

# **PHILIPPINES**

## **Statement**

### **CLUSTER 2 ISSUES**

#### **First Session of the Preparatory Committee 2015 Review Conference of the States Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons**

***07 May 2012, Vienna***

Mr. Chairman,

The Philippines associates itself with the statement delivered by the Ambassador of Indonesia on behalf of the NAM states parties to the NPT, and the relevant working papers submitted by the NAM States parties to the NPT.

The Philippines advocates that the three pillars of the NPT—nuclear disarmament, nuclear non-proliferation and the peaceful uses of nuclear energy—must be promoted in a mutually reinforcing manner. Having expressed our position on the issue of nuclear disarmament and the 1995 resolution on the Middle East in our statement during the general debate, we wish to make our views known on the issues under this cluster.

#### **Strengthening Safeguards and the IAEA**

The Philippines is mindful that, two years after the consensual adoption of the Final Document in the 2010 Review Conference, 14 States parties to the Treaty have yet to bring into force comprehensive safeguards agreements despite the urgent call under Action 25. We believe that a comprehensive safeguards agreement coupled with an Additional Protocol comprise the

verification standard that can provide assurance that an NPT State party is living up to its obligations under the Treaty. While recognizing that the Additional Protocol is not a legal obligation under the NPT, it is a crucial legal tool for the IAEA to enhance its verification capabilities and to realize a strengthened safeguards system. We note that to date, 138 States have concluded Additional Protocols, and such Protocols are in force for 115 States. We urge all States parties that have not yet done so to conclude and to bring into force Additional Protocols and to implement them provisionally pending their entry into force.

We underscore that the IAEA is the sole competent authority with the mandate for verifying and assuring compliance by NPT States parties with their safeguards obligations. As called for under Action 33, States parties must ensure that the IAEA continues to have all political, technical and financial support to enable it to effectively carry out its responsibility to apply safeguards. Member States of the IAEA in a position to do so should also consider making additional contributions for the completion of the Nuclear Material Laboratory that will significantly enhance the Agency's capabilities in the independent analysis of nuclear material samples.

At the same time, in order to maintain the credibility of the IAEA, the IAEA Secretariat should strengthen its efforts to strictly apply its information security policies and regulations and to uphold the principle of confidentiality particularly in the handling of sensitive safeguards information.

In working towards the goal of strengthening safeguards and achieving universality of the Treaty, States parties to the Treaty should refrain from the transfer of nuclear technology and materials to States that remain outside of the NPT, unless they are placed under comprehensive safeguards agreements. Otherwise, this lends into question the credibility of nuclear export control regimes that advocate stringent compliance with their safeguards and security obligations among NPT States parties while at the same time extending similar

trade opportunities with those outside the ambit of the Treaty without the requirement of any significant non-proliferation or disarmament commitments.

In the same vein, States parties in full compliance with their safeguards obligations should be able to fully participate in the transfer of nuclear equipment, material and technology and international cooperation thereon, and any undue restriction and limitation inconsistent with the Treaty should be eliminated.

### Nuclear Weapons Free Zones

The Philippines believes that the establishment of nuclear weapons free zones is a major contribution to non-proliferation efforts, and we encourage dialogue and appropriate interaction among representatives of nuclear weapons free zones in order to share experiences and best practices that would help contribute to attaining these goals.

We welcome the conclusion of negotiations in 2011 between the States Parties to the Southeast Asian Nuclear Weapons Free Zone (SEANWFZ) and the Nuclear Weapon States (NWS) to enable the NWS to accede to the SEANWFZ Protocol. The NWS and States Parties of SEANWFZ agreed to take the necessary steps to enable the NWS to sign the Protocol and its entry into force at the earliest opportunity.

### Regional and Other Issues

On regional issues, the Philippines believes that the early establishment of a nuclear weapons free zone in the Middle East as called for in the Final Document of the 2010 NPT Review Conference would significantly contribute to regional peace and security. We join other delegations in calling upon Israel to accede to the NPT.

Also in the context of the Middle East, the Philippines looks forward to the resolution of all outstanding issues relating to Iran's nuclear program, which can only be achieved through diplomacy and dialogue. We call on Iran and the E3 plus 3 to sustain the process of dialogue and diplomacy in order to arrive at a comprehensive solution that will eventually establish before the international community the exclusively peaceful nature of Iran's nuclear program. The resolution of the Iran nuclear issue is critical to the realization of a nuclear weapon free zone in the Middle East.

On the DPRK, the Philippines deplores the launch by the DPRK of a long range rocket in defiance of UN Security Council resolutions 1695 (2006), 1718 (2006) and 1874 (2009), notwithstanding its failure. We also express our serious concern over recent reported activities on the ground pointing to the possibility of a third nuclear test launch. The Philippines strongly urges the DPRK to desist from acts of provocation and to end its use or testing of ballistic missile technology. The DPRK should abide by the relevant UN Security Council Resolutions and abandon all existing weapons of mass destruction and ballistic missile programmes in a complete, verifiable and irreversible manner.

We regret that as a result of DPRK's action, the outcome of bilateral talks last March between the DPRK and the United States--which showed some promise in moving forward on the DPRK nuclear issue—has not been implemented. The Philippines reiterates its readiness to work with international partners in the effort to ensure peace and stability in the Korean Peninsula.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, the Philippines joins the call of other delegations for the accession to the NPT of India and Pakistan, which would contribute to confidence building and minimize security tensions in South Asia.

Thank you, Mister Chairman.