



MALAYSIA

PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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**STATEMENT BY H.E. RAMLAN IBRAHIM
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AT THE GENERAL DEBATE OF THE 2015 REVIEW CONFERENCE ON THE
TREATY ON THE NON-PROLIFERATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS,
NEW YORK, 30 APRIL 2015**

Madam President,

On Malaysia's behalf, I wish to congratulate you on your election as President of this Review Conference. I look forward to working with you and wish to assure you of my support and that of my delegation. Malaysia associates itself with the statement made by Myanmar on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, and by Iran on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

2. My delegation also expresses our profound sadness and condolences to the delegations of Nepal, India and Bangladesh, and to their Governments and peoples as well as to the families affected by the earthquake.

Madam President,

3. Malaysia's participation in the 2015 Review Conference reflects our relentless pursuit of a nuclear-weapon-free world. The destructive power of a nuclear weapon is phenomenal, and it is unacceptable that there remain stockpiles of nuclear weapons of amounts capable of destroying our world many times over. 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 the NPT's integrity is key to international peace and security. In this regard, Malaysia calls on NPT State Parties to reaffirm and strengthen the three pillars of the Treaty.

4. In recent years, there have been initiatives outside the Treaty that has given more focus, emphasis and effort towards achieving non-proliferation goals. 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.

5. This year marks the 20th anniversary 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 foreswear 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 to the Nuclear-Weapons States fulfilling their commitments to report to this Conference on the steps that they are undertaking towards this end, as agreed under the 2010 NPT Review Conference Action Plan.

6. 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 obligations on nuclear disarmament. We are concerned that this perennial imbalance may soon lead to a situation where non-proliferation non-compliance exists as a result of disarmament non-compliance. As such, Malaysia reiterates our 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 for Non-Nuclear-Weapons-States are important and achievable steps towards nuclear non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament.

Madam President,

7. Malaysia welcomes the outcome of the discussion at the previous Nayarit, Oslo and Vienna Conferences on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons. Malaysia is deeply encouraged by the growing support on the humanitarian dimension of nuclear disarmament. The recognition among governments of the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons is a positive development which cannot be ignored nor be denied. This must now be translated into meaningful action towards a treaty to outlaw and eliminate nuclear weapons. Malaysia firmly believes that the humanitarian approach would contribute towards broadening the international discourse on nuclear disarmament, and is ready to work with other Member States on any proposal with the ultimate aim of total elimination of nuclear weapons.

8. Malaysia also welcomes the framework agreement on Iran's nuclear programme concluded between the P5+1 (China, France, Russia, UK, US and Germany) and Iran on 2 April 2015 in Lausanne, Switzerland, which constitutes an important development in efforts to promote peace, security and stability in the world. The commitment and flexibility shown by all parties in reaching an initial agreement is a positive step towards nuclear security, particularly in view of the lengthy and difficult negotiations since 2006.

9. Malaysia believes that the agreement reached will contribute to efforts to eliminate the threat of weapons of mass destruction, and hopes that the deal will pave the way for both sides to continue to work towards reaching a long-term comprehensive solution.

Madam President,

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 wishes to highlight that 2015 is a critical year for ASEAN with the realisation of the ASEAN Community and the 20th anniversary of the signing of the Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapon Free Zone (SEANWFZ) Treaty. As the current Chair of ASEAN, Malaysia has submitted a memorandum on the activities of the SEANWFZ Treaty, for the consideration of this Conference. ASEAN hopes to seize upon the momentum of the continued interest of the NWS to sign the Protocol.

11. Ideally, Malaysia believes that the Nuclear Weapons States should accede to the Protocol to the SEANWFZ Treaty without reservations, and that ASEAN should continue to encourage the NWS to do so. However, bearing in mind that the inclusion of a statement has been the practice with other nuclear-free zone treaties, there is a need for ASEAN to also look at the reservations put forth by the NWS to determine whether they are logical and reasonable, and that these reservations do not run counter to the Treaty.

12. Malaysia also 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 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.

Madam President,

13. Malaysia reaffirms its full confidence in the International Atomic Energy Agency (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.

14. 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.

Madam President,

15. 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, for a successful 2015 Review Conference and hopefully for a world free from nuclear weapons.

Thank you.