



**CHAIR OF
THE COORDINATING BUREAU
OF THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT**



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**Statement by
H.E. Ambassador Reza Najafi
Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran
to the United Nations and other International Organizations in Vienna**

**On Behalf of the Group of Non-Aligned States Parties
on Security Assurances**

**before
Main Committee I
Review Conference of the States Parties to
the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons
New York, 6 May 2015**

Mr. Chairman,

1. I am honored to speak on behalf of the Group of Non-Aligned Movement States Parties to the Treaty.
2. We stress once again that the total elimination of nuclear weapons and a universal legally binding assurance that they will never be produced again is the only absolute guarantee against their use or threat of use.
3. Nevertheless, it is our strong conviction that pending the total elimination of nuclear weapons, it is the legitimate right of all non-nuclear-weapon States that, by becoming parties to the Treaty have given up the nuclear-weapon option, to receive effective, universal, unconditional, non-discriminatory and irrevocable legally binding security assurances against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons under all circumstances.

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4. In our view, granting of such assurances is a commitment, the fulfilment of which provides an essential security benefit to the States parties to the Treaty and is necessary to strengthening the nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime and its credibility.
5. It is a source of concern that, in spite of long-standing request by the non-nuclear-weapon States to receive effective negative security assurances, no tangible progress has been made so far.
6. In our view, the nuclear-weapon States, in their unilateral statements, have give very limited, conditional and insufficient negative security assurances. Therefore, such statements fail to meet any of the requirements of universal, legally binding, effective, unconditional, non-discriminatory and irrevocable security assurances.
7. As we stated time and again, the indefinite extension of the Treaty does not imply the indefinite possession by the nuclear-weapon States of their nuclear arsenals. Any such assumption is incompatible with the integrity and both the vertical and horizontal sustainability of the nuclear non-proliferation regime and with the broader objective of maintaining international peace and security.
8. We reaffirm that, in accordance with the UN Charter, States must refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any State, or in any other manner inconsistent with the purposes of the United Nations.
9. Recalling the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the legality of the threat or use of nuclear weapons, the Group believes that, pending the total elimination of nuclear weapons, the nuclear-weapon States should seriously refrain, in any circumstances, from the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons against any non-nuclear-weapon States party to the Treaty.
10. We express deepest concern over the immediate, indiscriminate and massive death and destruction that would be caused by any nuclear weapon detonation and its long-term catastrophic consequences for human health, the environment, and other vital economic resources, thus endangering the life of present and future generations. Accordingly, while welcoming the convening of three Conferences on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons, we affirm the importance of humanitarian considerations in the context of all deliberations and efforts in promoting the goal of nuclear disarmament. We also underline the need for all States at all times to comply with applicable international law, including international humanitarian law.
11. We firmly believe that any use or threat of use of nuclear weapons would be a crime against humanity and a violation of the principles of the UN Charter and international law, in particular

international humanitarian law. We further believe that the mere possession of nuclear weapons is inconsistent with the principles of international humanitarian law.

12. We reaffirm the importance of the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice that “the threat or use of nuclear weapons would generally be contrary to the rules of international law applicable in armed conflict, and in particular the principles and rules of humanitarian law”.

13. We express concern over the military and security doctrines of the nuclear-weapon States and the strategic concept of NATO, which are based on the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons. We strongly call for the complete exclusion of the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons from such military and security doctrines.

14. We call on all nuclear-weapon States to fully respect their existing commitments with regard to negative security assurances. Such assurances, despite being limited, conditional and insufficient, should be extended, without any condition and discrimination, to all non-nuclear-weapon States parties to the Treaty pending the conclusion of negotiations on universal, legally binding, effective, unconditional, non-discriminatory and irrevocable security assurances.

15. We recall that in the 2010 Review Conference, the parties reaffirmed and recognized that the total elimination of nuclear weapons is the only absolute guarantee against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons and the legitimate interest of non-nuclear-weapon States in receiving unequivocal and legally binding security assurances from nuclear-weapon States.

16. We express dissatisfaction over the lack of required political will and efforts by the nuclear-weapon States to fully address this legitimate interest. We call on the 2015 Review Conference to fully address this legitimate right as a matter of priority.

17. Moreover, the Group stresses that the urgent negotiations on the provision of the effective, unconditional, non-discriminatory, irrevocable, universal and legally binding security assurances by all the nuclear-weapon States to all non-nuclear-weapon States parties to the Treaty against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons under all circumstances should also be pursued as a matter of priority and without any further delay.

18. Our Group has already presented a working paper on security assurances and a working paper that contains all recommendations of the Group to the Conference, both of which are available online. Now I present our recommendations on security assurances which are as follows:

1. To reaffirm that the total elimination of nuclear weapons is the only absolute guarantee against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons as well as the risk of their unauthorized, unintentional or accidental use. Pending the total elimination of nuclear weapons, the provision of effective, universal, unconditional, non-discriminatory and irrevocable legally binding security assurances by all five nuclear-weapon States to all the

non-nuclear-weapon States parties to the Treaty against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons under all circumstances, is the legitimate right of all non-nuclear weapons States parties to the Treaty. The provision of such assurances is a commitment, the early fulfilment of which is necessary to strengthen the nuclear non-proliferation regime.

2. To reiterate that military and security policies, concepts and doctrines that allow the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons contravene the existing insufficient negative security assurances provided through unilateral statements made by each of the nuclear-weapon States.

3. To reaffirm that any use or threat of use of nuclear weapons would be a crime against humanity and a violation of the principles of the UN Charter and international law, in particular, international humanitarian law. To reiterate that the mere possession of nuclear weapons is inconsistent with the principles of international humanitarian law.

4. To call on nuclear-weapon States to refrain, under all circumstances, from the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons against any non-nuclear-weapon State party to the Treaty, including, inter alia, by the complete exclusion of the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons from all their military and security concepts, doctrines and policies.

5. To express dissatisfaction over the lack of required political will and efforts by the nuclear-weapon States to fully address the legitimate interest of non-nuclear weapons States by providing them with effective, unconditional, non-discriminatory, irrevocable, universal and legally binding security assurances which could strengthen the nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime. To call on the 2015 Review Conference, in addition to nuclear disarmament being its highest priority, to fully address this legitimate right as a matter of priority.

6. To strongly support the urgent commencement of negotiations on effective, universal, unconditional, non-discriminatory and irrevocable legally binding security assurances against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons under all circumstances, by all nuclear-weapon States to all non-nuclear-weapon States parties to the Treaty, pending the realization of the goal of total elimination of nuclear weapons.

I thank you Mr. Chairman.