



## **STATEMENT**

Delivered by Ambassador and Permanent Representative Mr. Teodoro L. Locsin Jr.

### **2018 Session of the United Nations Disarmament Commission**

Conference Room 3, United Nations Headquarters New York

3 April 2018

Madam President<sup>1</sup>,

1. The Philippines assures you of full cooperation to achieve a successful conference. We welcome the consensus outcome document of last year's UNDC on conventional weapons and share the hope of replicating this success in a more challenging environment.
2. The global community must agree on concrete recommendations on the two items in our agenda — nuclear disarmament and outer space. On the NPT, these recommendations should contribute to breaking the existing deadlock and thus to the success of the 2020 Review Conference. A successful RevCon will strengthen the nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation architecture. Agreements and more importantly the implementation of these agreements, will also help avert miscalculations in tense situations or when weapons of mass destruction get in the hands of terrorists. Our collective response must thus keep pace with the speed of nuclear weapons developments.

### **Nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation of nuclear weapons**

#### NPT

3. The Philippines remains strongly committed to maintaining international and regional peace and stability though never at the expense of freedom and sovereignty; promoting a nuclear weapon-free world and the safety of Filipinos abroad from the use of weapons of mass destruction.
4. We remain committed to preserving the gains of the 2010 NPT Review Conference through the implementation of the agreements in the 2010 outcome document and, with more vigor, the 64-Point Action Plan, as the international community prepares for the 2020 RevCon.

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<sup>1</sup> The President of the 2018 UNDC is Her Excellency Gillian Bird, Permanent Representative of Australia to the United Nations.

5. To achieve the objectives of the NPT, we should work hard for the entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT).
6. The Philippines adheres to and continues to advocate for principles of irreversibility, verifiability, and transparency in implementing the NPT. Without transparency and verifiability it is impossible to foster the trust that alone ensures the attainment of NPT goals.
7. The Philippines has taken action in line with international commitments on non-proliferation and peaceful uses of nuclear energy. The Philippine Congress passed the Strategic Trade Management Act (STMA) to prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction by closely managing the trade in strategic goods.
8. Universalization is key in effectively implementing all treaties and agreement on disarmament and non-proliferation of all weapons — from conventional to nuclear.

#### Ban Treaty

9. The Philippines welcomes the positive outcome of the First Preparatory Committee Meeting for the 2020 NPT Review Conference (RevCon). The PrepCom carried some issues forward and revealed new opportunities for advancing the agenda throughout the new review cycle.
10. The Philippines emphasizes that the single major development between the first and second NPT Prepcoms for the 2020 RevCon is the negotiation of the Treaty Prohibiting Nuclear Weapons (Ban Treaty). Being the first multilateral legally binding instrument for nuclear disarmament, we see the Ban Treaty as complementary to the NPT and essential to achieving the goal of a nuclear weapon-free world. The NPT continues to provide the foundation while the Nuclear Ban Treaty is the capstone.

#### Denuclearization in the Korean Peninsula

11. The Philippines has consistently called for the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula in a peaceful manner. The Philippines has been supportive of creating conditions that encourage the resumption of dialogue among the concerned parties. We are encouraged by the readiness of the United States and North Korea to discuss terms of a peaceful resolution.

### **Outer Space**

1. On the issue of outer space, the Philippines aligns itself with the ASEAN Statement.
2. Philippine policy is that taking the arms race into outer space undoes all efforts to stop their spread and the threat of their use on the ground. The Philippines voted in favor of resolutions on “Prevention of an arms race in outer space” and “No first placement of weapons in outer space” at the First Committee and at the General Assembly Plenary on December 4, 2017.

3. The task of threshing out the critical issues in the next three weeks of the UN Conference only appears Herculean. It is not. The difficulty will be easily overcome by the sincerity of the collective endeavor. It depends entirely on the participants. There are no external obstacles to success.
4. I thank you, Madam President.