



**STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR DATO' MUHAMMAD SHAHRUL IKRAM YAAKOB  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF MALAYSIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS, VIENNA  
AT THE  
GENERAL DEBATE OF THE FIRST SESSION OF THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE  
FOR THE 2015 REVIEW CONFERENCE TO THE TREATY ON THE NON-  
PROLIFERATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS, VIENNA, 30 APRIL – 11 MAY, 2012**

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Mr. Chairman,

My delegation congratulates you on your election as Chairman of this First Preparatory Committee meeting for the 2015 Review Conference of the NPT. We attach great importance to this session of the Preparatory Committee as it would lay the foundation for a successful Review Conference three years from now. This is our collective opportunity to not simply set the stage, but to set it positively and correctly – to engage constructively and to push for tangible progress. We need to move the process forward, given that the NPT is the single most important tool to achieve the ultimate goal of eliminating nuclear weapons and achieving general and complete disarmament. In this regard, my delegation extends its fullest co-operation to you in your efforts to ensure a successful outcome of this meeting. My delegation would also like to express its appreciation to Ambassador Libran Cabactulan, the President of the 2012 Review Conference for his opening remarks and his leadership as President of the 2010 NPT Review Conference.

2. My delegation associates itself fully with the statement delivered earlier by Ambassador Ahmad Fathalla, First Under Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Egypt, on behalf the of the Non-Aligned Movement States Parties to the Treaty.

Mr. Chairman,

3. Malaysia remains convinced that total elimination of nuclear weapons should remain on top of the list of the international agenda. Achieving a world free of nuclear

weapons rests on the fulfilment of the basic bargain embodied in the 3 Pillars of the NPT, namely disarmament, non-proliferation and the peaceful uses of nuclear technology. Despite some progress, concerns still remain such as the slow progress in the reduction of strategic and non-strategic nuclear weapons, lack of transparency, the high alert status of nuclear weapons, and the continuing pursuit of nuclear programmes by a few countries and the insistence of some others to remain outside the NPT.

4. Recent NPT progress has been mixed. The 2010 Review Conference managed to adopt a consensus final document that was neither a complete rollback nor just a lowest common denominator outcome. Nonetheless, the 2010 Final Document provides room for optimism since it also affords us with a timeline concerning the implementation of a number of actions. Its full implementation is required. It is the belief of my delegation that this Preparatory Committee Process would serve as a good avenue for all the nuclear-weapon States to substantiate their unequivocal commitment to eliminate their nuclear arsenals and provide positive momentum as we move towards the 2015 RevCon.

5. The very existence of nuclear weapons is incompatible with elementary considerations of humanity. It is in this regard that we have joined the statement on the "Humanitarian Narrative" that will be (delivered later on by Switzerland). Additionally, we have continued to introduce the resolution on the ICJ Advisory Opinion of the Legality of the Threat or Use of Nuclear Weapons at the General Assembly, which was supported by an overwhelming majority of Member States, including a few states with nuclear weapons. The resolution, inter alia, continues to underscore the unanimous opinion of the Court that there exists an obligation to pursue in good faith and bring to a conclusion negotiations leading to nuclear disarmament in all its aspects under strict and effective international control.

Mr. Chairman,

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6. We consider the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) as a primary disarmament instrument and commended the recent ratification of the CTBT by Indonesia and Guatemala. We call upon all States to work towards the entry into force of the CTBT, particularly those states listed under Annex 2 whose signature and ratification of the CTBT is necessary for the Treaty's entry into force.

7. At the regional level, Malaysia is party to the Treaty on the Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapon Free Zone (SEANWFZ). Together with other ASEAN Member States, we look forward to the signing of the Protocol of the Treaty by the nuclear-weapon States at the earliest possible date. Malaysia also supports the establishment in the Middle East of a zone free of all weapons of mass destruction. We hope that the convening of the 2012 Conference in Finland will provide the necessary impetus to the creation of such zone in the Middle East.

8. At the national level, I wish to highlight some of the following:

8.1 We are improving our legislative framework, and are currently in the final stages of revising our Atomic Energy Licensing Act to become a comprehensive nuclear law. This would allow Malaysia to accede to the Convention on Physical Protection of Nuclear Material and its 2005 Protocol; ratify the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism, and the IAEA Additional Protocol, and adopt the various outstanding IAEA Codes of Conduct. Additionally, we had submitted our Initial Declaration in Preparation to Ratify the AP in December 2011;

8.2 We have also endorsed the IAEA Code of Conduct on the Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources, the Guidance on the Import and Export of Radioactive Sources, as well as IAEA recommendations on the physical protection of nuclear material and nuclear facilities; and

8.3 We continue to strengthen the global export control regime. Since 1 July 2011, our Strategic Trade Act has been enforced, and this law has enabled us to further contribute to global efforts to curb the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

Mr. Chairman,

9. We should never relent in the concerted campaign for nuclear disarmament. In this context, my delegation wishes to commend the supportive catalytic role played by non-governmental organizations. We believe that we can derive tremendous benefit through the inter-governmental process and from closer interaction and cooperation with such organizations.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.