



**STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR HUSSEIN HANIFF
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF MALAYSIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS IN NEW YORK
AT THE GENERAL DEBATE OF THE SECOND SESSION OF THE
PREPARATORY COMMITTEE FOR THE 2015 REVIEW CONFERENCE TO THE
TREATY ON THE NON-PROLIFERATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS
GENEVA, 23 APRIL 2013**

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation wishes to congratulate you on your election as Chairman of this Second Preparatory Committee meeting for the 2015 Review Conference of the NPT. The First Prepcom in Vienna last year has helped us to lay the foundation for this current review cycle. As we had stated last year, we wish to emphasise that this preparatory process 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 and results. This Prepcom need to move the NPT process forward – to move towards 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 our efforts to ensure a successful outcome of this meeting.

2. My delegation associates itself with the statement made by the Islamic Republic of Iran on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

Mr. Chairman,

3. Malaysia will continue to pursue for a nuclear-weapon-free world. Achieving this rests on the fulfilment of the basic bargain embodied in the three 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. Malaysia remains convinced that the total elimination of nuclear weapons should remain on top of the international agenda. This ongoing 2015 NPT Review Conference cycle serves as a good foundation for all States to substantiate their unequivocal commitment to achieving the common goal of the elimination of nuclear weapons. Malaysia looks forward to the Nuclear-Weapons States to fulfil their commitments to report to the 2014 Prepcom on the steps that they are undertaking towards the elimination of their nuclear weapons. This however does not preclude us from pursuing towards negotiations on a nuclear weapons convention.

5. The very existence of nuclear weapons is incompatible with humanity. 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 General Assembly this year, 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,

6. It is regrettable that the much anticipated Middle East Conference on a zone free of weapons of mass destruction (WMDs) had not taken place last year as what was envisaged. Nonetheless, Malaysia wishes to emphasise the importance placed on the NPT process should not be lessened by the fact that a Middle East Conference was not held last year. Malaysia looks forward towards the convening of the Middle East Conference on a zone free of WMDs as soon as possible.

7. Malaysia continues to value the NPT as, amongst others, a tool to ensure stability and confidence. As such, while the Treaty allows, as any other international Treaty does, for a Party to withdraw from it, any decision of withdrawal from the treaty should not be made unilaterally, but in accordance to Article 10 of the NPT. The universalization of the Treaty is a goal and principle that has to be further encouraged and pursued.

8. At the regional level, together with the other ASEAN Member Countries, Malaysia looks forward to the Nuclear-Weapons States acceding to the Protocol to the Treaty on the Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapon Free Zone (SEANWFZ) at the earliest opportunity. Malaysia welcomes the continued dialogue between the Nuclear-Weapons states and the ASEAN Member Countries towards achieving a resolution on the outstanding issues.

Mr. Chairman,

9. In concluding, we must work towards a world without nuclear weapons. We should never relent in our concerted campaign for nuclear disarmament. In this regard, my delegation wishes to commend the supportive catalytic role played by non-governmental organizations. We believe that the inter-governmental process can derive tremendous benefit from closer interaction and cooperation with such organizations.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.