PHILIPPINE INTERVENTION
by Ambassador Libran N. Cabactulan

Exchange of Views
Second Conference on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons
Nayarit, Mexico
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The Philippines has always maintained that nuclear weapons – being inherently indiscriminate, far beyond proportionality, causing unimaginable unnecessary suffering, and inescapably harmful to the environment – are strictly prohibited by customary and conventional international humanitarian law.

While the Oslo and Nayarit Conferences had been successful in stressing this fact further, moving forward it is imperative that our efforts in future Conferences contain several specific elements.

One, we should have engaged discussions on what we should emphasize and the direction we are going. In this regard, the involvement of mass action and mass movement - the civil society - to achieve our goals, will play a critical role.

We must identify a set of actions that will enable us to achieve the goal of the total elimination of nuclear weapons.

It is imperative that we revisit the ICJ decision on nuclear weapons backed by the long history of humanitarian law.

We must also underscore the importance of linking our concerns on the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons to the question of morality and ethical considerations.

Through constructive engagements in these conferences, we could support the process under the NPT, especially with the upcoming Third NPT Prepcom and the 2015 NPT RevCon.

Finally, we ought to start having intensive discussions on the Nuclear Weapons Convention and some specific issues and concepts such as deterrence and undiminished and increased security for all.

The Philippines could go along with simply clarifying the horrific consequences of nuclear weapons. However, the goal has to be more than that and has to be directed towards a final objective; otherwise, the discussions in these conferences will be hollow.