

STATEMENT FOR

**H.E. MR. LIBRAN N. CABACTULAN
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE AND
PRESIDENT, 2010 NPT REVIEW CONFERENCE**

**ON THE OCCASION OF THE
OPENING OF THE 2010 REVIEW CONFERENCE OF THE
PARTIES TO THE TREATY ON THE NON-PROLIFERATION OF
NUCLEAR WEAPONS**

3 May 2010, 10:30 am, General Assembly Hall, UNHQ

His Excellency Mr. Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations;
His Excellency Mr. Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, President of the Islamic Republic of Iran;
His Excellency Mr. Yukiya Amano, Director-General of the International Atomic Energy Agency;
Excellencies;
Ladies and Gentlemen, good morning.

I wish to thank most sincerely all delegations, for the trust and confidence they have reposed in me and in the Philippines to lead the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. My thanks as well go to the Non-Aligned Movement for having nominated me to this vital post. I am humbled and genuinely feel privileged to be at the helm of this conference. I take on the burden of the Presidency with the full knowledge that achieving a successful outcome is a responsibility I share with all States Parties.

An outcome that is meaningful and would be for the good of all can only be attained if we exert maximum flexibility and avoid intractable positions and obdurate attitudes. I take much comfort that during my year long consultations, delegations all professed fidelity to one common goal and that is their strong and urgent desire to have a successful Review Conference, which this treaty regime sorely needs.

I exhort delegations to maintain the positive atmosphere engendered by the Third Preparatory Committee Meeting Chairman, Amb. Boniface Chidyausiku. He set the tone last May when we all gathered in New York and I intend to continue his good work.

I genuinely look forward to working closely with all delegations in the coming weeks. When I was endorsed by the Third Preparatory Committee meeting last year, I stated that as President I would not favor one delegation over another and I would give equal importance to the positions of all delegations, I further swore that I would conduct the presidency in an open, transparent, and all inclusive manner. This vow holds true today and will be my guiding principle in the coming days and weeks as we work together to move the NPT regime forward on all three pillars, namely nuclear disarmament, nuclear non-proliferation, and the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

Several positive developments relating to the NPT make this moment and this Review Conference the best occasion to make progress on those three pillars and other issues. We must take full advantage and not waste this rare chance that we have been given. Opportunities such as this are becoming few and far between. The world expects a positive outcome and we must deliver. This is our obligation and duty as diplomats to our leaders and our people.

In leading this conference I aim to follow a maxim from a Chinese philosopher who once said “A leader is best when people barely know he exists, when his work is done, his aim fulfilled, they will say: we did it ourselves.”

I intend to work with all delegations in a cooperative and effective manner. As President I view myself as your managing facilitator and honest broker. I beseech delegations to work with me and the members of the bureau, but more importantly, with each other, and in doing so we would be able to accomplish something worthy of the statements of our leaders who have expressed in various fora their hopes and desires for promoting international peace and security through multilateral arrangements such as the NPT.

In closing I wish to quote former Philippine Foreign Minister Carlos P. Romulo in his last speech here at General Assembly hall in 1983, he said “I do not think the world has much time to escape the momentum toward self-destruction upon which it seems set.” Weeping openly, he asked what it would take to “galvanize us into the necessary steps and actions to preserve the world against catastrophe.” One of the necessary steps to preserve our world and our planet is the strengthening of the NPT regime to ensure that it continues to effectively serve mankind. Let us work together toward this common goal.

Thank you.