



MISIÓN PERMANENTE DE MÉXICO

**STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR LUIS ALFONSO DE ALBA ON
BEHALF OF THE NEW AGENDA COALITION AT THE GENERAL
DEBATE OF THE THIRD SESSION OF THE PREPARATORY
COMMITTEE OF THE 2005 NPT REVIEW CONFERENCE**

New York, April 26, 2004

Original Version: English

Mr. Chairman,

I have the honour to take the floor on behalf of the New Agenda Coalition composed by Brazil, Egypt, Ireland, New Zealand, South Africa, Sweden and Mexico. Let me begin, by congratulating you, Ambassador Sudjadnan Parnohadinigrat, for your election as Chair of the third session of the Preparatory Committee of the 2005 Review Conference of the States Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT). Let me also seize this opportunity to acknowledge the efforts carried out by your predecessors. The Members of the New Agenda are confident that your diplomatic skills and expertise will give us the appropriate guidance for a successful outcome of this session.

Since the conclusion of the second session of the Preparatory Committee, there have been developments in the international environment with adverse consequences on the maintenance of international peace and security. Those events demonstrate the urgency of advancing nuclear disarmament and the imminent need for the international community to reaffirm its complete commitment to the NPT. We remain convinced that nuclear non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament are mutually reinforcing processes that require continuous and irreversible progress on both fronts.

The challenges facing the NPT reaffirm the urgency of completing the mandate that the 2000 Review Conference gave to this session of the Preparatory Committee, that is "to make every effort to produce a consensus report containing recommendations to the Review Conference". Therefore, we expect to see not only procedural but also substantive recommendations adopted. The New Agenda does not share the views of some that this session should focus only on what are essentially housekeeping matters. The challenges we face require political commitment and should not be shied away from. To this end the New Agenda will present a working paper which contains recommendations that the Preparatory Committee might consider forwarding to the Review Conference.

The achievement of nuclear disarmament is not an option, but a legal obligation established in the NPT. Equally, the indefinite extension of the Treaty in 1995 did not equate to indefinite ownership of nuclear weapons, a point that was affirmed at the 2000 Review Conference by the "unequivocal undertaking by the nuclear-weapon States to accomplish the total elimination of their nuclear arsenals". We also recall that the steps agreed by the 2000 Review Conference in order to implement article VI, cannot be seen as alternatives *à la carte*.

Fifteen years on from the end of the Cold War we remain deeply concerned that the existing nuclear weapons still amount to many thousands. While we acknowledge the Treaty of Moscow as a positive first step, we continue to question whether it is an effective contribution to nuclear disarmament. The Treaty does not stipulate that nuclear weapons should be destroyed. It also lacks transparency and verification measures, and the many thousands of non-strategic nuclear weapons that exist have not been incorporated into its scope.

Whatever positive steps have been taken, any plans or intentions, including the allocation of resources for studies, by the nuclear-weapon States to develop new types of weapons or rationalizations for their use, contradict the spirit of the NPT and go against the agreement reached at the 2000 Review Conference for a diminishing role for nuclear weapons in security policies. Compliance with the NPT regime cannot be fulfilled as long as these approaches guide new security policies and doctrines.

These approaches to modernize nuclear weapons raise concern that nuclear testing might be resumed. Any moves by the nuclear-weapon States towards the resumption of nuclear testing would be a retrograde step for international peace and security. We call for the upholding and maintenance of the moratorium on nuclear weapon-test explosions, or any other nuclear explosions, pending the entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty and reaffirm our attachment to the Treaty and its early entry into force.

The issue of non-strategic nuclear weapons has been so far neglected in disarmament agreements. The New Agenda considers that the reduction and elimination of non-strategic nuclear weapons in a transparent, verifiable and irreversible manner constitutes an essential element in the framework of a complete nuclear disarmament process.

We welcome the positive moves last summer by China and the Russian Federation to allow the Conference on Disarmament (CD) to adopt its Programme of Work, and call for similar moves by those States that have not yet done so and that bear a special responsibility to state their position, so that the CD is able to resume its substantive work. We call for an agreement

in the CD on the establishment of a subsidiary body to deal with nuclear disarmament and the resumption of negotiations banning the production of fissile material which should consider both nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation objectives.

