

Statement by

H. E. Md. Abdul Hannan, Ambassador & PR and leader of Bangladesh delegation at the
Second Session of the Preparatory Committee of 2015 NPT Review Conference
(Geneva 23 April 2013)

Mr. Chairman,

Allow me to begin by congratulating you on your election as the Chair of this Meeting. My delegation aligns itself with the statement made by Islamic Republic of Iran on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement. In addition, I would like to highlight certain core elements from our national perspective.

Mr. Chairman,

NPT represents the most widely recognized multilateral Treaty in the quest of achieving our goal of a nuclear weapon free world, despite some of its limitations in treating the nuclear and non-nuclear weapon States. Unfortunately, after more than four decades of entry into force of the Treaty in 1970, the long-cherished dream of mankind to see and live in a world free of nuclear weapons – has remained unfulfilled. We ~~believe that~~ *as the appropriate platforms* ~~the Preparatory Committee sessions followed by the Review Conference in 2015 will provide us space~~ *to assess the status of implementation of the goals and objectives laid down in the NPT and suggest useful and practical guidelines towards achieving these goals.* ~~decisions taken by the previous Review Conferences and suggest useful and practical guidelines towards materializing those decisions.~~ *Mr. Chairman,*

The NPT regime stands on three clearly-defined pillars - nuclear disarmament; nuclear non-proliferation and peaceful uses of nuclear energy. Bangladesh takes pride in its unequivocal commitment to the full realization of the goals and objectives of NPT in all its aspects-a commitment that emanates from its constitutional obligation to a general and complete disarmament. Since the progress of implementation of 64-Point Action Plan of the 2010 NPT Review Conference has not been satisfactory, only simple reaffirmation of such pledges ~~is~~ *should not be* not enough. We urge for full implementation of the action plan before the next Review Conference in 2015.

On nuclear disarmament, the first pillar of NPT, our position remains unambiguously clear. We believe that the existence of nuclear weapons, no matter who

possess them, poses the greatest threat to humanity. Nuclear weapons are wrong weapons and as the Secretary General puts it 'there cannot be any right hands for the wrong weapons'. We, therefore, continue to hold that only a total elimination of nuclear weapons can provide the absolute guarantee against the use, either by design or by accident, or threat of use of such weapons; also against the danger of these weapons falling into the hands of terrorists.

Mr. Chairman,

In order to achieve our goal of a nuclear weapons free-world, we consider, we didn't do enough so far. There has hardly been any discernible forward movement in the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva. Even the Conference has been in deadlock over its Programme of Work for more than one and a half decade. However, we are encouraged by the progress made with nuclear disarmament on the bilateral front. Conclusion of the 'New START Treaty' between the United States and the Russian Federation has been a significant development in this direction. We urge the worlds' largest nuclear weapon possessors to be more forthcoming for a deeper cut of their nuclear arsenals in pursuance of their commitment and obligations under NPT.

We understand that the total elimination of nuclear weapons is the only absolute guarantee for a peaceful and secure world. Until this is achieved, non-nuclear weapon states have the legitimate right to receive security assurances from nuclear weapon states. Establishment of Nuclear Weapon Free Zones (NWFZs) and accession to their protocols could be useful interim steps towards securing NSAs. We support these initiatives in principle. We must remember that the use of nuclear weapons against any country is a problem of a global nature rather than regional. Bangladesh, therefore, continues to stress on the need for commencing negotiations on a universal, unconditional and legally binding instrument for NSAs as a matter of priority. We consider CD as the most appropriate forum for such negotiation as it has all nuclear weapon possessing states as members.

Mr. Chairman,

In pursuing the global disarmament agenda, we believe that negotiation of an FMCT should begin soon. We also support all international efforts to prevent an arms race in outer space. However, we believe, that such negotiations must take place in the CD, as it would bring all nuclear capable states on board. Bangladesh stresses on the universalization and early entry into force of the CTBT.

Mr. Chairman,

Bangladesh is convinced that peaceful uses of nuclear technology with IAEA safeguards and verification regime in place would effectively contribute to our common endeavor to achieve sustainable development. In addition to power generation, nuclear technology may definitely help all of us to face the key development challenges that we confront today; such as hunger, disease, natural resource management, environmental pollution and climate change. IAEA can play a pivotal role in this respect. Bangladesh calls upon all concerned to engage in constructive dialogue in order to implement the provisions of Articles I, II and IV in an environment of trust and confidence.

Mr. Chairman,

We remain deeply concerned about the possible catastrophic humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons. We support the process that began in Oslo recently to address the issue. Furthermore, realizing the goals of disarmament could benefit us with both peace and development dividend, by saving millions of life and diverting our valuable resources from armament to addressing pressing development needs. We therefore cannot retreat from our ^{permit of} ~~journey towards~~ a nuclear weapon free world. Rather we need to move ahead with a bold political will and decision. Bangladesh, as a responsible member of the international community, is committed to do its part.

Mr. Chairman,

It remains our firm conviction that nuclear weapons don't secure but endanger the world. As long as these weapons exist, humanity will continue to face the threat of catastrophe. The essence of NPT was that each contracting party would have a role

and responsibility in ensuring the goal of global peace through abolition of nuclear weapons and promotion of peaceful uses of nuclear energy. Each Member State has a moral responsibility to pursue in good faith the goals and objectives set in the three pillars of NPT. During this Preparatory Committee meeting, as we take stock of our achievements and failures in fulfilling our obligations, Bangladesh reaffirms its commitment to working with the international community to abolish the wrong weapons before they abolish us.

I thank you Mr. Chairman.