

# SAMOA



STATEMENT BY

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TO THE UNITED NATIONS

**GENERAL DEBATE**

2015 REVIEW CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE  
TREATY ON THE NON-PROLIFERATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS

New York, 29 April 2015

*(PLEASE CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY)*

Mr President,  
Excellencies,  
Delegates,  
Ladies and Gentlemen.

I wish to convey Samoa's sincerest condolences and sympathies to the Government and people of Nepal for the loss of life and devastation caused by the earthquake a few days ago. We know all too well from real-life experiences the terrible impacts natural disasters have on our people and society. Our prayers and thoughts go out to all those affected by the devastating earthquake.

Mr. President,  
Let me congratulate Ambassador Taous Feroukhi of Algeria on her assumption of the important task of chairing the Review Conference and to assure her of my delegation's full cooperation.

For the next few days, we meet to take stock of progress made under the Non Proliferation Treaty, and to revive with a genuine sense of urgency efforts towards achieving nuclear disarmament, nuclear non-proliferation and the application of peaceful nuclear activities within the Safeguard framework of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

The NPT is the cornerstone of the non-proliferation regime and the foundation for realizing a world free of nuclear weapons. Towards that end, we hope that over the next few weeks, concrete decisions will be taken to implement the 64-point Action Plan that was agreed at the 2010 review Conference. We hope to clearly establish what work needs to be done to make the NPT more effective and responsive to the needs of the global community to live in peace and security.

Mr. President,  
Our Review Conference provides a unique global platform for Samoa, a Pacific Small Island developing State to advocate with full conviction on the need for the complete abolition of nuclear weapons.

Samoa is not a part of any military grouping and has no aspirations to do so. It has no military forces and its civilian police force is unarmed.

Samoa firmly believes that the only guarantee humankind has against the use, and the threat of use of nuclear weapons, is through the total elimination of nuclear weapons.

Our commitment to ensuring the viability and success of the NPT is underscored by our membership in a number of international agreements which have the abolition of weapons at its core. We are a Party to the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty and have concluded a safeguard agreement with the IAEA given its critical role in facilitating the peaceful uses of nuclear energy with verification being at the core. Samoa is taking

steps to become a state party to the IAEA Statute this year including the ratification of the Additional Protocol and modification of its Small Quantities Protocol to strengthen the overall safeguards regime of the Agency.

Mr. President,

Some Pacific island countries were sites for nuclear testing. The scars of fear and mistrust as a consequence of this experience has given our region a shared point-of-reference that has shaped our perspective on nuclear disarmament. We recall for instance the 1996 International Court of Justice advisory opinion on the use, or threat of use of nuclear weapons that my country and other Pacific islands were intimately involved in. Not surprisingly, we take note of the cases the Republic of Marshall Islands have brought to the ICJ against states possessing nuclear weapons to enforce the obligation contained in Article 6 of the NPT and in customary law to pursue negotiations in good faith ultimately leading to nuclear disarmament.

Mr. President,

Our region's vulnerability and experience has made us strong advocates for disarmament, and we are pleased to have united in our efforts to establish the South Pacific Nuclear Free Zone Treaty or 'the Rarotonga Treaty' which came into force in 1986. The establishment of the zone has played a deterrent role to try and safeguard our region against nuclear weapons and also to protect the Ocean, the Pacific's main resource from radioactive contamination caused by dumping of nuclear wastes at sea.

Samoa supports the establishment of Nuclear-weapon-free zones in all regions as a tangible reaffirmation of commitments by States to enhance global and regional peace and security. We welcome therefore the announcement made by Secretary of State Kerry on Monday of the intention of the United States Government to ratify the Protocol to the Central Asia Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty.

Mr President,

The physical and emotional scars on the people affected by the nuclear tests carried out in the Pacific last century will not cease or go-away with time. It is etched in people's memories and will live on forever. It is one of the motivating factors and main reason why I are addressing you today in the hope that reason and common sense will prevail so that we can all work together with a sense of purpose and urgency towards complete disarmament and a world free of nuclear weapons.

To this end, we welcome the outcomes of the Conferences held in Oslo, Nayarit and Vienna on the Humanitarian Impacts of Nuclear Weapons for bringing back to the core of our deliberations on nuclear disarmament the humanitarian perspective. This has allowed us to give a "human face" to our discussion, something that was missing over the years. The factual material and testimonies presented during these meetings only confirmed the multi-sectoral consequences of nuclear weapons reconfirming yet again the near-impossible challenges faced by Small Island Developing States to effectively

protect themselves from the effects of nuclear weapons.

To underscore this point by working in partnership with like-minded countries, we were amongst the more than one hundred and fifty countries that subscribed to the statement delivered by Austria's Minister of Foreign Affairs about the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons. We will formally endorse the Austrian Pledge in due course.

Mr. President,

Let me conclude by adding Samoa's voice to the near-unanimous call made by previous speakers on the need for a comprehensive treaty on the abolition of nuclear tests to rid the world of the scourge of these weapons of mass destruction. We further call on States who have not yet done so ratify the CTBT, particularly those States whose ratification is needed for the treaty's entry into force.

I thank you.