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**Statement by Ambassador Antonio Guerreiro,  
Permanent Representative of Brazil to the Conference on Disarmament,  
on behalf of the New Agenda Coalition,  
at the Cluster I of the NPT PrepCom  
Geneva, 24 April 2013**

Mr. Chair,

I have the honour of taking the floor on behalf of the six members of the New Agenda Coalition (NAC): Egypt, Ireland, Mexico, New Zealand South Africa, and my own country, Brazil.

13 years after the adoption of the 13 steps, the validity of which was reaffirmed in 2010, their full implementation is yet to be achieved. The Action Plan that emerged from the 2010 NPT Review Conference was an important milestone towards the realisation of these steps. After ten years without any agreement, it provided a welcome opportunity for all States Parties to illustrate their commitment to this instrument through concrete follow-on actions in support of achieving the objectives of the NPT. Through the Action Plan, nuclear-weapon States not only reaffirmed their unequivocal commitment to accomplish the total elimination of their nuclear arsenals leading to nuclear disarmament in accordance with Article VI of the Treaty, but also recommitted to accelerate progress on the steps agreed in 1995 and 2000 to advance the implementation of Article VI.

The 2010 Conference also called upon all States parties to exert all efforts to promote universal adherence to the NPT, and not to undertake any actions that could negatively affect prospects for the universality of the Treaty.

Three years after the adoption of the Action Plan, much remains to be done. The actions on nuclear disarmament, including the points contained in Action 5, must be implemented as a priority and we look forward, in this regard, to receiving reports on the accelerated implementation of these commitments.

Mr. Chair,

The entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty remains an important outstanding issue on which further progress is urgently required. The Treaty is a core element of the international non-proliferation and disarmament regime, raising the threshold for the acquisition of nuclear weapons, preventing a qualitative arms race and reducing the reliance on nuclear weapons in national security strategies. The entry into force of the Treaty would also strengthen confidence in the international security system through the establishment of an effective verification mechanism.

In its statement during the General Debate, the NAC emphasised the importance of the full implementation of the 1995 Resolution on the Middle East and the actions agreed to in this regard at the 2010 NPT Review Conference. We therefore look forward to the convening of the Conference on the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction, without further delay, as a step towards realising the 1995 Resolution.

The NAC welcomes the recent efforts undertaken in the Conference on Disarmament (CD) that included the tabling of draft programmes of work, which unfortunately did not achieve consensus. The NAC is therefore disappointed that the CD has not been able to implement the three specific recommendations of the 2010 Action Plan on nuclear disarmament.

Mr. Chair,

Despite some progress, key challenges remain. Indeed, the only absolute guarantee against the use of nuclear weapons is their complete elimination and the assurance that they will never be produced again. As the NAC has always maintained, what does not exist cannot proliferate.

The continued modernization of nuclear arsenals and the development of advanced and new types of nuclear weapons, together with the vast resources allocated for this purpose, run counter to the undertakings made by the nuclear weapon States.

Pending the elimination of nuclear weapons, it is critical that all remaining challenges be tackled head-on. These include, amongst others, the commencement of substantive work on nuclear disarmament, including the conclusion of a non-discriminatory, multilateral and effectively verifiable treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons and other nuclear explosive devices that should fulfil both nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation objectives. They also encompass the need to give effect to the legitimate interest of the non-nuclear-weapons States in receiving unequivocal and legally-binding security assurances from the NWS.

Mr. Chair,

Each unfulfilled agreement and undertaking reached at Review Conferences diminishes the credibility of the NPT and undermines confidence among State Parties. Accordingly, the onus is on all States Parties to undertake their respective obligations to ensure the full and effective implementation of the NPT, including the agreements reached at the 1995, 2000 and 2010 NPT Review Conferences. We urge all States to pursue policies that are fully compatible with the objective of achieving and maintaining a world without nuclear weapons.

