Weapon States to accomplish the total elimination of their nuclear arsenals, continues to be crucial to the credibility of the Treaty.

A window of potential international cooperation has opened, but to exploit it optimally, all States Parties must abide by the Treaty, and the States remaining outside it must also come into its fold.

Mr. President,

We are greatly disappointed that the last Review Conference in 2005 failed to produce a final outcome. This diverted us from the critical discussion on the operation of the Treaty and the implementation of the commitments and outcomes agreed by consensus at the 1995 and 2000 Review Conferences.

The past has many disappointments but it must not hold us back. Taking advantage of signs of a re-emerging international goodwill, we must push forward constructively, show the necessary political courage, and do everything in our power to make this Review Conference a befitting success. Failure cannot and must not be an option.

The NAM States Parties underline their concern at the grave threat to humanity posed by the continued existence of nuclear weapons, nuclear deterrence doctrines either nationally or in the context of military alliances and their possible use or threat of use.

The NAM States Parties reaffirm our long-established and principled positions on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, as contained in the documents of the various NAM Summits and Conferences and in Working Papers submitted by the Movement at this Conference and Preparatory Committees preceding it. We reiterate our complete commitment to our obligations and commitments under the NPT, and the agreements reached among States Parties at the Review Conferences of 1995 and 2000.

NAM underlines the importance to establish subsidiary bodies to the relevant Main Committees of the 2010 Review Conference of the NPT to deliberate on 13 practical steps for systematic and progressive efforts to eliminate nuclear weapons, to consider and recommend proposals on the implementation of the resolution on the Middle East adopted by the 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the NPT, and to consider and adopt a legally binding international instrument on unconditional security assurances to non Nuclear Weapon States.

It is unacceptable that Nuclear Weapon States and those remaining outside the NPT continue to retain and even modernise their nuclear arsenals, imperilling the regional and international peace and security, in particular in the Middle East. This is a dangerous and destabilising trend of vertical proliferation. It also constitutes non-compliance by the Nuclear Weapon States with their obligations under Article VI of the Treaty.

The world should realise that the doctrines of nuclear deterrence neither bring about peace nor international security, and constitute an impediment to progress towards total elimination of nuclear weapons. As long as some States continue to possess nuclear weapons, there will always be a tendency for others to also possess those catastrophic weapons. It is high time that the lure of nuclear weapons is ended.

The NAM States Parties strongly urges this Review Conference to clearly and categorically reject the policies of nuclear deterrence and place a ban on all forms of nuclear weapon testing with a view to their total elimination. To that end, the Review Conference should call for a timeframe with the list of specific actions for the implementation of Article VI, and a mechanism to verify the compliance of the Nuclear Weapon States with their obligations. It is vital that the international community to adopt an action plan with benchmarks and timeframe for the "how" to realise the objective of a world free of nuclear weapons.

The NAM States Parties regard the NPT and strengthening its implementation as the paramount instrument for attaining nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation in all its aspects. In the implementation of the Treaty a balance between the mutual obligations and responsibilities of the Nuclear Weapon States and those of Non-Nuclear Weapon States should be maintained. The NAM States Parties stress that efforts aiming at nuclear non-proliferation should be parallel to simultaneous efforts aiming at nuclear disarmament.

It should be clear that the indefinite extension of the NPT does not imply the indefinite possession of nuclear weapons by the Nuclear Weapon States. It should neither be interpreted as, nor result in, an indefinite extension of the lack of implementation of nuclear disarmament obligations. It also does not foresee the indefinite preservation of the status of non-members to remain outside the Treaty and defeat the potential for realising its universality. The consideration of a Nuclear Weapons Convention banning all nuclear weapons, as mentioned in Article VI of the Treaty, should begin and should be an integral part of any plan of action on nuclear disarmament to be adopted by this Conference.

We also stress that pending the total elimination of nuclear arsenals, efforts for the conclusion of a universal, unconditional and legally binding instrument on security assurances to the Non-Nuclear Weapon States Parties to the Treaty should be undertaken as a matter of priority.

Mr. President,

The NAM States Parties to the NPT underscore the inalienable right of States Parties to research, produce, and use nuclear technology for peaceful purposes without discrimination. Nothing in our discussion here should detract from the provisions in the Treaty for the development of peaceful uses of energy. The unimpeded and non-discriminatory transfer of nuclear technology for peaceful purposes must be ensured. In this connection, the Final Document of the 2000 NPT Review Conference clearly confirmed that "each country's choices and decisions in the field of peaceful uses of nuclear energy should be respected without jeopardising its policies or international cooperation agreements and arrangements for the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and its fuel-cycle policies".

