



Association of Southeast Asian Nations

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Statement

by H.E. U Kyaw Tin

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United Nations in New York

on behalf of the

Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)

at the 2015 Review Conference of the Parties to

the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

New York, 28 April 2015

Madam President,

1. I have the honor to speak on behalf of the Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), namely, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Viet Nam and my own country, Myanmar.
2. ASEAN Member States congratulate you on your election to preside over this important Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT). We are confident that under your able stewardship, the Review Conference will yield tangible outcomes. I would also like to extend our equally warm congratulations to the members of the Bureau.
3. ASEAN Member States would like to convey our deepest condolences to the people of Nepal and all those affected by the recent devastating earthquake which struck Nepal on 25 April.
4. ASEAN associates itself with the statement made by the Islamic Republic of Iran on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT

Madam President,

5. ASEAN Member States share the aspiration of a world free of nuclear weapons. It is in our common interest to see mankind thrive in a safe and secure environment free from fear, animosity and devastation caused by nuclear weapons. The world witnessed the first ever detonation of two atomic bombs in 1945. Since then, mankind vowed that such detonations would never happen again, be it by accident or by purpose. With the highly advanced technologies that exist today, such detonation will not only kill hundreds of thousands of people, but also leave massive human and environmental devastation.
6. Ultimately, the only way to achieve a world free of nuclear weapons is not merely to constrain the spread of nuclear weapons, but to aim for their total elimination. We must therefore simultaneously pursue the goals set forth by our landmark international treaty that is the NPT.

Madam President,

7. ASEAN is fully aware of the fact that the humanitarian focus on the consequences of nuclear weapons is increasingly gaining widespread recognition and support. ASEAN welcomes the Conferences on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons held in Oslo, Nayarit, and Vienna, as well as the recently

concluded Regional Roundtable on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons and Prospects for a Ban Treaty in Bangkok, the third such roundtable held in our region and the ninth globally.

8. Our efforts to achieve nuclear disarmament will be challenging, but we believe that the goal of achieving nuclear disarmament is possible when concrete and practical steps to dismantle the world's remaining nuclear weapons are implemented, as soon as possible, and in a transparent, irreversible and verifiable manner. At the same time, we must put an end to the continued qualitative improvement of technologies to the existing nuclear weapons systems, and close all nuclear weapons test sites.

9. In this context, ASEAN Member States believe that the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) require universal adherence. We also call on the remaining Annex 2 States, whose signature and ratification are crucial for the CTBT to enter into force, to materialize their commitment. In this context, we welcome the progress made towards universalization of the Treaty, and the recent ratifications by Brunei Darussalam, Chad, Congo, Ghana, Guatemala, Guinea Bissau, Guinea, Indonesia, Iraq and Niue.

10. ASEAN also wishes to emphasize the importance of nuclear-weapon States adhering to legally-binding negative security assurances and the policy of no-first use of nuclear weapons at any time, or under any circumstances, and making unequivocal commitment not to use or threaten to use nuclear weapons against non-nuclear-weapon States and on the nuclear-weapon-free zones. The 1995 NPT Review and Extension Conference underscored the importance of this issue by stating, in its decision on Principles and Objectives, that further steps should be considered to assure non-nuclear-weapon States parties to the Treaty against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons.

11. ASEAN is convinced that the total elimination of nuclear weapons is the only absolute guarantee against their use or threat of use. Therefore, ASEAN calls for the early commencement of negotiations in the Conference on Disarmament for the early conclusion of a comprehensive convention on nuclear weapons to prohibit their possession, development, production, acquisition, testing, stockpiling, transfer, use or threat of use and to provide for their destruction.

NON-PROLIFERATION

Madam President,

12. ASEAN has always been at the vanguard of international efforts for nuclear non-proliferation in all its aspects. The NPT recognizes the right of any group of

States to conclude regional treaties in order to assure the total absence of nuclear weapons in their respective territories. This is regarded by ASEAN Member States as an important step towards strengthening nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation regime. Therefore, ASEAN Member States strongly support the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones, as provided by Article VII of the Treaty, not only to attain nuclear disarmament but also to contribute to the maintenance of international peace and security.

13. ASEAN Member States reaffirm our commitment to preserve Southeast Asia as a nuclear-weapon-free zone and free of all other weapons of mass destruction as enshrined in the ASEAN Charter. In this context, ASEAN Member States welcome the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones in Latin America and the Caribbean, South Pacific, African, Central Asia and Mongolia's nuclear-weapon-free status. We would like to urge others to conclude agreements to establish nuclear-weapon-free zones in areas where they do not exist, including in the Middle East.

PEACEFUL USES OF NUCLEAR ENERGY

Madam President,

14. ASEAN Member States reaffirm the inalienable right of States to the peaceful use of nuclear energy, in particular for their economic and social development. To seek to accelerate and enlarge the contribution of atomic energy to peace, health, and prosperity throughout the world through the peaceful uses of nuclear energy is one of the core objectives enshrined in the Statute of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). We recognize the central role of the IAEA in nuclear non-proliferation and the promotion of peaceful uses of nuclear energy. In this context, we are of the view that it is important to strengthen IAEA's mandate and capacity in this area.

15. In this context, we would therefore like to welcome the political agreement reached between the E3+3 and Iran recently and look forward to the successful conclusion of a comprehensive agreement as intended as a strong expression of this right and responsibility.

16. For our part, ASEAN has enhanced our cooperation to ensure that high standards of safeguards and safety measures are adhered to the peaceful use of nuclear energy. In this connection, the ASEAN Network of Regulatory Bodies on Atomic Energy (ASEANTOM) was established in 2013. This network will facilitate the sharing of best practices, exchange of views and information as well as discussion on safety, security, and safeguards in the use of nuclear energy among the nuclear regulatory bodies or relevant authorities in the region.

17. ASEAN Member States have also been implementing our applicable and relevant obligations regarding nuclear safety and security. In developing their respective nuclear infrastructure for peaceful use of nuclear energy, ASEAN Member States have been in close cooperation with international partners, in accordance with applicable IAEA standards and regulations.

CONCLUSION

Madam President,

18. In concluding, ASEAN Member States would like to underscore the need for us to rise above our differences and work together to make the NPT achieve all its objectives for the future generation. We earnestly hope that this Review Conference will pave the way for States Parties to produce a clear and balanced roadmap that will enable a strengthened implementation of the NPT as well as the commitments and undertakings that were agreed to at the past Review Conferences.

19. I thank you, Madam President.
