



MISIÓN PERMANENTE DE MÉXICO

**Statement by the Delegation of Mexico in the general debate of the Third Preparatory Committee for the Review conference of the NPT 2015
(April 28th 2014)**

Ladies and Gentlemen,

First, allow me to express my delegation's satisfaction for having a Representative of Peru, Latin American country, friend and an ally of Mexico, chairing our work. You can count on the full support of Mexico for the success of the conclusion of this session of the Preparatory Committee.

Mr. President,

We are on the final stage of the review cycle of the NPT, the cornerstone of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, and the only treaty on this type of weapons that has entered into force. The next time the parties meet will be at the Review Conference, which will mark 20 years of the indefinite extension of the NPT, 70 years since the founding of the United Nations, and in which we will commemorate the sad 70th anniversary of the attacks to Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

We must also be aware that this session of the Preparatory Committee, is taking place in a context of new regional tensions in different parts of the world that coexist with old crisis, and that a few would like to see as an opportunity to justify the existence of nuclear weapons and even argue in favor of a new era of proliferation.

Mr. President,

The Plan of Action of the 2010 Review Conference commits its parties to not adopt policies that are contrary to the NPT (Action 1). The notion that the weapons of mass destruction are the basis of international security, and that governments are infallible in creating military doctrines based on weapon of mass destruction, particularly nuclear weapons, is philosophically inconsistent with the objectives of NPT since it encourages proliferation and assumes that the threat of use of nuclear weapons is infallible, when it is contrary to the UN Charter.

The multidimensional, comprehensive and progressive nature of human security is changing paradigms, focus and priorities of decision-making processes and public policies in the contemporary international community. Therefore, a global security system,

effective, sustainable and indivisible cannot be set on the accumulation of weapons of mass destruction or the threat of its use. Nor can it be based on the sacrifice of the few for the safety of others, or that of most people in the world in favor of the interests of a handful of governments. The global security of the XXI Century must be founded by international law and the unrestricted protection of human beings.

Mr. President,

The NPT was created based on a balanced negotiating package, through which, on the one hand, the non-nuclear weapon states committed ourselves not to acquire or produce such weapons and to be verified by the international community in exchange for protection of our right to develop nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, and on the other hand, nuclear weapon States committed to eliminating them. Therefore we should not forget that this "great bargain" was originally conceived as a temporary and transitional arrangement towards a world free of nuclear weapons.

Indeed, we can congratulate ourselves that, most of the objectives of the Treaty on non-proliferation, especially on horizontal non-proliferation, and protection of the right to develop nuclear energy for peaceful uses have registered progress in their implementation. Excepting very few and specific cases, non-nuclear weapon states have complied with our obligations under the Treaty. Some non-nuclear weapon states, as Mexico, have even taken on additional voluntary commitments on non-proliferation, peaceful uses of nuclear energy and nuclear security with the purpose of contributing to a safer world, such as our adherence to the Additional Protocol or the incorporation to export control regimes.

Despite the progress in two of the pillars of the Treaty, the unequivocal undertaking by the nuclear weapon states to eliminate their nuclear weapons, a third pillar of the regime, is far from being fully accomplished. The negotiations, in good faith, on effective measures relating to cessation of the nuclear arms race, legally bound by Article VI of the Treaty, have not been held, and certainly have not occurred "at an early date". Nor a treaty has been negotiated on general disarmament under strict and effective international control, as is stated by article VI.

More concerning, the indefinite extension of the NPT seems to be interpreted by some countries as a "recognition" of an alleged right to indefinitely possess nuclear weapons. Mexico strongly rejects this notion.

In the context of our arguments before the International Court of Justice in 1995, regarding the Advisory Opinion on the Legality of the Threat or Use of Nuclear Weapons, Mexico stated that the possession of nuclear weapons by a handful of states could only be interpreted in the context of the NPT, as a temporary situation, pending the total elimination of such weapons. Such tolerance has never meant our acceptance of legality and legitimacy of the possession of nuclear arsenals, and this argument is as valid today as ever.

In the sixth and final paragraph of the operative part of the Advisory Opinion, the Court concluded unanimously that "There is an obligation to pursue in good faith and to conduct negotiations on nuclear disarmament in all its aspects under strict and effective international control." In this context, Mexico remains attentive to the suit filed by Marshall Islands before the International Court of Justice for the breach of the obligations of nuclear weapon States to conclude negotiations on nuclear disarmament. We invite States to request the Court to participate in this procedure.

