PHILIPPINES

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STATEMENT

by

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to the United Nations

at

the Thematic Debate on Nuclear Weapons
of the
First Committee

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New York
Mr. Chairman,

Let me start by declaring that the Philippines aligns itself with the statement of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) delivered on its behalf by Indonesia.

The topic of the current thematic debate is central to the security of all Member States of the United Nations. The Philippines submits that the elimination of nuclear weapons is the only guarantee against - or the only way to save humanity from - the use or threat of use of such weapons.

It follows that the international community must act in concert with all the political will it can muster to rid the world of nuclear weapons once and for all and save this planet Earth and humanity. The present global political climate presents countries with the best opportunity to make progress towards that end.

The Philippines understands that the elimination of nuclear weapons is not going to happen overnight. However, it is convinced that the objective is within reach in the immediate future, given the
required political will of countries and a heightened sense of common
destiny for all. Countries should not fall into a misguided belief that
nuclear weapons provide real security. They should know that, in fact,
these weapons cause more tensions, heighten fears and insecurity,
and cause destruction due to miscalculation or accidents. Above all,
countries which harbor these weapons even risk their own
destruction.

The Philippines supports the calls for irreversible and complete
elimination of nuclear weapons under international supervision. It is
prepared to examine proposals for a phased process leading to the
ultimate objective of achieving total nuclear disarmament and to
secure the agreements under a nuclear convention.

The Philippines commends the Russian Federation and the
United States of America for agreeing to have a follow-on agreement
to the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty and looks forward to the
conclusion of such an agreement. It calls on all other possessors of
nuclear arms to take urgent steps to reduce and eventually eliminate
their nuclear arsenals. The challenge is to develop a mechanism that
will bring all possessors of nuclear arms into a multilateral undertaking that leads them to global nuclear disarmament.

The Philippines subscribes to the view that there can be no peace without trust. The international community can only expect the possessors of nuclear arms to participate fully in a multilateral undertaking towards global nuclear disarmament should there be a climate of confidence and trust prevailing among them.

In order to foster a climate of confidence and trust, certain requisites must be fulfilled. First, is the common understanding where all possessors of nuclear arms are coming from in terms of their respective stockpile of nuclear arsenals and delivery systems. Second, is the presence of a reliable and accurate reporting of action on global nuclear disarmament to an accepted international body or entity. And, finally, a mechanism enabling all to verify fully actions taken in pursuit of global nuclear disarmament.
Mr. Chairman,

There have been positive signals and developments on nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation. The Security Council held a Summit on this last 24 September 2009. Statements of world leaders have recently given prominence and importance to this issue. The Philippines welcomes such statements and pronouncements calling for a world free of nuclear weapons. But, it would welcome even more concrete action and definitive plans on how to achieve the objective of global denuclearization.

The Philippines supports calls for the holding of an international conference to identify ways and means to eliminate nuclear dangers at the soonest possible time as well as the need to conclude a legally binding instrument on security assurances.

As a contribution to nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation, the Philippines stresses the importance of nuclear weapon free zones.
The Philippines strongly supports the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty and would like to see the treaty enter into force as soon as possible. In this regard, the Philippines urges the 9 Annex 2 States to ratify the treaty.

The Philippines hopes that when the Conference on Disarmament resumes its work in January 2010, it can immediately go into high gear by resolving quickly the issues relating to its Program of Work and start soonest the process for negotiating a treaty on fissile materials.

Mr. Chairman,

The Philippines views the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons as the cornerstone of the nuclear non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament regime and recognizes that progress on the Treaty can only be achieved through progress on the three pillars, namely, nuclear disarmament, nuclear non-proliferation, and the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.
Agreement on concrete measures is thus critical in the area of nuclear disarmament because of its inextricable link to non-proliferation. The surest road to non-proliferation is the total elimination of nuclear arms.

The Philippines hopes that the 2010 NPT Review Conference will be able to right the "NPT ship" and chart a course that will take us to that desired destination of a world free of nuclear arms and where nuclear energy is employed solely for peaceful uses.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.