

STATEMENT BY
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MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF MALAYSIA

**ON BEHALF OF THE GROUP OF
NON-ALIGNED STATES PARTIES TO THE
TREATY ON THE NON-PROLIFERATION
OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS**

AT
THE GENERAL DEBATE OF
THE 2005 REVIEW CONFERENCE
OF THE PARTIES TO TREATY ON
THE NON-PROLIFERATION
OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS

NEW YORK

MONDAY, 2 MAY 2005

Mr. President,

On behalf of the Member Countries of the Non-Aligned Movement that are States Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), as well as my own country, Malaysia, I should like to extend our heartiest congratulations to you on your unanimous election as President of this 2005 Review Conference. Indeed we are proud to see that a representative of the Group of Non-Aligned and Other States Parties has been given this honour and privilege to preside over the important deliberations which will take place throughout this month on the NPT. We are confident that with your leadership qualities, vast experience and diplomatic skills, in addition to your longstanding association with issues relating to nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, you will be able to guide the Conference towards a successful outcome. I also congratulate the Members of the Bureau on their election. Rest assured, Mr. President, that the Group of Non-Aligned States Parties would render their fullest cooperation to you during this important endeavour.

Mr. President,

2. The NPT is at crossroads, with its future uncertain. The historic compromise reached 37 years ago between nuclear-weapon States and non-nuclear-weapon States over disarmament, proliferation and peaceful uses of nuclear technology remains unfulfilled. Today as we meet, the stress is on proliferation, rather than disarmament in good faith. The lack of balance in the implementation of the NPT threatens to unravel the NPT regime, a critical component of the global disarmament framework. Speaking at the 1995 Review and Extension Conference, Malaysia had expressed deep concerns over indefinite extension as we feared that it was a *carte blanche* to the nuclear-weapon States. Ten years later, our fears have not been assuaged. The nuclear-weapon States continue to believe in the relevance of nuclear weapons, despite a globalized and interconnected world. The nuclear-weapon States and those States remaining outside the NPT continue to develop and modernize their nuclear arsenal, threatening international peace and security. We must all call for an end to this madness and seek the elimination and ban on all forms of nuclear weapons and testings as well as the rejection of the doctrine of nuclear deterrence.

Mr. President,

3. The last Review Conference was held in the spring of 2000 and Final Document was adopted. The nuclear-weapon States gave an unequivocal undertaking then that they would accomplish the total elimination of nuclear weapons and would commence negotiations in this regard without delay. In September of the same year, world leaders gathered at the Millennium Summit. In the Millennium Declaration, they, *inter alia*, resolved to strive for the elimination of weapons of mass destruction, particularly nuclear weapons, and to keep all options open for achieving this aim, including the possibility of convening an international conference to identify ways of eliminating nuclear dangers.

4. In the last five years, a lot has happened. Concerns have been raised about weapons of mass destruction, in particular nuclear weapons. We all have concerns about nuclear non-proliferation, both vertical and horizontal. We all have fears about nuclear terrorism; we fear for the possibility of individuals or groups and other non-State actors getting their hands on nuclear explosive devices and using them for terrorist activities. We all continue to have nightmares for so long as there is the continued existence of nuclear weapons, and humanity has called for their total elimination. At the same time, we want to preserve the inherent right to peaceful uses of nuclear technology including energy. This NPT Review Conference should rightly serve to take care of our concerns, allay our fears and reduce our nightmares. This

month presents us with the challenge as well as the opportunity of making the Treaty and its review process work, for now and in the future.

Mr. President,

5. At this current review process, the Group of Non-Aligned States Parties will be guided by the decisions taken at the XIII Conference of Heads of State or Government of NAM that was held in Kuala Lumpur in February 2003 and the XIV Ministerial Conference of NAM in Durban in August 2004. It is important to note that both the Summit and the Conference, while addressing the wide-ranging ramifications of nuclear weapons and related issues, have affirmed that multilateralism and multilaterally agreed solutions, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, provide the only sustainable method of dealing with the multiplicity of disarmament and international security issues. The NPT review process provides for that multilateral approach. We must take full advantage of it at this Review Conference.