Mr. Chair,

Allow me, on behalf of the NAC, to introduce our working paper entitled "Nuclear Disarmament".

The paper is an updated version of the one considered by the PrepCom in 2012, and reviews the existing obligations, commitments and undertakings on nuclear disarmament agreed in 1995, 2000 and 2010. It gives particular attention to the 2010 Review Conference and its Action Plan and to the progress made in its implementation.

Whilst recognizing some progress in the reduction of strategically deployed nuclear weapons, the paper notes that much remains to be done to address the question of all nuclear weapons regardless of their type or location, and to realize the commitment to further diminish the role and significance of nuclear weapons in military and security doctrines.

The document maintains that, while the Action Plan calls on nuclear-weapon States to discuss policies that could prevent the use of nuclear weapons, whether by accident or by design, the only complete defense against the use of nuclear weapons is their total elimination and the assurance that they will never be produced again.

Our working paper also concludes that there is limited progress in terms of nuclear-weapon-free zones, the Conference on the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction, and regarding the entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty.

We outline concrete proposals for the consideration of all States Parties to the NPT, particularly the nuclear-weapon States, in this review cycle, to enhance the implementation of the obligations flowing from Article VI through systematic and progressive, but especially, accelerated efforts.

As a way forward, we also propose that all States Parties should work towards the construction of a comprehensive framework of mutually reinforcing instruments for the achievement and maintenance of a world without nuclear weapons. Such a legally-binding framework for the total elimination of all nuclear weapons must include clearly defined benchmarks and timelines, backed by a strong system of verification, in order to be efficient and credible.

Mr. Chair,

Transparency, irreversibility and verifiability have been lacking in efforts to achieve a nuclear weapon free world, a goal to which all nuclear-weapon States have committed. The application of these principles would build increased confidence and trust and contribute to sustainable disarmament.

As States Parties will recall, at the 2012 PrepCom, the NAC presented a working paper on verification. We proposed that the 2015 NPT Review Conference agree to the conclusion, within the context of the IAEA, of strengthened safeguards and enhanced verification arrangements that would ensure the application of safeguards, in perpetuity, on material irreversibly removed from nuclear weapons programmes. We suggested that this could include the negotiation of a new model agreement or protocol that would apply to all material permanently removed from weapons programmes, which would provide the necessary confidence that such material cannot in future be withdrawn or diverted for nuclear weapons purposes.

This year, the second NAC working paper, focuses on the need for increased transparency in nuclear disarmament actions.

To build on the 13 steps adopted at the 2000 Review Conference, States Parties agreed on the 2010 Action Plan. Action 5, in particular, calls upon the NWS to report on the implementation of the undertakings contained therein to the Preparatory Committee in 2014. The 2015 Review Conference will take stock of such measures and consider the next steps for the full implementation of Article VI.

Our working paper details the information that NWS should include, as a minimum, in their 2014 reports on the implementation of Action 5.

Transparency is needed to enhance confidence not only amongst the NWS but also between NWS and NNWS. States Parties need a clear baseline that will be used to measure progress achieved. As the existing information provided by NWS is uneven, the report to the 2014 PrepCom will present a good opportunity to harmonize it.

In addition to enhancing transparency on the implementation of Action 5, the paper encourages NWS to take further measures aimed at instilling confidence in the implementation of their nuclear disarmament obligations under Article VI. We believe this information is necessary because all State Parties to the NPT have committed to pursue policies that are fully compatible with the Treaty and the objective of achieving a world without nuclear weapons. Transparency is indispensable for our collective effort.

Mr. Chair

We expect this PrepCom not only to review progress, but also to look to the future. As our contribution, we hope that the working papers we have presented, this year and last year, will be duly considered during this review cycle and inform the 2015 Review Conference outcome.

In closing, Mr. Chair, the NAC will continue to work towards the swift, final and total elimination of all nuclear weapons. We call all States and civil society to work together in pursuit for a better world, free from nuclear weapons

I thank you.