Statement by
H.E. Anthony Andanje
Ambassador/Deputy Permanent Representative
of the Republic of Kenya
At the
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Annual Meeting of State Parties
(Geneva, 22nd April, - 3rd May, 2013)

Geneva, 23rd April, 2013
Mr. Chairman,
I congratulate you on assumption of your duties as Chair of this Session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2015 Review Conference of the State Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT). I assure you of my delegations support.

Kenya aligns itself with the Statement delivered by the distinguished representative of Iran on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

We welcome and give our full support to the Joint Statement by South Africa on the humanitarian consequences of the use of nuclear weapons on behalf of 51 State Parties to the NPT. I will touch on this issue a little later.

Mr. Chairman,
Kenya believes this PrepCom provides us with the opportunity to review commitments, assess progress in the implementation of the NPT Action Plan and decide on the next steps we must take ahead of the 2010 Review Conference. We attach great importance to NPT review meetings. However, we are convinced that if State Parties could honour their responsibilities and obligations, it is only then that we could attain our collective objective of a world free of nuclear weapons.

Unfortunately, this has not been the case. The confidence some have expressed is at variance with reality. The implementation of the Action Plan’s three pillars: nuclear disarmament; nuclear non-proliferation; and the peaceful uses of nuclear energy has yielded very few tangible results.

As regards the first pillar, multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations in the Conference on Disarmament (CD) remains deadlocked. It is a source of frustration and great disappointment. Our efforts to advance the elimination of nuclear weapons seem too distant. Based on passed experience, Kenya does not share the optimism and expectations expressed regarding the high-level event on nuclear disarmament to be held in September, in New York.

We believe a lot more commitment to nuclear disarmament is required rather than statements of political support. The stalemate in the CD can be addressed if we are prepared to look at its external environment, key policy priorities, perceived conflicting interests of States and domestic political considerations.

The situation is further compounded by legitimization of nuclear weapons, their incorporation in national defence strategies and in military alliances, escalation in the development of a new generation of nuclear weapons and delivery systems, in the nuclear weapon states. It is our conviction the threat of nuclear weapons use is counterproductive. It provides a very strong incentive for proliferation.

Mr. Chairman,
Kenya urges the nuclear weapon states to address issues relating to the implementation of their NPT Article VI commitments. We firmly believe in the importance of the universality of the NPT and appeal to India, Pakistan, the Democratic Peoples Republic of Korea and Israel to join the Treaty.
Mr. Chairman,

As I mentioned earlier, Kenya welcomes the outcome of the Conference on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons hosted by Norway on the 4th and 5th March, 2013. It was indeed a significant event. The high number of countries that took part on the evidence based discussions on these effects highlights the interests and concerns of the wider international community. It reinforces our view that nations serious enough about the elimination of nuclear weapons need to start negotiations now on a treaty to ban them.

We believe the initiative can be pivotal in the delegitimization of nuclear weapons in the minds of people. Nuclear deterrence really is: threatening mass extermination. The impact of use of nuclear weapons or an accident at a nuclear weapons facility would be catastrophic. Their use would violate Resolutions of the UN General Assembly that have repeatedly condemned their use as an international crime.

Needless to state, the debate on humanitarian concerns can contribute to meaningful nuclear disarmament and proliferation measures as well as to the implementation of the NPT Action Plan.

Mr. Chairman,

Kenya reaffirms its commitment to peaceful uses of nuclear energy. We recognize the contribution that nuclear energy can bring to the consolidation of peace and sustainable development in Kenya as well as many other developing countries. In Africa, the peaceful use of nuclear energy, especially in the field of human and animal health, agriculture, water resources, and the production of electricity would be immensely beneficial. We believe every State Party has an inalienable right to the free access to nuclear energy and technology for peaceful purposes and sustainable development in accordance with Article IV of NPT.

Kenya highly values the Treaty of Pelindaba. We believe the treaty provides a useful framework for African Member States who may opt to develop nuclear energy for their sustainable development to do so in a responsible manner. In this context, we urge the international community to redouble its efforts to convene a conference on the establishment of a nuclear free zone in the Middle East.

My delegation believes the IAEA Technical Cooperation programme can play a significant role in facilitating access to nuclear power and providing effective technical cooperation to State Parties, especially developing countries. However, unless the Technical Cooperation Fund is reviewed to ensure predictable resources, its assistance will fall short.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, it is clear there is still a lot of work that has to be done to implement the NPT Action Plan by 2015, it will require greater effort and commitment by State Parties to make progress in our quest to rid the world of nuclear weapons.

Thank you for your attention.