

7. One of the best and most practical methods to deal with the issue of NSA would be through nuclear weapons-free-zones treaty. In this regard, while noting that security assurances have been provided by the nuclear weapons states to all states parties to the Treaties of Tlatelolco and of Rarotonga through their respective protocols, my delegation remains deeply concerned that not all nuclear weapons states have either signed or ratified the Protocols to the Treaty of Bangkok. My delegation also calls for all nuclear weapons states to support the establishment of a nuclear weapons free zone in the Middle East.

8. Another inconsistency is the growing emphasis on strengthening non-proliferation regimes, particularly through the Security Council, while progress in achieving nuclear disarmament remains elusive, which is disheartening. Pertaining to the action by the Security Council, my delegation would highlight that it should not undermine the UN Charter and existing multilateral treaties on weapons of mass destruction and the international organizations established in this regard, as well as the role of the General Assembly.

9. The only way to ensure the maintenance of international peace and security including the threat that nuclear weapons could fall into terrorist hands, is through the complete elimination of nuclear weapons. In this regard, my delegation, as it did recently at the Conference of Disarmament, underlines the need for the CD to commence in the near future multilateral negotiations on a nuclear weapons convention or instrument.

10. The renowned Blix Commission on Weapons of Mass Destruction in its report last year concluded that "a nuclear disarmament treaty is achievable and can be reached through careful, sensible, and practical measures. Benchmark should be set, definitions agreed, timetable drawn up and agreed upon, and transparency requirements agreed. Disarmament work should be set in motion". My delegation strongly agrees with the Blix Commission that it is time to move from the current stalemate and revive discussions and the work on nuclear disarmament.

11. While the primary role of the UNDC is to deliberate on specific disarmament issues, and not to deliberate on treaties, consensus which could be reached at the UNDC session could send a positive signal to other bodies and meetings, such as the Conference on Disarmament and the NPT PrepCom, possibly contributing to breaking the impasse obstructing the work of these disarmament machineries.

Mr. Chairman,

12. The danger posed by conventional weapons, particularly in conflict situations, is also of concern to my delegation. The number of death and injury inflicted by conventional weapons is staggering, qualifying it as "de-facto" weapons of mass destruction.

13. In this regard, confidence building measures in the field of conventional weapons which are voluntarily implemented could contribute to strengthening international as well as regional peace and security. In line with this, Malaysia has completed its stockpile destruction of anti-personnel landmines on 23 January 2001 and accordingly fulfilled its obligations under Article 4 of the Ottawa Convention.

14. My delegation considers the working paper circulated by the Chairman of Working Group 2 as a good basis for our discussion.

Thank you.



Permanent Mission of
Malaysia
to the United Nations

Please check against delivery.

Statement by Mr. Riedzal Abdul Malek
Representative of Malaysia
to the United Nations Disarmament Commission
during the General Debate on 10 April 2007

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation congratulates you for your assumption of the Chairmanship of the UN Disarmament Commission. My delegation associates itself with the statement made by Indonesia on behalf of the NAM.

2. We are all familiar with the difficulties in realizing the disarmament agenda. Speakers before me have adequately reiterated the lack of progress in other disarmament-related fora. Rather than discouraging us, this should only strengthen our resolve in reinvigorating the multilateral process through the United Nations in pursuit of the aims of complete and general disarmament, in which nuclear disarmament constitutes a primary objective.

3. In a matter of weeks, when the UNDC concludes its session, a new cycle to prepare for the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons would commence beginning in Vienna.

4. My delegation hopes that the upcoming NPT PrepCom could engage in substantive work. This is critical, considering the failure of the previous NPT Review Conference. Equally disturbing are the reports of developments of new, more sophisticated breed of nuclear weapons. This not only demonstrate the slow pace of progress, but also the reversals to achieve nuclear disarmament, which does not bode well for the future of the NPT regime.

5. This selective implementation of the NPT is appalling.

6. The lack of commitment on the part of nuclear weapons states to fulfill its obligation to pursue and bring to conclusion negotiations leading to nuclear disarmament in all its aspects under strict and effective international verification is woeful, and hardly consistent with the decision of non-nuclear weapons states which have voluntarily foresworn the nuclear weapons option. In this regard, the non-nuclear weapons states should be accorded multilateral, legally-binding and unconditional assurances against the use or threats of use of nuclear weapons by nuclear weapons states.