



PHILIPPINES

Philippine Statement

by

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Mr. Chairman,

The Philippines congratulates you for your well-deserved election to and assumption of the Chairmanship of the First Committee. As one of your Vice-Chairs, the Philippines takes this opportunity to extend its profound gratitude to delegations for the trust and confidence they have placed in my delegation. I would like to assure the Committee that the Philippines will do its utmost to meet expectations so that we may have a fruitful outcome this session.

The Philippines associates itself with the statement delivered by Indonesia on behalf of the member countries of the Non-Aligned Movement and the statement delivered by Myanmar on behalf of the Association of South East Asian Nations.

Recent political developments relating to the work of this committee augur well for achieving some progress on the key issues of nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation. I am referring, among others, to the following:

1. Successful conclusion of the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons with the adoption of a Final Document;
2. Strong support for the entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) expressed during the CTBT Ministerial Meeting last 23 September 2010, and the possibility that two Annex 2 States may ratify the treaty soon;
3. Successful High Level Meeting on Revitalizing the Work of the Conference on Disarmament and Taking Forward Multilateral Disarmament, which reaffirmed the importance of moving the CD forward; and
4. Signing of the agreement between the Russian Federation and the United States to have a follow-on agreement to the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty or New START.

The "Conclusions and recommendations for follow-on action" section of the 2010 NPT Final Document contains 64 action points, as well as specific measures that need to be undertaken with reference to the 1995 Middle East Resolution and the DPRK. If the world is serious about making concrete progress towards the total elimination of nuclear arms, and nuclear non-proliferation as well as the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, all the steps or action points must be implemented.

Among the issues in the Final Document that the Philippines gives particular importance to are the following:

1. Fulfillment of Nuclear Weapon States commitments, in particular actions 3, 5 and 21;
2. Universality of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons;
3. Negotiation of a Nuclear Weapons Convention as mentioned in the UN Secretary General's 5-point action plan;
4. Implementation of the 1995 Resolution on the Middle East, by having the International Conference in 2012 and preparatory to it, the designation of the host country for the Conference as well as the appointment of a facilitator in consultation with the States in the region;
5. Entry into force of the CTBT;
6. Revitalization of the CD;
7. Conclusion of a legally binding instrument on Security Assurances to non-nuclear weapon States;
8. Universal subscription to the IAEA Additional Protocol;
9. Bringing into force of Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement for NPT States Parties that have yet to implement it;
10. Resolution of all cases of non-compliance with Safeguards obligations in full conformity with the IAEA statute and Member States' respective legal obligations;
11. Securing of nuclear materiel at all times; and
12. Guaranteeing access to peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

On nuclear weapon free zones (NWFZs), the Philippines considers such zones important to the achievement of the goal of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. The Philippines recognizes the contributions made with the establishment of the NWFZs by the Treaties of Tlatelolco, Rarotonga, Bangkok, Pelindaba, Central Asia, and Mongolia's nuclear weapon free status. The Philippines also gives importance to the creation of a zone free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East and hopes that all States of the region will participate in the planned 2012 International Conference.

On the CD, the Philippines recognizes its importance and the need to break the deadlock that has plagued it for the past 14 years. In this regard, the Philippines commends the Secretary-General for organizing the High Level Meeting (HLM) on 24 September 2010 and endorses the recommendations made in the "Chairman's Summary."

I wish to restate some of the cogent points raised by my Secretary of Foreign Affairs, H.E. Dr. Alberto G. Romulo when he addressed the HLM:

1. Importance of convening SSOD IV, which could review CD's methods of work to facilitate the crystallization of agreed outcomes in a timely fashion and come up with a differentiation between consensus and unanimity in decision making;
2. Expansion of the membership of the CD, which should no longer be limited to 65 countries;
3. Prior to convening SSOD IV, an informal process could be set in motion that approximates an expanded future CD, which would allow wider sourcing of ideas and expertise. Certain CD members may have to lead the way in establishing this parallel track to the CD; and
4. CD must begin its work on vital issues such as nuclear disarmament, fissile materials, negative security assurances, and prevention of an arms race in outer space.

On other developments within the purview of the First Committee, the Philippines remains concerned with the following issues:

1. The proliferation and the uncontrolled spread of small arms and light weapons (SALWs). Thus, the Philippines emphasizes the importance of the early and full implementation of the 2001 Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects. The Philippines welcomes the positive outcome of the Fourth Biennial Meeting of States (BMS-4), and looks forward to participating in the meeting of the Open Ended Meeting of Governmental Experts in May 2011.
2. The Philippines recognizes the adverse humanitarian impact caused by landmines and cluster munitions upon innocent civilians and therefore supports the full implementation of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Landmines and on their Destruction. The Philippines is also a signatory to the Cluster Munitions Convention, which entered into force on 1 August 2010.
3. The Philippines welcomes the successful outcome of the 2006 Review Conference of States Parties to the Biological Weapons Convention or BWC.
4. The Philippines recognizes the significance of the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) and calls on States to meet the deadlines, as extended by the Conference of State Parties, on their destruction. The Philippines also calls on those few remaining States not party to the CWC to sign and ratify the Convention without delay.

I would like to conclude by stressing the particular importance of our present session and the need to forge ahead with positive outcomes in order to maintain the current momentum on what must be achieved in disarmament, for our collective survival and security.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.