Statement by H.E. Mr. Rachmat Budiman
Head of Delegation of the Republic of Indonesia
At the Third Conference on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons
Vienna, 9 December 2014

Mr. Chairperson,

At the outset, let me express our sincere appreciation to the Government of Austria for hosting this Conference, as well as for the warm hospitality extended to us.

I will read the short version of my statement while the full version is being distributed for your perusal.

Indonesia has repeatedly expressed its strong conviction that the integration of humanitarian and disarmament imperatives will be effective in moving forward the total elimination of nuclear weapons. In our view, the humanitarian perspective must be bolstered by a paradigm-shift in terms of a strategic view of nuclear weapons’ actual role in and contribution to the maintenance of global peace.

The existence of mankind shall remain threatened for as long as nuclear weapons continue to exist. Nuclear weapon detonations have resulted in unparalleled human suffering. Such adverse impacts recognize no geographical boundaries, nor generational borders. Mindful of the devastating consequences of nuclear weapons, it is our dream to have a world free of nuclear weapons.

Mr. Chairperson,

Indonesia supports the humanitarian approach to help reformulate the debate on nuclear disarmament. Indonesia believes that this Conference, together with the previous two Conferences in Oslo and Nayarit, will serve as an impetus to catalyze the existing stagnant political processes on nuclear disarmament as follows:
First, the Conference on Disarmament and the urgency to start its substantive work on a comprehensive convention on nuclear weapons to prohibit their possession, development, production, acquisition, testing, stockpiling, transfer, use or threat of use and to provide for their destruction.

Second, the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) and the need to push for its entry into force. In this regard, Indonesia as Co-President of the Article XIV Conference, calls on the eight remaining Annex II countries to ratify the Treaty without delay.

Third, the forthcoming 2015 Nuclear Non Proliferation Treaty (NPT) Review Conference and the importance of producing an outcome document containing concrete measures to abolish nuclear weapons.

Indonesia urges that the fact based and scientific approaches of this Conference be strengthened with the formulation of scientific instruments to deconstruct the strategic role of nuclear weapons in the relevant academic fields. Indonesia further urges that the collective findings of this Vienna Conference be mainstreamed into public education and disseminated to relevant constituencies to challenge and refute pro-nuclear weapon policies.

Mr. Chairperson,

To conclude, let me recall that the international community has been successful in banning the use of other weapons, because of the belief that those weapons are, to borrow a phrase from the preambles of another WMD Convention that is already in force: “repugnant to the conscience of mankind”. Based on such precedence, there is therefore absolutely no comprehensible reason why a worse predicate cannot be attributed to nuclear weapons, and why today, such instruments of death continue to exist with impunity.

I thank you.