Final STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF GHANA AT THE 2ND PREPARATORY COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE 2015 REVIEW CONFERENCE OF THE NPT, GENEVA FROM 22 APRIL TO 3 MAY, 2013

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

The delegation of Ghana conveys its commendation to you for your successful election to chair the 2nd PrepCom and we are hopeful of a forward looking outcome. Mr. Chair, Ghana aligns itself with the statement delivered by the Islamic Republic of Iran on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

Ghana joined this Treaty in July 1968 believing in the possibility of achieving its noble objectives within the shortest possible time. Unfortunately, it appears that we are still far from realizing the objectives of nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation which are two of the cardinal objectives of the Treaty. The goal of establishing a Middle East Nuclear weapon Free Zone as agreed upon in 1995, is equally encountering some challenges. Mr Chair, these three afore-mentioned drawbacks are of concern to all State parties including Ghana and we wish that they can be mutually addressed in the common interest of humanity.

The above notwithstanding, we are delighted to note that the promotion of peaceful uses of nuclear technology have progressed to a large extent backed by the effective role being played by the IAEA. As you may be aware, Mr. Chair, Ghana operates a research reactor which has contributed enormously to the creation and enhancement of our human and material capacity for irradiation needs. The Ghana National Nuclear Research Institute has actually trained and continues to train nuclear experts at the graduate level not only for the country but also for sub-Saharan Africa, with the support of the Agency.

Amongst the many areas of benefits include the adaptive use of nuclear technology for disease diagnosis in medicine and irradiation techniques for agro and other products
that have been very supportive to the country's drive on poverty eradication and disease control. Ghana has also benefitted from various Technical Cooperation programmes with the support of the Agency and other State parties with advanced capacities in this field. At the last General Conference of the IAEA, Ghana announced, for the first time, her intention to construct and operate a nuclear power station to address her growing energy needs in the future. Mr. Chair, Ghana has signed and ratified all the nuclear security and safety protocols and implements them with the support of the IAEA.

We take note of the progress made to reduce nuclear armaments by the nuclear power states especially between the two parties to the START Treaty. However, we wish to urge that these arrangements be brought under internationally accepted transparent and accountable mechanisms to serve as a confidence building measure. Ghana also wishes to see this arrangement widened to cover both nuclear power nuclear possessing States.

Ghana urges all State parties and States not parties to endeavour to adhere to the spirit and letter of the Treaty to ensure its sustainability. In agreement with the conclusion of the Oslo Conference on the Humanitarian impact of Nuclear Weapons, we wish to remind all states that NONE is safe from a nuclear weapon accident should it occur. In that regard, we entreat the non-nuclear power states not to pursue nuclear weapon programmes but to continue to admonish the nuclear power and possessing states to turn their nuclear swords into nuclear ploughshares.

Mr. Chair, the African Nuclear Weapon Free zone continues to await the voluntary ratification of all Nuclear Power States. While we are fully aware that any deliberate or accidental use of a nuclear weapon will affect the entire world, we in Africa wish to see the complete elimination of this type of weapon from the entire continent. It is also, our sincere desire, that the outcome of this meeting can make a progressive impact on the stalled negotiating conference on the Middle East Nuclear Weapon Free Zone.

We also hope that the Conference on Disarmament will soon agree on a programme of work which should provide the opportunity to address the issue of the prevention of arms race in the outer space, and other equally important agenda items such as the
revitalization of the Conference on Disarmament including the expansion of its membership.

Finally, Mr. Chair, Ghana calls upon all signatory states to the CTBT to endeavour to ratify the Treaty as soon as possible and for non-signatory states to accede without any further delay. States which have devised other means of testing their nuclear weapon devices are also called upon to discontinue such acts in the common interest of global peace and security.

Thank you.