6. I wish to state here that the Non-Aligned States Parties reaffirm their long-established and principled positions on nuclear disarmament. We remain fully committed to our obligations and commitments under the NPT and the agreements reached among States Parties at the Review Conferences in 1995 and 2000. In this connection and as in the past, we are presenting to this Review Conference an omnibus Working Paper as well as Working Papers on four specific questions for the consideration of States Parties to the NPT. Those documents represent a comprehensive outline of our positions and views on various questions pertaining to the operation and functioning of the Treaty. These are questions we deem to be of paramount importance not only to us but also to all States Parties in respect of the necessity of preserving and respecting the Treaty. The Working Papers also contain recommendations for the consideration of States Parties to the Treaty. We firmly believe that the recommendations offered by the Group of Non-Aligned States Parties would contribute towards strengthening the review process and the full implementation of not only the provisions of the Treaty but also, of equal importance, the decisions and resolution adopted during the 1995 Conference as well as the Final Document agreed during the 2000 Review Conference. I invite all delegations to study the detailed Working Papers offered by the Non-Aligned States Parties. They are comprehensive and require no further elaboration at this juncture.

Mr. President,

7. I wish to call upon all States Parties, nuclear-weapon States and non-nuclear-weapon States, to recognize the importance of the full and non-selective implementation of the Treaty in nuclear disarmament, non-proliferation and the peaceful uses of nuclear technology – the three pillars of the Treaty. The Non-Aligned States Parties remain fully convinced that the NPT is a key instrument in the efforts to halt the vertical and horizontal proliferation of nuclear weapons and an essential foundation for the pursuit of nuclear disarmament. The NPT seeks to ensure a fair balance between the mutual obligations and responsibilities of the nuclear-weapon States and that of the non-nuclear-weapon States under the Treaty. The indefinite extension of the NPT does not imply the indefinite possession by the nuclear-weapon States of their nuclear weapons arsenals. If we, the States Parties, want to curtail the proliferation of nuclear weapons, we must also be prepared to accept that the total elimination of nuclear weapons is the only absolute guarantee against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons. Pending the total elimination of nuclear weapons, efforts for the conclusion of a universal, unconditional and legally binding instrument on security assurances to non-nuclear-weapon States should be pursued as a matter of priority.

8. The Non-Aligned Movement whose members make up a large majority of the States Parties to the NPT, wishes to reaffirm the importance of achieving the total elimination of all weapons of mass destruction globally, in particular nuclear weapons. We remain convinced that nuclear weapons pose the greatest danger to mankind and the survival of civilizations. We further reaffirm the need for all States to fulfil their obligations in relation to arms control and disarmament and to prevent the proliferation in all its aspects of weapons of mass destruction. The ultimate objective of the efforts of States in the disarmament process should remain that of general and complete disarmament. While recognizing recent moves by nuclear-weapon States that could lead towards disarmament, we reiterate our deep concern over the slow pace of progress in this regard.

9. The NPT also provides for the development of peaceful uses of nuclear technology. The Group of Non-Aligned States Parties reaffirms the inalienable right of States Parties to the NPT to engage in research, production and use of nuclear technology for peaceful purposes without discrimination. The free, unimpeded and non-discriminatory transfer of nuclear technology for peaceful purposes must be fully ensured. Nothing in the Treaty should be interpreted as affecting this right. Nuclear-weapon States, in cooperation among themselves and with non-nuclear-weapon States, and with States not Parties to the Treaty, must refrain from nuclear sharing for military purposes under any kind of security arrangements. There should also be total and complete prohibition of the transfer of all nuclear-related equipment, information, material and facilities, resources or devices and the extension of assistance in the nuclear, scientific or technological fields to States that are not Parties to the Treaty, without exception.

io. There have been a number of recent efforts aimed at strengthening the non-proliferation regime. But it must be recognized that any effort to stem proliferation should be transparent and open to participation by all States. Access to material, equipment and technology for civilian purposes should not be unduly restricted.

ii. Another important component of the NPT is the contribution of nuclear-weapon-free zones towards attaining the objective of global disarmament. All efforts aimed at establishing nuclear-weapon-free zones should be supported. We welcome the convening and outcome of the recent Conference of States Parties and Signatories of Treaties that Establish Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones held in Mexico City from 26 to 28 April 2005.

Mr. President,

12. Rather than risk the unraveling of the NPT, we should as responsible members of the international community, continue to seek ways and means to ensure that the NPT remains a true cornerstone for global peace and security. In this connection, we should renew with vigour our collective efforts towards the accession of the remaining three non-State Parties which possess nuclear weapons.

13. Finally, Mr. President, the Group of Non-Aligned States Parties to the NPT hopes that its views and recommendations contained in the omnibus Working Paper and the other Working Papers will be given serious consideration by all States Parties to the NPT. We have gathered in New York to deliberate on many important issues; to chart the course for a better and safer world for our future generations. We must not miss the opportunity. I assure you that Malaysia and all the other States Parties from the Group of Non-Aligned States Parties will not want to let that opportunity go by. We will be constructive, as we expect others would.

I thank you, Mr. President.