CARICOM COMMENTS ON MAIN COMMITTEE I - DRAFT CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have the honour to speak on behalf of the 14 Member States of the Caribbean Community.

CARICOM commends you, as well as the Chair of Subsidiary Body I, for your collective efforts in producing the current draft text. We submit that the draft text before us is a balanced representation of the discourse thus far and a good basis for further discussions going forward.

We, however, wish to offer the following comments:

**Humanitarian Impact of the use of nuclear weapons**

Mr. Chairman, in its interventions in SB I, CARICOM has consistently spoken to the issue of the humanitarian impact of the use of nuclear weapons. As Small Island Developing States, CARICOM States view the prospect of a nuclear detonation, whether by design or by accident, as an existential horror that would decimate the entire region. We are deeply concerned about the humanitarian impact and long term consequences on public health, food security, social services, infrastructure, environmental assets and the psychological well-being of our citizens. We, therefore welcome, Mr. Chairman, references to the humanitarian consequences of the use of nuclear weapons in both the preambular and operative paragraphs of the draft text.

Pp21 - We are however concerned about the diluted formulation in PP21 which removes the word “catastrophic” as well as inserts the phrase “under any circumstances” in a manner that departs from the legitimate and overwhelming desire of the international community that nuclear weapons should never be used again under any circumstances. 70 years after the Hiroshima and Nagasaki Bombings and 45 years after the entry into force of the NPT, CARICOM States rejects the assertion that nuclear weapons could be used under certain circumstances. We therefore submit that the sentence should read as follows: "in that context, the Conference expresses deep concern at the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of any use of nuclear weapons, which, in the interest of the very survival of humanity, should never be used again under any circumstances".

PP27: We would wish to see re-insertion of the link to the humanitarian risk in this paragraph. Mr. Chairman, we believe that the previous paragraph (25) on risk rightly expressed concern over the growing risk and affirmed that these risks concern all humanity; we therefore call for its re-insertion.

Pp 29 - We welcome the references made to the three HINW Conferences in pp29, as well as the Austrian Pledge endorsed by CELAC Heads in January of this year. We reiterate the suggestion made by the delegate of Ecuador and current Chair of CELAC that CELAC endorsed the
Austrian Pledge at the level of Heads of State and Government and welcomes reference in the paragraph in that manner.

Op 1 – Again, we call for the re-insertion of the phrase "under any circumstances" at the end of op1.

Mr. Chairman, as we stated in our interventions in the General Debate on 28 April, in the SB1 and as echoed by the majority of NNWS we remain concerned and continue to be frustrated by the lack of meaningful progress in the implementation of disarmament commitments. Indeed, we have not seen any developments during this Review Cycle to warrant the deletion in PP8 of the word “slow” from “slow pace” of the implementation of disarmament commitments. We believe that a frank and honest reflection of the pace of implementation of these commitments must be reflected in the outcome document. We therefore call for the word “slow” to be re-inserted in the paragraph. We also wish to delete the phrase "as perceived by some States parties" in that paragraph.

Women and Disarmament

Pp 12 - CARICOM is pleased with the inclusion of reference to the role of both women and men in nuclear disarmament. In an attempt to strengthen the paragraph, we wish to propose language from General Assembly Resolution: A/69/61 (Women, Disarmament, Non-proliferation and Arms Control). The paragraph would read as follows: " The Conference emphasizes the importance of promoting the equal, full and effective participation of both women and men in the process of nuclear non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament and recognizes the need to facilitate the representation of women in policy making, planning and implementation processes for disarmament and non-proliferation".

Pp41 – CARICOM views increased engagement with civil society as important in our efforts to advance meaningful action in pursuit of our goal of a world free of nuclear weapons. We therefore pleased with the reference in pp41 to increased and positive interaction with civil society during the review cycle and within the context of the review process of the Treaty.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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May 15, 2015.