SECOND SESSION OF THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE

2015 REVIEW CONFERENCE

NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY

(Geneva, April 22 - May 3, 2013)

STATEMENT OF PERU

AMBASSADOR ENRIQUE ROMAN-MOREY
Mr. President,

Allow me to begin by expressing you our sincere congratulations, in behalf of my delegation and myself, for your election as president of the Second Session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2015 Review Conference of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. You can count on the full support of my delegation, as well as my own to jointly reach a positive outcome in this important event. My special congratulations also go to the Ambassador Peter Woolcott, first President of the Preparatory Committee for the NPT Review Conference, for his substantial and dedicated work.

My delegation aligns itself with the statement made by Iran on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement. Additionally, I would like to reach some considerations in national capacity.

Mr. President,

This session of the Preparatory Committee is held in an international context marked by a series of tensions in several regions of the world, some of which have even shown us the dreaded possibility of an international armed conflict outcome. Unfortunately, despite the ill-fated experiences in the history of mankind, the threat of war is still latent. As long as this threat, and even more so as nuclear weapons exist in the world, there is always the risk that humanity may again have to suffer devastating consequences.

That is why, Mr. President, full and effective implementation of the NPT in a consistent and balanced manner is today more than ever a priority and an essential task.

Mr. President,

Nuclear disarmament is a common goal. Or at least we like to think it should be so. The responsibility for achieving this objective surely relies primarily in those States that possess nuclear weapons.

While we welcome the efforts of the nuclear-weapon States to move towards that goal, the Delegation of Peru makes a strong and respectful call for such efforts to multiply and to be translated into concrete and verifiable facts in order to advance towards the final goal of a world free of nuclear weapons.

An important element that should undoubtedly contribute to our goal certainly has to do with the approach that States Parties to the NPT must have towards those countries that are currently outside of it. Definitely, the universality of the Treaty will advance steadily in the pursuit of a common goal.

Mr. President,

Peru reiterates its call for universal adhesion to the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, and calls upon those States that have not ratified it to do so promptly, especially those listed in Annex
2 of the Treaty, whose ratification is necessary for its full enforcement. Peru reaffirms the need that, pending the enforcement of the Treaty, all States refrain from nuclear testing.

Mr. President,

Peru shares the concern of most countries on the NPT regulatory vacuum in the event of nuclear technology acquisition by non-state actors. We cannot forget, that the illegal acquisition of radioactive materials for dispersion with conventional explosives is a real threat.

In this regard, we support the proposals for the establishment of effective measures to enhance the safety and security of nuclear materials and facilities through the implementation and strengthening of existing international obligations including Resolution 1540 of the Security Council, the development of increasing detection capabilities and research, a greater exchange of information between States, and an effective verification mechanism.

We also consider essential to strengthen the safeguards regime of the IAEA and hope that all States adhere to the Additional Protocol model, an instrument that must be continually updated and reinforced.

Peru supports the strengthening of the IAEA, including the evolution of its regular budget for the proper planning of their activities in the medium and long term, the enhancement of its safeguards analytical laboratory and the corresponding increase in technical cooperation activities.

Mr. President,

With regard to the peaceful use of nuclear energy, pillar of great interest to my country, Peru considers essential the resources of the programme of the IAEA Technical Cooperation to be increased and reliable, predictable and adequate, to effectively help developing countries to fully exploit the potential of nuclear energy for civilian purposes.

Peru is beneficiary of the cooperation provided by the IAEA, the same that applies to the development of nuclear energy in key sectors for the economic growth process, such as the use of X-rays in large infrastructure projects, the use of irradiation for preservation and sterilization of vegetables or fruit, as well as their use for health purposes and in the fight against cancer.

Faced with the growing interest in nuclear energy development, Peru is open to consider, in the framework of the IAEA, proposals concerning safety and security of supply of nuclear fuel, including multilateral management of fuel banks under international control, with the aim to establish non-discriminatory mechanisms in accordance with the NPT.

Mr. President,

As a Member State to the Nuclear Weapons Free Zone in Latin America and the Caribbean, the first one in the world, Peru considers necessary to advance in the adoption of concrete measures
to strengthen the process of consultation and cooperation between the various Nuclear Weapons Free Zones (NWFZ), which would be a valuable contribution to the NPT regime.

We deeply regret that it was not possible to convene the Conference in 2012 for the establishment of a Nuclear Weapons Free Zone in the Middle East as it was decided and mandated in the final document of the 2010 Review Conference. In this regard, we believe that the truncated mandate must be completed as soon as possible in order to take that first step, within the many to be taken, in order to progress towards the goal of establishing a Nuclear and Other Weapons of Mass Destruction Free Zone in the Middle East.

Mr. President,

Peru, by tradition and action, has shown that it respects international treaties and international law. In this regard, we understand that the right of every State to withdraw from a treaty and its consequences is clearly governed by international law, particularly in the 1969 Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties.

However, certain international behaviors concern us, such as the fact that countries that have developed nuclear technology under the right to peaceful use of such energy, are seeking to withdraw from the NPT after ignoring their commitments to non-proliferation and disarmament. In that regard, we welcome every constructive proposal that, within the strict framework of respect of international law, addresses this sensitive issue.

Mr. President,

The issues presented by the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) refer to subjects of global implications, that impact the security of all States of the international community, understood from multiple perspectives (environment, terrorism, prevention and management of accidents, transport and treatment of nuclear waste and radioactive materials, between others). That is why the progress we achieve in this world forum will also have world repercussions. That is why, Peru reaffirms its strong commitment to this important process.

I cannot conclude my intervention without profoundly thanking on behalf of my Government and, especially, of myself, for the honorable and delicate role entrusted to me by this august assembly by appointing me president of the third session of the Preparatory Committee to be held in New York by 2014. Peru assumes this important role as a recognition for its steady and reiterated commitment to disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation.

As for me, I bring with me a wealth of experience in disarmament issues which I shall allow myself to share with the Assembly. I have the great honor to have served as Secretary General of the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (OPANAL) in two consecutive periods. Afterwards, during six years I served as Secretary General of the Conference on Disarmament and Director of the Geneva Office of the United Nations Department for Disarmament Affairs. Subsequently, the international community honored me as President of the Disarmament Commission of the United Nations at its substantive session of 2012. Between
other activities related to disarmament, I have been Executive Secretary of four sessions of the Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of Anti-Personnel Mines. All this experience I will overturn to this new assignment given to me.

Once my term starts, and sustained in, I am sure, successful results of this Second Preparatory Session, I will embark on a series of consultations with the Member States of the NPT of various regions, in order to find the common grounds between the different interests that combine in this important forum. You can count on my personal dedication and experience to achieve our common goals.

Mr. President,

Finally, I am confident that at the end of these two weeks in Geneva I will receive from you a post full of important substantive progress. Your recognized professional and diplomatic quality, together with a renewed political will of States Parties to the NPT portend a major breakthrough in the face of the appointment 2015. You may count on the decisive support of my delegation for the success of this second session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2015 Review Conference of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

Thank you very much.