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DURING THE FIRST SESSION OF THE PREPARATORY
COMMITTEE FOR THE 2020 CONFERENCE OF THE
PARTIES TO THE TREATY ON THE NON-PROLIFERATION
OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS, VIENNA, 2-12 MAY 2017

Mr. Chairman,

I wish to congratulate you on your assumption of Chairmanship of the first session of the Preparatory Committee of the 2020 Conference of the Parties to NPT. Let me assure you that my delegation stands ready to engage constructively with you and other State Parties in order to fulfil our common resolve to completely ban nuclear weapons. My delegation aligns itself to the Statement made by Venezuela on behalf of NAM

Mr. Chairman,

The Government of the United Republic of Tanzania would like to reaffirm the utmost importance it attaches to the principles and objectives of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), which seeks to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons technology, foster the peaceful use of nuclear energy and further the goal of general and complete disarmament.

Mr. Chairman,

The primary objective of this session is to deliberate on important matters and issues of importance to the Treaty and
to identify actions necessary to further strengthen the regime. My delegation considers that the session is very relevant in addressing the challenges posed against the implementation of the provisions of the Treaty as we commemorate 50 years anniversary since the Treaty entered into force.

Mr. Chairman,

While marking 50 years anniversary, we believe that total elimination of nuclear weapons and non-proliferation of nuclear weapons remains crucial and important element to the maintenance of peace and security around the world. We seize this occasion to urge those countries still outside the NPT regime to urgently consider joining by means of putting their signatures and ratifications.

Mr. Chairman,

As we embark on the 2020 review conference, my delegation reaffirms the importance and urgency to achieve the early entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty an important component to the success of NPT regime. We particularly urge the remained countries in Annex II to adhere to international community’s call and put their signature necessary for a Treaty to become operational.

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation is concerned at the failure of the Conference of Disarmament, which has been unable for the past 20 years to
agree upon and implement a programme of work. We emphasize on the necessity of negotiations in the Conference on Disarmament on a non-discriminatory, multilateral and internationally and effectively verifiable treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices. My delegation welcomes the establishment by the United Nations Secretary General of the high level expert preparatory group mandated to examine and make recommendation pursuant to UN resolution 67/53.

Mr. Chairman,

During period under review, we welcome efforts and outcome of the negotiations between Iran and countries of P5+1, which culminated on the adoption and signing of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), which will ensure that Iran's nuclear programme will be exclusively for peaceful purposes. Tanzania would like reiterate that it fully concurs with the fact all states should have free access to nuclear technologies for peaceful purposes without obstacles or discrimination. We encourage Iran to continue engaging constructively with the Agency within framework of JCPOA in order to address all outstanding issues in connection with its nuclear programme.

Mr. Chairman,

At the review conferences in 1995, 2000 and 2010, the parties to the NPT reaffirmed their conviction that the development of
the Nuclear Weapons Free Zone (NWFZ), in the Middle East should be encouraged as a matter of priority.

There still continues to be general lack of clarity on the substance and modalities of an agreement to establish Middle East NWFZ. Tanzania is greatly convinced that the establishment of the free zone is a prerequisite and would contribute significantly towards a goal of total Nuclear weapons disarmament and bringing about meaningful peace and security in the region. We encourage the international community to continue its relentless efforts to pursue consultation with the states of the region with a view to resolve all outstanding issues.

Looking back, in 2003, the NPT experienced a major setback when the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea withdrew from the Treaty and announced its plans to develop a Nuclear Weapons Technology. Following the decision, State Parties have expressed grave concern over the DPRK’s nuclear programmes, which undermine peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula and beyond.

Tanzania continues to urge the DPRK to promptly resume its membership to the NPT and completely dismantle all of its nuclear armament programmes, including its uranium enrichment programs, in a permanent and transparent manner subject to credible international verification.
Mr. Chairman,

Nuclear Weapons do not enjoy the support of the international community because of its devastating consequences on humanity both on all form of life. My delegation continue to believe that total disarmament remain the utmost solution to the negative humanitarian impact of nuclear detonation. We urge the nuclear weapon states to take all necessary measures to full implement existing obligations under the treaty including means of reducing the operational status of existing nuclear weapons and refrain from the modernization of nuclear warheads.

Tanzania affirms its support to the United Nations Conference to negotiate a legally binding instrument to prohibit nuclear weapons, leading towards their total elimination. We welcome the progress made during the negotiations in March 2017 in New York and we look forward for a success convene of the next round of negotiations from 15 June to 7 July this year in New York.

Mr. Chairman,

We continue to recognize the importance of strengthening the verification regime through technical support. We greatly appreciate the Agency’s efforts to facilitate and mobilize international support for the effective strengthening of the peaceful uses of technology. We think that support to Member States in terms of capacity building and technical support by
the Agency is of utmost importance. We urge the Agency to continue providing necessary scientific and technical support particularly to developing, particularly in such fields as human health, agriculture, food, sanitary and water resources that play a key role and bring about significant benefits to the whole world.

One good example is the Programme of Action for Cancer Therapy (PACT) created within the IAEA in 2004 to build upon the Agency’s experience in radiation medicine and technology. The assistance provided by the IAEA through its technical cooperation programme has enabled many countries to establish safe and effective radiotherapy capabilities and to provide higher quality treatment to at least a portion of cancer patients.

Moving forward; continued meaningful cooperation and support by all stakeholders to achieve universality of the treaty remains crucial.

In conclusion, **Mr. Chairman**, we look forward to fruitful preparatory session.

I thank you,