



STATEMENT
by H.E. Ambassador Nguyen Phuong Nga
Permanent Representative, Head of Viet Nam's delegation
to the 2015 Review Conference
of the Treaty on the Non-proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

General Debate
29 April 2015

Madam President,

1. I would like to join previous speakers in congratulating you on your assumption of the Presidency of the 2015 Review Conference of the Treaty on the Non-proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. It is our conviction that your able leadership will help the Conference arrive at a consensual outcome.

2. My delegation associates itself with the statement of the Non-Aligned States Parties to the NPT delivered by H.E. Mr. Javad Zarif, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and the statement of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) delivered by the distinguished Permanent Representative of Myanmar.

Madam President,

3. Forty-five years since the entry into force of the NPT, many are of the view that the so-called "grand bargain" has yet to be fulfilled. With the 2010 Action Plan came hope. But now there are only few of the consensually agreed 64 actions have been fully implemented. Humankind is still faced with the risk of nuclear catastrophe.

4. Against this backdrop, it is all the more important that we should reiterate the significance of and our own commitment to the continued implementation of the NPT. The Treaty remains the cornerstone of the global regime for nuclear issues. The three pillars of the regime, namely nuclear disarmament, nuclear non-proliferation, and peaceful use of nuclear energy, should be implemented in a balanced manner.

5. First, on nuclear disarmament. The realization of the initiative on the commencement of negotiations of a comprehensive convention on nuclear weapons would represent a strong signal of our firm commitment to nuclear disarmament. Synergy between this initiative and the discourse on humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons should be explored. The conclusion of legally binding negative

security assurances and the commencement of fissile material treaty should also be advanced.

Pending a comprehensive outcome, the entry into force of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty should be a priority. We call on states whose ratifications are critical for its entry into force to do so as soon as possible.

6. Second, Viet Nam is committed to international efforts for nuclear non-proliferation. In this regard, we reiterate the importance of nuclear-weapons-free zones in the global regime for nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation. Viet Nam welcomes the establishment and consolidation of such zones in African, Central Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, Southeast Asia, South Pacific and Mongolia's nuclear-free status. We share the view that considers an early convening of an international conference on the establishment of the Middle East Zone free of nuclear weapons and other types of weapons of mass destruction a crucial building block for the credibility of the NPT in immediate term.

Viet Nam is working closely with other ASEAN Member States to further strengthen the Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapons Free Zone for the maintenance of international and regional peace and security. We look forward to further consultations between ASEAN and the nuclear weapons states (NWS) with a view to the signing as soon as possible by the NWS of the Protocol of the Bangkok Treaty.

7. Third, Viet Nam reiterates the right of states to use of nuclear technologies for peaceful purposes. It is necessary to ensure the right of states, especially developing states, to access to nuclear technology and material, in accordance with relevant obligations and standards. We appreciate the role of the International Atomic Energy Agency in ensuring nuclear safety and security, as well as in providing technical assistance to developing states. We welcome efforts to strengthen the capacity and resources of the IAEA for the Agency to fulfil its entrusted mandate.

In this regard, we welcome the recent agreement on the nuclear program of Iran. We look forward to the successful conclusion of the upcoming negotiations for a comprehensive plan of action among related parties.

Madam President,

8. The last five-year cycle marks a qualitative improvement in Viet Nam participation in nuclear issues. We have studied carefully and acceded to a number of international instruments in this field, including the ratification of the Additional Protocol to the Safeguards Agreement, the accession to the Convention on Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (CPPNM) and the ratification of its Amendment, and participation in the Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and the Safety of Radioactive Source Management. Viet Nam has strengthened its legal and regulatory framework for nuclear safety and security.

We have also stepped up our cooperation with a number of international partners on the development of nuclear infrastructure in Viet Nam. We successfully implemented core conversion from high enriched uranium to low enriched uranium fuel at Da Lat Research Reactor in 2011 and had all spent high enriched uranium fuels repatriated to the Russian Federation in July 2013.

Viet Nam has been actively participating in international efforts for nuclear safety and security. We are an active member in the Nuclear Security Summit process. Viet Nam joined the Proliferation Security Initiative. Just last year, Viet Nam successfully fulfilled its responsibilities as Chair of the Board of Governors of the IAEA for the term 2013-2014.

Madam President,

9. The 2010 Action Plan has been a major achievement in 45 years of implementation of the NPT. We are of the view that the outcome document of the 2015 Conference should build upon this Action Plan, with additions on long-awaited issues as well as emerging issues of the day. With political will and sufficient flexibility, we could arrive at a comprehensive, balanced outcome that would provide a roadmap for our collective efforts in the next 5 years.

In conclusion, *Madam President*, let me reiterate that we stand ready to work closely with you and colleagues with a view to achieving an outcome acceptable to all.

I thank you, Madam President./.