Mr. President,

While today there are fewer nuclear weapons than during the Cold War years and the nuclear weapons states have greater dialogue amongst themselves, there are still 17,000 nuclear weapons in the world in possession of a minority of states who affirm that they are necessary to guarantee their safety and that of their allies. And in this sense, not only nuclear weapons still exist, but most of them also are in high operational alert status and draining resources for improvement and maintenance.

Although they have not been used since 1945, there is no guarantee that nuclear weapons will never be used, either intentionally or accidentally. While it appears that the risk of a military conflagration between great powers is less likely than 50 years ago, we cannot guarantee that these weapons will not be used again. The mere existence of nuclear weapons presents incalculable risks: the risk that a country with nuclear weapons to attack another; the risk of accidents; the possibilities of errors of calculation are committed in times of crisis; the risk of these weapons falling into the hands of non-state actors.

Mr. President,

Concern about the possibility of a humanitarian catastrophe caused by nuclear weapons is not a new concept or a parallel track, but the basis for the implementation of commitments, obligations and aspirations of all parties to the NPT, and particularly of the nuclear weapon States. Mexico urges the parties to the NPT to ensure that the Review Conference will serve as a stage to identify the true "distractions" that threaten the integrity of the regime and, more importantly, to question the arguments used to justify the existence of nuclear weapons. We must not forget that the only guarantee against the use of nuclear weapons is their total prohibition and elimination.

Pondering the humanitarian impact and the risk posed by the existence of nuclear weapons must therefore be the impulse to revitalize the disarmament machinery, which has been paralyzed for 18 years, and to restart multilateral negotiations, as requested by Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon, to continue advancing the "international law of disarmament", and the creation of new international standards.

Concerns about the humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons has been a recurring theme since the catastrophe caused by the attacks on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and is incorporated in the Preamble of the NPT and other instruments, such as the

Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean, or Treaty of Tlatelolco.

In line with this, the Plan of Action agreed at the Eighth NPT Review Conference in 2010 expressed our "deep concern at the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of any use of nuclear weapons." After a successful conference in Oslo, Norway in 2013, last February, 146 countries, 8 international organizations, the International Committee of the Red Cross, 20 national societies of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent, 61 civil society organizations, academia, and national and international media, gathered in Nayarit, Mexico, at the Second International Conference on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons, to address technical and scientific aspects of the devastating humanitarian consequences that could arise from a new nuclear weapon detonation.

As demonstrated through testimonies and scientific evidence, besides the irreparable loss of life, the immense suffering of the survivors and physical devastation of infrastructure of a nuclear detonation, and probably in an irreversibly way, to the environment and food security, and would be a huge obstacle to the intervention of international humanitarian agencies. The damage to the people, natural resources, their art and culture, makes a nuclear detonation a real threat to human security, development of peoples and civilization in general.

We warmly applaud the decision of Austria to convene the Third Meeting on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons by the end of this year. It is essential to continue this discussion to document, with scientific and objective evidence, the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of these weapons of mass destruction, and the urgent need for this concern to underpin our actions within the framework of the NPT, as it was expressed in the respective group statements submitted by Switzerland at the First Session of PrepCom in 2012; South Africa in the Second Session in 2013 and New Zealand in the 68 session of the UN General Assembly on behalf of 125 countries.

The interest generated by the Conference of Nayarit, and the quality and quantity of participants is proof of the growing understanding of the international community on the need for substantial progress to achieve and sustain a world free of nuclear weapons.

In this context, the final document of the Conference of Nayarit, presented as a report by the Mexican Presidency (Chair's Summary), which has been submitted to the Preparatory Committee for due consideration, reflects the opinion of the overwhelming majority of delegates, in the sense that these discussions should lead to the commitment by States and civil society to achieve new standards and standards through a legally binding instrument prohibiting nuclear weapons in the same way, as in the past, the weapons that have been eliminated were first banned. From the point of view of Mexico, the time has come to initiate a diplomatic process, to define specific time lines and the most appropriate fora to achieve this work.

We hope that the NPT Review Conference discusses this issue in a constructive manner so it makes the implementation of the pillars of the Treaty on which the non-proliferation and disarmament regime is established, a reality.

Thank you Mr. President.