

ITEM 4

VIET NAM

STATEMENT
BY H.E. Mr. NGUYEN BA SON
Permanent Representative of Viet Nam to the CTBTO and IAEA,
Head of Viet Nam Delegation to the First Session
Of the Preparatory Committee of the 2015 Review Conference
of the Treaty on Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons
Vienna, 2 May 2012

Mr. Chairman,

At the outset, allow me, on behalf of the Vietnam's delegation, to extend to you, Mr. Chairman, our warmest congratulations on your election as the Chair of this Session. We believe that with your experience in multilateral affairs and wise leadership, this Session will be a success.

We associate ourselves with the statement delivered by H.E. Mr. Ahmed Fathalla, First Under-Secretary of Egyptian Foreign Affairs on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) and the statement by the distinguished Ambassador Lourdes Yparraguirre of the Philippines on behalf of the Association of the Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

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Mr. Chairman,

This first session of the Preparatory Committee, as noted by previous speakers, has its own significance as it would lay ground for reviewing the achievements recorded by the international community in implementing the 64-point Action Plan adopted at the 2010 Review Conference. Our discussion at this session will help identify certain progresses in recent past and concrete measures to increase the effectiveness and universality of the NPT.

For over the past 40 years, the Treaty has always been the cornerstone of the international regime of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, contributing to the maintenance of international peace and security, and the peaceful uses of nuclear technology. The three pillars of the treaty, namely nuclear disarmament, nuclear non-proliferation and peaceful uses of nuclear technology, should be promoted continuously, in a balanced and reasonable manner, advancing towards a world free of nuclear weapons.

To reach this goal, all nuclear weapons states and non-nuclear weapons states, should be fully aware of their responsibilities and cooperate with good faith to determine common grounds and to bring about the long-awaited progresses of the international community.

These achievements should include nuclear weapons states' implementation of concrete measures to fulfill Article VI of the Treaty and of the 13 practical steps to advance the NPT's first pillar – nuclear disarmament; initiation of negotiation of internationally binding arrangements on assuring security for non-nuclear-weapons states (negative security assurances); consideration of negotiation on a fissile material cut-off treaty (FMCT); implementation of measures towards the establishment of a Middle East Zone Free of Nuclear Weapons, including the organization of an international conference in 2012 in Finland later this year.

To obtain these progresses, we need to join efforts to revitalize and improve the effectiveness of nuclear-related international regimes, especially the IAEA's important role in carrying out technical cooperation among countries. The international community should also make best efforts to restart the substantive work of the Conference on Disarmament in this year, starting with the adoption of a balanced, comprehensive

working programme on important issues of the agenda such as nuclear disarmament, negative security assurances, FMCT, etc.

Realities have proved that through cooperation on the basis of good faith and respect of each other's interests, as manifested, *inter alia*, by the concrete action plan of the 2010 RevCon, the international community is able to bring about encouraging progresses. More over, international efforts in recent years within the IAEA framework and other mechanisms such as the Nuclear Security Summits proved that we all share a common interest in strengthening international cooperation and assistance to support developing countries in establishing national legal framework and capacity building in nuclear safety and security and peaceful use of nuclear energy.

Mr. Chairman,

Stemming from its consistent policy of supporting the general and complete disarmament, especially nuclear disarmament, and the use of nuclear technology for peaceful purposes, Viet Nam has always attached importance to and highly valued the role of the NPT while strictly fulfilling related international obligations, including the implementation of the Action Plan of the 2010 RevCon. Addressing the Second Nuclear Security Summit recently, Prime Minister of Vietnam reiterated that "Viet Nam has been building the legal framework and infrastructure for nuclear safety and security, as well as acceding to related international conventions and initiatives to carry out its obligations in an effective manner."

After signing the Additional Protocol to the Safeguards Agreement with the IAEA, Viet Nam has acceded to the Convention on Nuclear Safety, supported the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism, cooperated effectively with the IAEA,

the Russian Federation and the United States in completing the conversion of high enriched uranium to low-enriched uranium at the Dalat research nuclear reactor, signed with the Russian Federation the Agreement on the Return of HEU Spent Fuel to Russia... In March this year, Vietnam also signed an agreement with the Republic of Korea and the IAEA on a pilot project on tracking radioactive sources. At present Vietnam is considering its adherence to the Convention on Physical Protection of Nuclear Materials and the ratification of the Additional Protocol.

Within the regional framework, Viet Nam and other ASEAN countries have been working hard to turn Southeast Asia into a region of peace, stability and free of nuclear weapons, and have attained encouraging progress in urging the nuclear weapons states to sign the Protocol to the Treaty of Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapons Free Zone.

Mr. Chairman,

In conclusion I would like to reaffirm Viet Nam's commitment and cooperation for the success of this Session and the Review cycle as a whole, including the implementation of the 64 point Action Plan of the 2010 Review Conference, with the ultimate goal for a world free of nuclear weapons.

I thank you. /.