



**STATEMENT BY H.E. DATUK HUSSEIN HANIFF
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF MALAYSIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS
AT THE GENERAL DEBATE 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, 28 APRIL 2014**

Mr. Chairman,

On behalf of my delegation, I wish to congratulate you on your election as the Chairman of this Third Preparatory Committee meeting for the 2015 Review Conference of the NPT. I look forward to working with you and wish to assure you of my support and that of my delegation.

2. Malaysia associates itself with the statement made by Indonesia on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement States Parties to the Treaty.

Mr. Chairman,

3. Bearing in mind that this is the last Meeting of the Preparatory Committee for the 2015 NPT Review Conference, I sincerely believe that it is important for the NPT States Parties to reach an understanding on core issues, so that substantive discussions and outcomes can be agreed upon for 2015 NPT Review Conference. The NPT States parties should take the opportunity to build bridges among themselves in order to strengthen the Treaty's core bargains and uphold its credibility. We should be steadfast in our pursuit and proactively work towards reinvigorating the multilateral process aimed at realizing the disarmament and non-proliferation agenda.

4. Malaysia is relentless in its pursuit of a nuclear-weapon-free world. Despite previous setbacks and challenges, Malaysia remains convinced that the NPT regime

continues to occupy a role of central importance in efforts to halt the proliferation of nuclear weapons, as well as being an essential foundation for the pursuit of general and complete nuclear disarmament. Maintaining NPT's integrity is key to international security and safety. In this regard, Malaysia calls for the NPT State Parties to reaffirm and strengthen the three pillars of the NPT.

5. In recent years, there have been initiatives outside the Treaty that has given more focus, emphasis and effort towards achieving the goals of the non-proliferation. While Malaysia has been supportive of such initiatives, it is evident that the objectives of the disarmament pillar of the Treaty have not been pursued with corresponding urgency, particularly by the nuclear weapons states, whether inside or outside the NPT framework. Next year, it will be 20 years since the infamous bargain of the 1995 NPT Review and Extension Conference was struck among States Parties of the NPT. In 1995 the non-nuclear weapons states had reaffirmed the decision to forswear the development or use of nuclear weapons, on the understanding that nuclear weapons states would accelerate the pace of their nuclear disarmament. Sadly, while we acknowledge that some efforts have been taken in reducing the numbers of nuclear weapons, the pace of disarmament is crawling slow, rather than accelerated. Nuclear weapons states continue to harp the need to accelerate non-proliferation while ignoring their obligations in accordance with the provisions of Article VI of the Treaty. We urge the Nuclear-Weapon States to accelerate their efforts towards achieving the objectives of the disarmament pillar. Malaysia looks forward for the Nuclear-Weapons States to fulfil their commitments to report to this meeting on the steps that they are undertaking towards this end, as agreed under the 2010 NPT Review Conference Action Plan.

6. During the High Level Meeting of the General Assembly on Nuclear Disarmament held in September, the Honourable Prime Minister of Malaysia stated the need of not only conceptual change towards disarmament but also attitudinal change for the disarmament agenda. Malaysia has always been supportive of the involvement of civil society, academicians and think tanks in the disarmament discourse. We see the conceptual and attitudinal change in the humanitarian discourse towards nuclear disarmament and in this regard, Malaysia has been supportive of the approach, which continues to garner support from many States.

7. Malaysia remains firm in its conviction that nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation are two sides of the same coin. In this regard, if the international community is serious in wanting to curtail the proliferation of nuclear weapons, it must also be prepared to accept the need for nuclear disarmament. Non-proliferation non-compliance only exists when there is also disarmament non-compliance. As such, my delegation would like to reiterate the call on all NPT States Parties to continue to ensure the implementation of the three pillars in a balanced and non-discriminatory manner. Towards this end my delegation is also of the view that the provisions of negative security assurances as an important and achievable step towards nuclear non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament.

Mr. Chairman,

8. Malaysia reaffirms its full confidence in the IAEA, in discharging its duties and responsibilities in an impartial, effective and professional manner. The IAEA should continue its commendable work in realizing the full potential of peaceful applications of nuclear technology for the benefit of all. Malaysia reaffirms the centrality of the Agency's role with regard to issues relating to nuclear safeguards and verifications. Malaysia believes that the IAEA should be afforded the time and space to conduct such activities within its mandate independently.

9. My delegation also wishes to reaffirm the understanding that Article IV of the Treaty vests States Parties with the inalienable right to develop research, production and use of nuclear energy as well as the right to participate to the fullest possible exchange of equipment, materials and technology for peaceful purposes, in conformity with respective safeguard agreements. In this regard Malaysia remains perplexed why States outside of the NPT have enjoyed such rights. The international community, particularly States Parties to the Treaty should live up to its obligations in upholding principles of transparency and non-discrimination in the implementation of the Treaty. Selectivity and discrimination would only serve to undermine the Treaty.

Mr Chairman,

10. Malaysia believes in the strengthening of existing nuclear-weapon-free-zones and the establishment of new nuclear-weapon-free-zones represent a positive step towards attaining the objective of global nuclear disarmament. In this regard, Malaysia remains concerned on the danger of nuclear proliferation in the Middle East. We lament the fact that a nuclear weapons-free-zone has yet to be established in that region. Malaysia believes that the establishment of nuclear weapons-free-zone will enhance global and regional peace and strengthen the WMD non-proliferation among all middle-eastern countries. My delegation joins the call for the establishment of nuclear weapons-free-zone in the region without delay. In this regard, Malaysia calls for the implementation of the 1995 Resolution on the Middle East and urges for the Conference on establishing a zone free of nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East to be convened as soon as possible.

Mr. Chairman,

11. Malaysia will continue to table the resolution on the ICJ Advisory Opinion of the Legality of the Threat or Use of Nuclear Weapons at the United Nations General Assembly this year. The Advisory Opinion of the ICJ clearly stipulates 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. It is unfortunate that while this resolution continues to enjoy the support of the vast majority, there are still some NPT State parties that abstain or vote against the resolution. It would only cause one to question their position relating to Article VI of the Treaty.

12. In concluding, let me reiterate Malaysia's unwavering commitments to fulfil our obligations under the NPT. My country looks forward to participating actively in this session, with the view to lay the foundations for a successful 2015 Review Conference and hopefully the path for a world free from nuclear weapons.

Thank you.