The NPT placed special obligations on the nuclear-weapons States to carry out the dismantlement of their nuclear armouries. The New Agenda has always been realistic that the process of nuclear disarmament would take time. However, 34 years after the entry into force of the Treaty and despite certain measures taken there has still not been a meaningful commitment by the nuclear-weapon States towards fulfilling their obligations under article VI. This calls into question the leadership of the nuclear-weapon States. Selective compliance with the Treaty undermines the NPT regime as a whole. We therefore call on the nuclear-weapon States to demonstrate leadership and not to merely pay lip service to their obligations under article VI.

We attach great importance to the issue of reporting as a step towards increasing accountability and transparency with regard to the nuclear weapon arsenals and the implementation of disarmament measures. The submission of reports is one means for building trust and confidence and showing respect for the NPT.

During our statement under special time on nuclear disarmament we will further elaborate on the practical steps.

We remain convinced that the only way to address future challenges lies in the universal adherence and the full compliance by all States Parties with all articles of the NPT, and with the strengthening of the nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament regime including its verification system.

While there have been some positive developments, the situations in the Middle East and Asia continue to cause great concern. In this context, we recall the resolution on the Middle East as an integral part of the 1995 NPT Review and Extension Conference outcome and renew our support for the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction. We note that all States of the region with the exception of Israel are States Parties to the NPT and call upon Israel to accede to the Treaty promptly and without conditions and to place all of its nuclear facilities under comprehensive International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) safeguards.

The New Agenda welcomes Iran's signing of the Additional Protocol and we urge it to promptly complete the process of ratification, and call upon it to resolve the outstanding questions regarding its nuclear programme.

We also welcome Libya's voluntary decision to abandon its programmes for developing weapons of mass destruction and cooperate fully with the IAEA and other relevant international organizations. While recognizing this as a step forward, we remain concerned at the development of such programmes.

We stress the importance of reversing the announcement by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea of its intention to withdraw from the NPT and call on it to return to full compliance with the Treaty. In this connection, we support all diplomatic efforts for an early resolution of the situation and for the establishment of a nuclear weapons free Korean peninsula.

We call upon India and Pakistan to accede to the Treaty promptly and without conditions and to place all their nuclear facilities under comprehensive IAEA safeguards.

The New Agenda reaffirms that the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones enhances global and regional peace and security, strengthens the nuclear non-proliferation regime and contributes towards the objective of nuclear disarmament. In this context, we urge all concerned States to complete the necessary signatures and ratifications for the entry into force of the Treaties establishing nuclear-weapon-free zones and their Protocols without conditions. We also call for the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zones in Central Asia, South Asia and in the Middle East.

Tackling the issue of Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) is of the utmost importance. The New Agenda firmly believes that in order to address this issue effectively, States not only need to deal with the challenges of proliferation but also to strengthen the resolve to achieve disarmament, including nuclear disarmament. The only guarantee against the use of any weapon of mass destruction anywhere, including nuclear weapons, is their complete elimination and the assurance that they will never be produced again.

We recognize the risks that WMD might fall into the hands of terrorists. However, no serious effort to tackle this threat should leave aside the importance of disarmament in the field of maintaining international peace and security. We are convinced that, the continued possession of nuclear weapons exacerbates the possibility that these weapons might fall into the hands of terrorists. In a world of increasing interdependence, no one State can resolve these problems on its own, therefore we must all work together.

We reaffirm that every effort should be made to implement the Treaty in all its aspects and to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons and other nuclear explosive devices, without hampering the peaceful uses of nuclear energy by States Parties to the Treaty.

We call upon the nuclear-weapon States to respect fully their existing commitments with regard to security assurances pending the conclusion of multilaterally negotiated legally binding security assurances for all non-nuclear weapon States Parties; which could either be in the format of a separate agreement reached in the context of the nuclear NPT, or as a protocol to the Treaty. With a view to achieving this goal the New Agenda proposes that the 2005 Review Conference considers the establishment of a subsidiary body to consider security assurances.

As part of the effort to advance the issue of nuclear disarmament, the New Agenda proposes that the Review Conference considers the establishment of a subsidiary body that would focus on the further elaboration of the practical steps for the systematic and progressive efforts towards nuclear disarmament.

The ever increasing participation of civil society in all aspects of international life is evident. Disarmament and non-proliferation cannot and should not be the exception. We welcome the valuable contributions made by the non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to the review process, and remain convinced of the need to increase their participation in the NPT process.

In an international environment with serious challenges to peace and security, the urgency to instill a new culture and mentality about the contents of concepts and perceptions about disarmament and non-proliferation, and about the NPT is self-evident. Therefore, it is compelling that education for disarmament be given special attention.