

Statement by H. E. Mr. Shanker D. Bairagi, Ambassador/Permanent Representative of Nepal to the United Nations Office and Other International Organizations in Geneva, at the Second Session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2015 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, General Debate, Geneva, 23 April 2013

Mr. Chairman,

At the outset, I would like to congratulate you, Mr. Chairman, on your assumption of the chair of the Second Session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2015 NPT Review Conference. While assuring you of the full cooperation of my delegation in the discharge of your tasks ahead, I believe that the committee would be able to achieve success under your able guidance.

Mr. Chairman,

The NPT constitutes the cornerstone of global nuclear non-proliferation regime. As we are moving towards the comprehensive review of the NPT, the process should take a holistic approach to look into its three interlinked and mutually reinforcing pillars: disarmament, non-proliferation and development of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. Evidently, any selective approach in pursuing these objectives would undermine the spirit of the NPT regime. The universality of the Treaty would be the key to its success.

The consensus document containing an action plan that came out of the 2010 NPT Review Conference has regenerated hope for global disarmament and non-proliferation. Implementation of the action plan is critical to enhance trust and confidence. There is a need to move forward with the same spirit during the upcoming review conference and beyond. We believe that the first session of the Preparatory Committee held in Vienna last year has laid a solid foundation in this direction. Meaningful contribution and constructive engagement of States would generate much needed trust for the success of the review process.

Mr. Chairman,

Nepal believes in and consistently advocates for general and complete disarmament of all weapons of mass destruction including biological, chemical, nuclear, radiological weapons in a time-bound manner. Such weapons provide no effective guarantee to security in an interconnected and interdependent world where the definition of security can no longer be confined to the traditional notion of military security alone. Not only for the maintenance of international peace and security, disarmament assumes vital role in opening vistas for channelling scarce resources for more humane purposes including the eradication of poverty and hunger and uplifting the standard of living of

the poorer segments of the population throughout the world through enhanced economic and development activities.

We believe that the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free-zones in all regions could serve as building blocks towards the complete disarmament at the global level, and the full implementation of the 1995 resolution on the Middle East would be a significant step towards non-proliferation. However, such initiatives should not be seen as a substitute for nuclear disarmament and total elimination of nuclear weapons. The fulfilment of the obligations under the treaty remains as critical as ever.

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation firmly believes that pending the total elimination of nuclear weapons, the provision of the effective, universal, unconditional, non-discriminatory and irrevocable negative security assurances by nuclear-weapon States to the non-nuclear-weapon States through a legally binding instrument is a must.

Article IV of the Treaty guarantees the inalienable right of all Parties to the Treaty to develop research, production and use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes without discrimination. However, adherence to the legal obligations and the effective supervision and verification of the IAEA are must in such process. Technology must always be used for the benefit and wellbeing of mankind, but not for their destruction or that of the civilization. Nuclear safety and security is of paramount importance. My delegation equally holds the view that the degree of nuclear knowledge sharing and cooperation with the developing countries on nuclear technology for scientific, humanitarian and development purposes must enhance to ensure equitable benefit of the technology for all.

Nepal believes in multilateralism and multilaterally agreed solutions to global problems. We want to see the observance of the immediate, unconditional and permanent ban on nuclear weapon testing and closure of all nuclear weapon test sites. We also believe that the fissile-material cut-off treaty, which aims to address the proliferation of fissile material, would be of vital significance to attain nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation.

Mr. Chairman,

In conclusion, while reaffirming Nepal's deep commitment to nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, I would like to reiterate our willingness to actively pursue these goals collectively with other member States during this session of the Preparatory Committee and beyond.

Thank you.