Statement of the Delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran
At the Third Session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2015 Review Conference
of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons
On Cluster III Specific Issues: Other Provisions of the Treaty
New York, 7 May 2014

In the Name of God, the Most Compassionate, the Most Merciful

Mr. Chairman,

Universal adherence to the Treaty is an urgent priority. This is what we agreed by consensus as a principle and objective at the 1995 Review and Extension Conference.

At the same Conference, we also agreed that the Review Conferences of the Treaty should address specifically what might be done to achieve the universality of the Treaty.

Likewise, through the decision on principles and objectives of that Conference, all the States parties made a commitment to make every effort to achieve the objective of universal adherence to the Treaty. This commitment was reaffirmed and renewed at the 2000 and 2010 Review Conferences in which the States parties undertook to make determined efforts towards the achievement of universality of the Treaty and refrain from any action that can negatively affect the prospects for the universality of the Treaty.

Therefore, the realization of this objective should be pursued as a matter of high priority in all Review Conferences of the Treaty until the time that this objective is achieved.

For that reason, my delegation fully supports the views that this meeting of the Preparatory Committee and the 2015 Review Conference of the Treaty should make concrete recommendations and decisions to that end.

One of the important recommendations in this regard should be the strict application of the Treaty provisions in any cooperation with the non-parties to the Treaty. Such cooperation should neither be in contradiction with the provisions of the Treaty nor with its object and purpose.
We strongly believe that any cooperation with non-parties to the NPT in contravention with its provisions is equal to rewarding them for remaining outside the Treaty. Such cooperation should be stopped immediately. Being a non-party to the Treaty should continue to remain an actual disadvantage.

The Preparatory Committee should reaffirm the commitment of all States parties to cease and prohibit completely the transfer or sharing of all nuclear related equipment, information, material, facilities, resources or devices, or the extension of scientific and technical assistance in the nuclear field to non-parties to the treaty without exception.

Mr. Chairman,

As stated by many delegates during this session of the Preparatory Committee, one of the important issues in regard to the universality of the Treaty is its urgency in the volatile region of the Middle East where the nuclear weapons and unsafeguarded nuclear activities of the only non-party to the Treaty in this region continue to threaten the security of the neighboring and other States.

Despite repeated calls made to the Israeli regime by successive Review Conferences to accede to the Treaty, not only this call remained unattended, but also this regime by rejecting to participate in the conference on the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East prevented the convening of that conference.

At the same time, the continued cooperation of some nuclear and non-nuclear-weapon States with this regime in assisting, directly and indirectly, its nuclear capabilities is a source of grave concern. Such cooperation is in contradiction with the provisions and object and purpose of the Treaty and seriously undermines the implementation of the decisions of its Review Conferences. The Preparatory Committee should urge putting an immediate end to all such cooperation.

The Preparatory Committee should urge Israel to accede, immediately and unconditionally, to the Treaty as a non-nuclear-weapon party, to place all its nuclear activities under the IAEA comprehensive safeguards, and to participate, unconditionally, in the conference on the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East.

Moreover, the conveners of the Conference should be urged to exert all efforts, in strict accordance with the 2010 plan of action, to ensure convening of the conference as soon as possible in 2014.

Likewise, the Preparatory Committee and the Review Conference should seriously consider establishing a mechanism to ensure the universality of the Treaty in the Middle East. This is extremely important as there is no prospect for the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East without the accession of Israel to the NPT.
Mr. Chairman,

Since the entry into force of the Treaty, the right to withdrawal has been exercised only once. There is therefore neither necessity nor urgency to focus on this issue. The discussions on Article X during the 2010 Review Conference also made it clear that there is no consensus on proposals for reinterpretation or limitation of the right to withdrawal.

However, it is a matter of serious concern that main priorities like universality of the NPT have been neglected or undermined by some nuclear-weapon States in favor of issues like Article X.

In our view, the Preparatory Committees has more important priorities and challenges to deal with, such as those emanating from non-implementation of the disarmament obligations, the development and modernization of the nuclear weapons and the doctrines that allow the use or threat of use of such inhumane weapons.

Like many other treaties, the Non-Proliferation Treaty has recognized the unconditional right of a State party to withdrawal in exercising its national sovereignty. This is in accordance with the international law. Article X of the Treaty has left determination of the existence of the extraordinary events completely to the discretion of the withdrawing State, leaving no room for reinterpretation.

Any proposal regarding Article X that goes beyond the provisions of the NPT and challenges the lawfulness of the right to withdrawal or is aimed at limiting or conditioning the sovereign right of States parties to withdrawal will be unacceptable for my delegation.

Any proposal that actually reinterpret any article of the Treaty is tantamount to amending the Treaty itself. Therefore, any such proposal must be dealt with in accordance with the procedures stipulated in Article VIII of the Treaty.

In conclusion, my delegation would like to stress that instead of considering unimportant issues such as withdrawal, it would be more appropriate for the Preparatory Committee to consider that how the non-parties to the Treaty can be encouraged and incentivized to accede to the Treaty as soon as possible.

I thank you Mr. Chairman.