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**STATEMENT BY H.E. DATUK HUSSEIN HANIFF
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF MALAYSIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS
AT THE DEBATE UNDER CLUSTER 1 (SPECIFIC ISSUES)
OF THE THIRD SESSION OF THE
PREPARATORY COMMITTEE FOR THE 2015 REVIEW CONFERENCE TO THE
TREATY ON THE NON-PROLIFERATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS,
NEW YORK, 2 MAY 2014**

Further to my early statement today, allow me to make the following additional points under the topics of nuclear disarmament and security assurances.

Mr. Chairman,

2. In February this year, Malaysia along with 145 States attended the Second Conference on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons which was held in Nayarit, Mexico. Following up on the rich discussions we had in Oslo last year, the Conference reinforced our strong belief that nuclear weapons are inhumane with a destructive power which no State or international organization has the capacity to address or provide assistance.

3. In this regard, we look forward to the convening of the Third Conference on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons in Austria later this year. After 2 excellent conferences in Oslo and Nayarit, we would welcome the participation of Nuclear Weapon States and also States non-parties to the NPT to participate in this event. The humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons is truly a global concern and it would be a missed opportunity if not all States are engaged on this issue.

4. As a State which does not possess or even pursued the development of nuclear weapons, Malaysia is deeply concerned with the humanitarian impact of such

weapons. Further, we question the vast resources allocated to maintain and modernise nuclear arsenals, at a time when there are other pressing issues to address such as poverty, health and climate change.

5. We feel that there is a need to address the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons here in the NPT. The support of the majority of the Non-Nuclear Weapon States on this issue is clear. At the Second Session of the Preparatory Committee in Geneva last year, South Africa delivered a statement on behalf of 80 States, including Malaysia in highlighting the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons. This was followed up by a joint statement by 125 States which was delivered by New Zealand at the 68th Session of the UNGA First Committee.

6. Malaysia strongly believes that this issue can no longer be ignored. For so long the focus of the utility of nuclear weapons has been on the security dimension. We feel that the focus should be on the humanitarian dimension. As evident more than 65 years ago in Hiroshima and Nagasaki, we owe it to future generations as not to repeat this tragedy. As long as nuclear weapons exist, these weapons pose a threat to humanity and all life on Earth. The only adequate response to the humanitarian threat posed by nuclear weapons is the total, irreversible and verifiable elimination of such weapons through a legally binding instrument.

7. My delegation recalls the Advisory Opinion of the International Court of Justice on the *Legality of the Threat or Use of Nuclear Weapons* of July 1996. It is clear from the ICJ Advisory Opinion that States have a legal obligation not only to pursue in good faith but also to bring to a conclusion negotiations leading to nuclear disarmament in all its aspects under strict and effective international control.

8. There is a need to take forward, without further delay, multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations for the achievement and maintenance of a world free of nuclear weapons. We are hopeful that the 2015 Review Conference would be able to translate this call into one of the actions of the outcome document.

Mr. Chairman,

9. Malaysia shares the view that as long as nuclear weapons continue to exist, Non-Nuclear Weapon States parties to the NPT should be effectively assured by Nuclear-Weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons through the urgent conclusion of a universal, unconditional and legally binding instrument on security assurances. We firmly believe that security assurances have now become even more crucial for the safety and security of states, in particular for those who have opted to forego their nuclear options by joining the NPT as Non-Nuclear Weapon States.

10. However, we view that the present arrangements in the form of unilateral declarations by respective Nuclear Weapons States are inadequate to prevent the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons against Non-Nuclear Weapons States as they could be withdrawn or changed without any implications. Given the weaknesses of those unilateral declarations, Malaysia strongly re-iterates that multilateral, legally binding and unconditional assurances against the use or threats of use of nuclear weapons be given to Non-Nuclear Weapons States. The UN Security Council itself through Resolution 984 of 11 April 1995 recognized the right of Non-Nuclear Weapons States to receive security assurances.

11. Malaysia firmly believes that effective measures to protect Non-Nuclear Weapons States against the use or threats of use of nuclear weapons would not only strengthen international peace and security but also positively contribute to the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons. The proliferation of nuclear weapons is driven by security fears and thus, legally binding security assurances will provide the much needed guarantee that nuclear weapons will not be used against Non-Nuclear Weapon States.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.