Article IV is explicit on this subject, and the NAM States Parties do not see any room for reinterpretation or setting of conditions for the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. The undue restrictions currently being applied to many developing countries Parties to the NPT are regrettable, and should be removed. We underline that in accordance with Articles I and II of the Treaty, Nuclear Weapon States are obliged to strictly refrain from any sharing of nuclear know-how for military purposes under any type of security arrangements among themselves and or with the Non-Nuclear Weapon States or States outside the NPT. In this context, there should be a firm and complete prohibition on the transfer of all nuclear-related equipment, information, material and facilities, resources or devices, and assistance in the nuclear, scientific or technological fields to the States that are not party to the Treaty in a manner consistent with the decision on principles and objectives for nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament adopted by consensus at the 1995 Review and Extension Conference and the Final Document of the 2000 NPT Review Conference.

The NAM States Parties view with concern any nuclear cooperation agreement allowing in particular that nuclear materials can be transferred to unsafeguarded facilities in violation of Article III Paragraph 2 of the NPT, which stipulates that cooperation of each State Party to the NPT in providing equipment or material for peaceful purposes is not possible "unless the source or special fissionable material shall be subject to the safeguards required by" the NPT. The 1995 Decision on "principles and objectives of nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament" and the Final Document of the 2000 NPT Review Conference also confirm strongly IAEA comprehensive safeguards as a condition for any form of cooperation with non-Treaty Parties in nuclear field.

With regard to Article X of the Treaty on the right of withdrawal, the Treaty is very clear. The NAM States Parties believe that the right of withdrawal of parties from treaties and conventions is governed by international treaty law. We also recall the position of the NAM States Parties when this issue was first raised in 2005 where they confirmed that the proposals put forward then on this issue went beyond the provisions of the NPT.

Mr. President,

The NAM States Parties welcome efforts for establishing nuclear-weaponfree zones (NWFZs) in all regions of the world. Thus the NWFZs created by the Treaties of Tlatelolco, Rarotonga, Bangkok, Pelindaba, the Central Asian NWFZ, the African NWFZ Treaty, as well as Mongolia's nuclear weapon free status represent positive and important measures toward attaining global nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation.

The Movement reiterates its support for the establishment of NWFZ in the Middle East, in accordance with the Security Council Resolution 487 (1981) and the relevant General Assembly resolutions adopted by consensus. We also underline that the 1995 resolution on the Middle East, calling for the

establishment of a NWFZ in the Middle East, was an essential element in the outcome of the 1995 Review and Extension Conference, and the basis on which the NPT was extended indefinitely. It is regrettable that after fifteen years since the adoption of the resolution, a central pillar of the decision to indefinitely extend the Treaty, it has not been implemented.

The fact that all States of the Middle East region with the exception of Israel are States Parties to the Treaty has resulted in the continued exposure of Non-Nuclear Weapon States of the region to nuclear threats, to risks associated with the operation of unsafeguarded nuclear facilities and activities of unknown safety standards and, most importantly, the threat of a nuclear arms race of a catastrophic regional and international potential, including for the NPT regime in its entirety. This situation is unsustainable and places the issue of the implementation of the 1995 resolution as a prominent priority for this Review Conference which has to renew its unequivocal commitment to the full implementation of the 1995 resolution, to adopt effective practical measures to pursue its earliest implementation and to create follow-up mechanisms to strictly monitor progress on this extremely important priority.

The NAM States Parties recall that the 2000 NPT Review Conference reaffirmed the necessity of Israel's accession to the NPT, and the placement of all its nuclear facilities under the comprehensive IAEA safeguards. In this respect, the NAM once again requests the establishment of a subsidiary body to Main Committee II of this Conference for considering and recommending proposals on the implementation of the resolution on the Middle East adopted at the 1995 Conference and Final Outcome of the 2000 Conference.

Mr. President,

In closing, the NAM States Parties would emphasise that we must all learn from the past, rise above our differences, and work together to make this conference success. The present and the future generations require our most sincere and vigorous effort for attaining a nuclear free world that is safe and prosperous for all.

I thank you.