



**THE PERMANENT MISSION OF
PAPUA NEW GUINEA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

**Statement by
H.E. Mr Robert G Aisi,
Permanent Representative of Papua New Guinea to the United Nations
at the Preparatory Committee for the 2015 Review Conference
of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons
Cluster Three (Peaceful Use of Nuclear Energy)**

5 May 2014, New York

"Check against delivery"

Mr Chairman,

I congratulate you on your assumption of the Chair of the NPT Preparatory Committee for the 2015 Review Conference and for your leadership in progressing its work. My delegation assures you and all other stakeholders of our support.

Papua New Guinea associates itself with the statements made by Indonesia on behalf of NAM at both the opening and the cluster group sessions.

We would also reiterate the pertinence of the joint statement New Zealand made in October 2013 on behalf of 125 countries, including my own country - Papua New Guinea, at the First Committee on the urgency and importance of addressing the Humanitarian Consequences of Nuclear Weapons.

Mr Chairman

Papua New Guinea reaffirms her commitment to the NPT. We steadfastly maintain that the total and irreversible disarmament and elimination of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction for global peace and security remains critical. This must continue to be a priority for the United Nations and its Member States.

Genuine and lasting peace and security can only be achieved internationally without nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction. There is absolutely no need for this obnoxious weapons amongst our midst. The recent and the past catastrophic nuclear incidents are stark reminders of why we do not need them anymore.

Whilst we welcome recent international efforts by certain nuclear weapon State Parties towards denuclearization, we urge for more concerted and strengthened efforts for genuine disarmament of nuclear arsenals and other weapons of mass destruction, including adherence to the principles of transparency, irreversibility and international verifiability in all measures relating to the fulfillment of their nuclear disarmament obligations under the NPT.

We again call for renewed global, regional and national efforts to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons as an integral part of this process, if we are to be successful in this endeavour.

Mr Chairman,

The use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes is a principle that Papua New Guinea respects and shares. This is an inalienable sovereign right of every country. This however, should not be misconstrued for the application in areas other than for peaceful purposes.

For Papua New Guinea, as a State Party to the NPT, CTBT and the IAEA, we recognize the importance of the civilian application of peaceful nuclear energy. In our health sector, for example, the growing incidences of cancer, most notably in our womenfolk, is an area that we are now working together with the IAEA and CTBTO and other development partners including the UN, Australia, US and EU to harness medical technology that uses nuclear technology for treatment of cancer. Other possible areas outside of the defence portfolio under consideration are in education and agriculture development.

Another area that Papua New Guinea has been fostering international cooperation is the promotion of nuclear non-proliferation activities with the CTBTO. We presently host four (4) seismic, infrasound and radionuclide monitoring stations in strategic parts of the country that contribute to monitoring and detection of nuclear test radiation. Recent upgrade of the facilities now also assist our state of preparedness for disaster risk reduction given that we are part of the "Pacific Rim of Fire."

In closing, Mr Chairman, Papua New Guinea remains convinced that the world does not need nuclear arsenal for security, peace and survival. What we need instead is to see the divestment of resources in this area and to put them to sustainable development of humanity rather than preparing for Armageddon.

I thank you.