PHILIPPINES

Statement

by

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at

the Thematic Debate on Nuclear Weapons
of the
First Committee

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Mr. Chairman,

The absence of nuclear weapons is *ipso facto* the only guarantee against its use or threat of use. The international community must be resolute to rid the world of nuclear weapons because a global norm or an agreed objective for its total elimination already exists. Our global leaders already spoke. The various joint declarations of our leaders, their individual statements delivered in international forums or before global audiences, the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) itself, the outcome of the 2000 NPT Review Conference in the so-called 13 Practical Steps, and the Final Document of the recently concluded 2010 NPT Review Conference, all taken together, made it amply and unequivocally clear the agreement of achieving a world without nuclear weapons.

The task before us then is simply to implement, with stronger sense of urgency, concrete and practical steps that will bring us to that world free of such inhumane arsenals.

Mr. Chairman,

We urge the Nuclear Weapon States (NWS) to now convert their commitments into action. Among these commitments are in Actions 3, 5, and 21 of the "Conclusions and recommendations for follow-on action" of the Final Document of the 2010 NPT Review Conference.

Action 3 says that: "In implementing the unequivocal undertaking by the nuclear-weapon States to accomplish the total elimination of their nuclear arsenals, the nuclear-weapons States commit to undertake further efforts to reduce and ultimately eliminate all types of nuclear weapons, deployed and non-deployed, including through unilateral, bilateral, regional and multilateral measures".

Action 5 highlights the NWS' commitment to "accelerate concrete progress" leading to nuclear disarmament as specified in the 13 Practical Steps of the 2000 Review Conference. Among others, it also called upon the NWS to reduce the stockpiles of all types of nuclear weapons, regardless of type or location, and diminish further the role and significance of nuclear weapons in all military and security concepts, doctrines and policies.

Action 21 encourages the NWS to agree on a standard form of reporting to determine appropriate reporting intervals. Furthermore, the Secretary-General of the United Nations is invited to establish a publicly accessible repository, which shall include the information provided by the NWS. The Philippines is looking forward to the NWS undertaking these actions as well as the Secretary-General setting up the repository so that States will know and see the progress being made towards the objective of totally eliminating nuclear arms.
Mr. Chairman,

The NPT is the cornerstone of the nuclear non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament regime. In this regard, we urge the few countries that have remained outside the NPT to pay heed to the call for the universal application of the Treaty.

States must now also seriously consider the negotiation of a Nuclear Weapons Convention. Such a convention has been included in the Secretary-General's 5-point action plan and referred to in the 64-point action plan of the Final Document of the 2010 NPT Review Conference.

Mr. Chairman,

The Philippines strongly supports the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty and would like to see the treaty enter into force as soon as possible. In this regard, the Philippines urges the remaining 9 Annex 2 States to ratify the treaty with dispatch. The Philippines likewise enjoins non-Annex 2 States that have yet to ratify the treaty to do so as soon as possible.

As a contribution to nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation, the Philippines stresses the importance of nuclear weapon free zones and hopes that the NWS will adhere to the respective protocols of these zones, especially that of the Bangkok Treaty. The Philippines also puts a premium on the establishment of a NWFZ in the Middle East and emphasizes the importance of having a successful conference in 2012. To this end the Philippines urges the co-sponsors of the 1995 Middle East Resolution and the Secretary-General to undertake the necessary actions to appoint the facilitator that will be acceptable to all States in the region and to designate a host government for the 2012 Conference.

The Philippines joins the recent general debate of the First Committee that the use of nuclear weapons, clearly the most inhumane weapons ever invented, is an inhumane act contrary to international humanitarian law. My delegation wishes to refer to the 64-point Action Plan of the Final Document of the 2010 NPT RevCon that expresses a deep concern at the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of any use of nuclear weapons and reaffirms the need for all States at all times to comply with applicable international law, including international humanitarian law.

Mr. Chairman,

The Philippines also questions the concept of deterrence; first and foremost, nuclear weapons should be outlawed.

Thank you.