STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR MAZLAN MUHAMMAD
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF MALAYSIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS IN GENEVA
AT THE DEBATE UNDER CLUSTER 2 (SPECIFIC ISSUES)
of the second session of the
PREPARATORY COMMITTEE FOR THE 2015 REVIEW CONFERENCE TO THE
TREATY ON THE NON-PROLIFERATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS,
GENEVA, 29 APRIL 2013

Mr. Chairman,

Malaysia associates itself with the statement delivered by Indonesia on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

Mr. Chairman,

2. As my delegation had stated during the general debate, Malaysia regrets the postponement of the Conference on the establishment of a Middle East Zone Free of Nuclear Weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction. We are concerned that the momentum that had been painstakingly built over the years, in the full implementation of the 1995 Resolution on the Middle East, has seemingly been stalled again, due to reasons which we find difficult to accept.

3. The goal of the convening of the Middle East Conference remains frustratingly out of reach, despite the fact that it had been decided that Finland would act as the host Government, and that Mr. Jaako Laajava had been appointed as the facilitator to steer us in that direction. In this regard, we would like to thank Mr. Laajava for providing us an update on the situation today.

4. Malaysia is deeply worried with the non-existence of such a zone in the Middle East due to its highly volatile nature. This could lead to the failure of the NPT and the start of a nuclear arms race in the region, opening the way to disastrous consequences for the world.

5. It is deeply disappointing therefore, that unilateral decisions had been made to postpone the convening of the Conference, citing impediments on the current situation in the Middle East. We question whether there is basis for such decisions to be made unilaterally when the decisions of the Final Document of the 2010 Review Conference were made collectively by all States Parties to the NPT. Further postponement or failure
to convene the Conference will seriously undermine the NPT, in particular the decisions which have been agreed at the 2010 NPT Review Conference.

6. Malaysia was briefed by two of the Co-Conveners as well as the Arab States regarding their views on the situation. Although the proposal by the Conveners to start the process by having a consultation with all relevant parties prior to the Conference is reasonable, the lack of agenda, date and venue makes it difficult for Malaysia to join in support of the proposal. To take the negotiations out of the ambit of the UN is also unacceptable. Such consultation must be transparent with a hint of sincerity which Malaysia finds to be lacking. Therefore, there is no other option but to call for the convening of the Conference on the establishment of a Middle East Zone Free of Nuclear Weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction in 2013, fulfilling the decision made at the 2010 NPT Review Conference.

7. States should approach the Conference with an open mind and without prejudice on the different security concerns of others. Malaysia will continue to look forward towards the convening of the Conference this year, with the active participation of all States in the region.

8. This setback notwithstanding, Malaysia demands that Israel, as the only country in the region that has not joined the NPT, nor declared its intention to do so, renounce the development and possession of its nuclear weapons and immediately accede to the Treaty without any precondition. Israel should also place all its nuclear facilities under IAEA full-scope safeguards, and conduct all its nuclear-related activities in conformity with the non-proliferation regime. All Parties to the NPT must join us in this call.

Mr. Chairman,

9. Regarding the recent events in Northeast Asia, Malaysia strongly condemns the DPRK’s nuclear test in February which is a direct violation of previous UN Security Council resolutions. Malaysia is deeply concerned at the deteriorating security situation and increasing tension in the region, as well as the impact that will befall on all countries and people in the Korean Peninsula and in the neighboring regions if the tension is not lessened immediately. We urge all parties concerned to exercise utmost restraint and not to undertake actions that would worsen the situation in the region. Malaysia stands by its conviction that the Six-Party Talks process is the best platform available to resolve all outstanding issues amicably. Malaysia hopes that all parties concerned would remain committed to the process of the Six-Party Talks, and focus on ways to build mutual trust and confidence, as a mean to ensure peace in the region.

Thank you.