

# PHILIPPINES

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*Statement delivered at the  
General Debate of the First Committee  
of the General Assembly at its Sixtieth Session,  
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Mr. Chairman,

The Philippines joins other delegations in congratulating you and the members of your Bureau for your well-deserved election. The Philippines pays heed to your appeal for the First Committee to conduct its business with an eye to a positive and constructive outcome. In this regard, you can count on the Philippine delegation's cooperation.

The Philippines has noted the lamentations of a number of delegations that the 2005 World Summit Outcome failed to include a section on disarmament and non-proliferation.

Their ventilation of disappointment should not, however, be construed as absence of mandate or diminished mandate for the General Assembly through its First Committee to discuss disarmament issues.

It must be borne in mind that the 2005 World Summit was convened to review the implementation of the goals contained in the 2000 Millennium Declaration. If the world leaders did not include a section on disarmament in their summit outcome last month, this act of omission does not in any way cancel out their own disarmament goals contained in their 2000 Millennium Declaration.

Let me cite the five disarmament goals contained in the 2000 Millennium Declaration, which remain valid today that should continue

to help guide our work during the current session. The world leaders resolved:

1. "To ensure the implementation, by State Parties, of treaties in such areas as arms control and disarmament..."
2. "To take concerted action against international terrorism and to accede as soon as possible to all relevant international conventions."
3. "To strive for the elimination of weapons of mass destruction, particularly nuclear weapons..."
4. "To take concerted action to end illicit traffic in small arms and light weapons..."
5. "To call on all States to consider acceding to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction..."

These five goals do not exclude other options to advance disarmament because the world leaders stated in the chapeau of the Millennium Declaration's section on Peace, Security and Disarmament - "We will spare no effort to free our peoples from the scourge of war, whether within or between States, which has claimed more than 5 million lives in the past decade."

In light of this understanding, my delegation is in full accord with the views expressed by the President of the General Assembly who wrote to all delegations on 30 September: "The [World Summit] Document should not set a limit on our ambitions; rather it should be a beachhead from which we launch ourselves forward. There are some areas, which the Document does not address in detail where many would - rightly - like to see progress during the 60<sup>th</sup> session. One such area is disarmament and non-proliferation, on which I would encourage new and creative thinking in all appropriate fora."

Speaking of launching ourselves forward through new and creative thinking, the Philippines supports a new course in multilateral arms control diplomacy, spearheaded by Norway and six other countries from different regions of the world. Although this new initiative was not reflected in the World Summit Outcome, it nevertheless responds to the call of the world leaders in their 2000 Millennium Declaration disarmament goals. We have to consider this Norwegian initiative because of the promise it holds in advancing our collective effort to carve

out a more peaceful and secure world that would be free from the scourge of wars, conflicts and terrorism.

The failures of the NPT Review Conference, the Conference on Disarmament and the UN Disarmament Commission to generate substantive results in their previous sessions is a reality we have to face. Instead, we should convert them as stepping stones leading to positive outcomes in their next rounds of activities. We should not relent in our resolve to achieve constructive results, for no man-made challenges are insurmountable.

We should draw inspiration from the progress we have achieved in the other fields of disarmament and in the promotion of peace and security, notably: (a) the adoption of the International Convention on the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism and the amended Protocol of Physical Protection of Nuclear Material, (b) the growing number of countries concluding IAEA Additional Protocol, (c) the conclusion of negotiations on an international instrument on the marking and tracing of small arms and light weapons, (d) the increasing support for the new protocol on Explosive Remnants of War to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons, (e) the Mine Ban Treaty, (f) the Strategic Offensive Reduction Treaty, (g) and the increasing number of countries that either signed or ratified the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty and the Hague Code of Conduct against Ballistic Missile Proliferation.

A salient consensus reflected in the World Summit Outcome deals with the inter-relatedness of development, peace and human rights. In the same vein, the inter-relationship of disarmament and development deserves particular attention because of the increasing resources poured to military expenditures despite the prevalence of poverty the world-over. Financing for development can also be sourced from cuts in military expenditures. This cut-back can facilitate the efforts of developed countries reach the target of 0.7 percent of GNP for ODA purposes.

Mr. Chairman, the Philippines associates itself with the statements of the ambassadors of Indonesia who spoke on behalf of the member countries of the Non-Aligned Movement and of Myanmar on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

On the ASEAN statement, my delegation wishes to invite attention again to the decision of the Ministerial Meeting of the ASEAN Regional Forum welcoming the initiatives of the Philippines and Indonesia in promoting interfaith dialogue to enhance mutual trust and understanding of peoples for a durable peace and security.

Thank you.