PHILIPPINES

United Nations conference to negotiate a legally-binding instrument to prohibit nuclear weapons, leading towards their total elimination

General exchange of views on

Topic 3: Institutional arrangements

31 March 2017, UNHQ New York

PHILIPPINE STATEMENT

Madame President

The Philippines wishes to add its voice to the call by other like-minded Member States for time-bound, irreversible, and verifiable nuclear disarmament.

As expressed in our statement during the high-level exchange of views last Monday, our work for the succeeding days is the fulfillment of a decades-long commitment under the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT). It is important for us to ensure, therefore, that mechanisms are in place for the treaty to fulfill its objectives.

My delegation stresses the importance of a robust and stable institutional framework to support the Treaty’s objectives. In this regard, we wish to put forward the following elements which my delegation hopes to see included in the zero draft.

The Philippines supports the inclusion of language which defines the Treaty’s relationship with other international institutions in the existing global nuclear security architecture such as the International Atomic Energy Agency, Preparatory Commission of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty Organization, the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, and the Nuclear Weapons Free Zones.

The Philippines is of the view that the Treaty must have a simple provision on the entry-into-force stipulating that it will become a binding international law as soon as a certain number of States have signed and have ratified it. Thus, we propose a reasonable threshold number for the entry into force of the Treaty. The Treaty should provide for a Conference of States Parties’ review conference and meetings to be convened periodically after the Treaty’s entry into force, and that the frequency and duration of future meetings be decided by the first such Conference.
The Philippines recognises the importance of a dispute settlement mechanism between States and a provision on such should be included in the Treaty.

In order to create an environment that is inclusive to all Member States of the United Nations, the Philippines supports the inclusion of an amendment provision to the Treaty, with the condition that amendments must be approved by at least two-thirds of the States Parties to the Treaty.

The Treaty should also be clear about pathways for the accession of other Parties, including Nuclear Weapon States. This language should indicate mechanisms by which State Parties could engage NWS in discussions on the timeframe and process for the time-bound and irreversible elimination of nuclear weapons and stockpiles.

The Philippines likewise supports the establishment of an adequately staffed Treaty Secretariat with clearly defined roles, which will, inter alia, assist States Parties in the implementation of the Treaty, facilitate the Conference of States Parties, and facilitate technical assistance and capacity building by matching provider and recipient States.

Finally, the Treaty must have a provision to assist States in fully implementing the obligations that are to be included in this treaty. Our prohibition treaty must have mechanisms able to provide assistance to States in need so as to ensure compliance.

My delegation looks forward to engaging with other delegations in the course of our negotiations on these issues.

Thank you.