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STATEMENT BY

**MR. PHILBERT JOHNSON, CHARGÉ D'AFFAIRES/DPR
PERMANENT MISSION OF GHANA TO THE UN**

AT THE

**2015 REVIEW CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES
TO THE TREATY ON THE NON-PROLIFERATION OF
NUCLEAR WEAPONS**

ON

30TH APRIL, 2015

Madam President,

Ghana joins earlier speakers to congratulate you and your Bureau on your election to lead the 2015 Review Conference (RevCon) of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT). We wish to assure you and members of the Bureau of our full support and cooperation.

Madam President,

We associate ourselves with the statements well-articulated on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement and the African Group. As we reiterate Ghana's commitment to the NPT, we would like to affirm our conviction that it is a workable framework for nuclear disarmament, non-proliferation and the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. With likeminded states and partners, Ghana will continue to work towards the implementation of the three pillars of the Treaty for the realization of its universality.

Ghana has benefitted from peaceful nuclear technologies in the areas of agriculture, health, industry, environment, human resource and capacity development. We therefore appreciate the support of the International Atomic Energy Agency and development partners in such useful endeavours. Nevertheless, we require further assistance in the development of capacity and support in peaceful nuclear technology for sustainable development including those relating to safe energy generation.

Madam President,

Ghana is committed to the use of nuclear technology exclusively for peaceful ends. Consequently, we call for the total elimination of nuclear weapons by Nuclear Weapons States (NWS) since their very existence pose grave threat to humankind. We also urge states that are yet to sign and ratify the Comprehensive Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT), NPT and other related multilateral instruments devoted to disarmament and non-proliferation, to do so. We must unite our fight for peace and complete disarmament and urge Nuclear-Weapon States to show practical leadership in ensuring total nuclear disarmament.

Pending the total elimination of nuclear arsenals, we join the call for Nuclear Weapons States to pursue and conclude a universal, unconditional and legally binding instrument that provides negative security assurances to Non-Nuclear Weapons States.

Madam President,

We should also continue to pursue the negotiation of a Fissile Materials Cut-Off Treaty (FMCT) and sustain efforts aimed at lowering the operational readiness of existing nuclear weapons systems.

Madam President,

The contribution of Nuclear Weapons Free Zones to the international non-proliferation regime, global peace and security cannot be overemphasized. This is why Ghana welcomes the establishment of nuclear weapons free zones in certain parts of the world, particularly the African Nuclear Weapon Free Zone Treaty, also known as the Pelindaba Treaty.

We also hope that the delayed Conference on the establishment of a zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East, will take place soon in view of its importance to international peace and security.

Madam President,

Ghana shares the concerns expressed by other Member States on the unacceptable humanitarian and environmental consequences of nuclear weapons. In this context, we welcome the Oslo (2013), Nayarit (2014) and Vienna (2015) Conferences on the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons.

Madam President,

While the outcome document of the 2010 RevCon did not fully meet all aspirations, it was a significant step towards the common goal of nuclear disarmament. It is, however, disheartening that not much progress has been made since the 2010 RevCon. Indeed, much remains to be done to achieve nuclear disarmament.

Finally, we wish to urge Member States to adopt a flexible and constructive stance during this meeting so that our collective efforts at both disarmament and more effective non-proliferation will yield positive results. We must avoid, at all cost, any act that will derail the process.

I thank you for your kind attention.