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**STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR TAN YEE WOAN,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF SINGAPORE TO THE
UNITED NATIONS AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL
ORGANISATIONS IN GENEVA, AT THE SECOND SESSION OF
THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE FOR THE 2015 NPT
REVIEW CONFERENCE, GENEVA, 22 APRIL – 3 MAY 2013**

Mr Chairman,

1 Congratulations on your election as Chairman of the 2nd session of the PrepCom for the 2015 NPT Review Conference.

2 The NPT regime today is under serious strain. Countries outside the NPT framework that are known to possess nuclear weapons continue to resist becoming party to the Treaty. A former NPT State Party withdrew from the Treaty, ceased cooperation with the IAEA and continues to maintain its nuclear weapons capability. There are also concerns that certain States Parties might be in violation of the Treaty either through the alleged acquisition of nuclear weapons technology or the transfer of material or know-how to non-NPT States Parties. Nevertheless, the NPT remains the only near universal non-proliferation regime. This second session of the PrepCom is an opportunity for States Parties to collectively consider how to address these issues. In addition, this meeting represents the mid-way point in our preparations for the ninth Review Conference in 2015. We should explore possible areas of common ground and how to build upon them, so as to maximise prospects for a substantive and successful outcome in 2015.

3 Singapore supports the objectives of the NPT and its three fundamental pillars of **nuclear disarmament, nuclear non-proliferation, and the peaceful uses of nuclear energy**. All three pillars are equally important and mutually reinforcing. The NPT is based on a delicate balance of interests and its continued relevance will depend on the delivery of all its objectives.

4 On **nuclear disarmament**, a lot more needs to be done if nuclear-weapon states are to reassure non-nuclear-weapon states of their

commitments under Article VI of the Treaty. We regret the continued inability of the Conference of Disarmament to adopt a programme of work and the impasse over the commencement of negotiations on a Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty (FMCT).

5 The Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) remains an essential tool for the promotion of both nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. Its entry into force is long overdue. Singapore welcomes Brunei Darussalam's and Chad's ratification of the CTBT since the PrepCom met in Vienna last year. We urge all countries, in particular those in Annex 2, to sign and ratify the CTBT.

6 We support the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free-zones as part of regional efforts towards the end objective of a world free of nuclear weapons. Singapore is party to the Southeast Asia Nuclear-Weapon-Free-Zone Treaty (SEANWFZ), which entered into force in 1997. We encourage the Nuclear Weapon States to sign the Protocol to the SEANWFZ without reservations. We regret that the Conference on the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction was not held in 2012 as mandated by the 2010 NPT Review Conference. We hope that all relevant parties will work constructively together to create a situation conducive to the convening of the Conference.

7 Nuclear disarmament and **non-proliferation** are two sides of the same coin. Transparency and accountability help to promote trust and confidence. In this regard, given that non-nuclear-weapon States Parties to the NPT have undertaken to accept the safeguards of the IAEA, we call on States Parties which have yet to conclude an IAEA Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement to do so without delay. In addition, we encourage all non-nuclear-weapon States Parties that have not done so to conclude an Additional Protocol to further promote trust and confidence within the international community that all nuclear material and activities in the territory concerned, whether declared or undeclared, are intended only for peaceful uses. We urge all States to abide by their international obligations, including those under the relevant UNSC and IAEA Board resolutions. In this regard, we urge the DPRK to desist from further provocative actions, to fully comply with the relevant UNSC and IAEA resolutions, and return to the NPT. We also call on Iran to take the necessary steps to address international concerns about its nuclear

programme, and to fully comply with its international obligations under the relevant UNSC and IAEA resolutions.

8 To strengthen the non-proliferation regime, it is important that all countries do their part to act against the illicit trafficking of materials and technology for sanctioned end-uses. A total supply chain approach is crucial to ensure that the system is robust and at the same time, does not hamper legitimate trade. Singapore was the first country in our region to establish an export controls regime. We have participated actively in regional and international forums to share our experiences as well as to learn from others. We also endeavour to work closely with the international community through such initiatives as the Proliferation Security Initiative (PSI) in order to advance our common goal.

9 We strongly support the right of all countries under Article IV of the NPT to **peaceful uses of nuclear energy (PUNE) and technology**. The benefits of nuclear technology extend beyond that of nuclear power, to important areas such as food and agriculture, water resources, and human health.

10 The lack of viable alternative energy sources faced by many countries and climate change concerns make it difficult for some countries to completely give up the option of nuclear energy. However, this right carries with it responsibilities and obligations. It is imperative that all countries abide by their international obligations and provide the necessary assurances in order to build international confidence in the peaceful nature of their nuclear programmes. In addition, all players within the industry, from vendor countries developing reactor technology to the operators and the regulators, must maintain the highest standards of safety and security. The accident at the Fukushima Dai-ichi facility demonstrated that we can never be complacent about nuclear safety and security. In particular, a strong safety and security culture is essential to lay a concrete foundation for the sustainable, safe and secure use of nuclear power. Singapore stands ready to work with the international community in this regard. Within ASEAN, the proposal by Thailand for an ASEAN Network of Regulatory Bodies on Atomic Energy (ASEANTOM) to promote cooperation in this area was endorsed at the 20th ASEAN Summit in April 2012 and its Terms of Reference were recently finalised.

To conclude Mr Chairman,

11 Singapore hopes that States Parties will use the current review cycle to examine how we can promote the effectiveness of the NPT. For it to remain relevant, the Treaty cannot remain static in the face of new challenges. As long as nuclear weapons continue to remain a key part of national security policies, the danger of a nuclear war exists. Singapore remains firmly committed to the NPT, and stands ready to work with all States Parties to maintain this vital instrument as a cornerstone of the global security architecture.

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