

Keynote Address by

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on the Occasion of the
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Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs
and the Middle Powers Initiative
“From Aspiration to Reality: Nuclear Disarmament After the NPT Review”

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Excellencies, ladies, and gentlemen, it is truly a pleasure to see familiar friendly faces here in this conference, aptly entitled "From Aspiration to Reality: Nuclear Disarmament After the NPT Review." At the outset I wish to thank the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs and the Middle Powers Initiative for organizing this timely event.

I have been given the distinct privilege of delivering the keynote address this morning.

In my address I intend to highlight four main points, but before I do so, I would like to reiterate my most sincere thanks and appreciation to the States Parties to the NPT for the support that they provided me during the Philippine presidency of the Review Conference some of which are represented here, my thanks as well go to the UN Secretariat, especially the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs, and organizations like the Middle Powers Initiative and civil society. The Review Conference would not have been a success had it not been for your support.

As I mentioned earlier, I will highlight four priorities and some other points, which I believe are essential to moving the NPT regime forward.

First priority is the proposed Nuclear Weapons Convention.

Now is the time to seriously consider the negotiation of the proposed Nuclear Weapons Convention. Conventions already exist for the two other types of weapons of mass destruction, namely chemical and biological weapons. The time to act on a Nuclear Weapons Convention is now. The call made by civil society with the millions of petitions they submitted to me during the Review Conference could not be more clear. The Conference on Disarmament as the preeminent multilateral disarmament body should commence discussions on nuclear disarmament and a Nuclear Weapons Convention in the subsidiary body that should be established soonest.

All States agreed in Action 6 of the Conclusions and recommendations section of the Final Document of the 2010 NPT Review Conference "that the CD should immediately establish a subsidiary body to deal with nuclear disarmament, within the context of an agreed, comprehensive and balanced Programme of Work".

For the first time the NPT Contracting Parties have referred officially to the Nuclear Weapons Convention in the Outcome Document of the Review Conference. It may still be a distance away for the NPT Contracting Parties to name directly the NWC and to draw a specific work plan for its negotiation, but the ice is broken, in a manner of speaking.

The Secretary-General himself raised the issue of a NWC in his 5 Point Action Plan. The NWC was heavily debated during the latest Review Conference.

Further discussions and debate on the issue of a NWC could also be the focus of the upcoming Preparatory Committee meetings as well as the 2015 Review Conference.

Second, Nuclear Weapon States need to fulfill the commitments they made in the 2010 NPT Review Conference, especially those stipulated in Actions 3, 5, and 21 of the Final Outcome Document of the 2010 NPT Review Conference.

In action 3 the NWS committed themselves to “undertake further efforts to reduce and ultimately eliminate all types of nuclear weapons, deployed and non-deployed, including through unilateral, bilateral, regional, and multilateral measures.” The language is clear and it behooves the NWS to follow through.

Action 5 commits the NWS to take several specific actions, which I hope they will do so at the soonest possible time. Action 21 encourages the NWS to agree on a standard reporting format and to determine appropriate reporting intervals. The Secretary-General for his part must also support the States Parties by fulfilling Action 21 of the outcome document, which invites him to “establish a publicly accessible repository, which shall include the information provided by the NWS.” Creating such a database accessible to all and the consistent reporting by the NWS promotes transparency and increases the trust level and confidence among States. This action can also relate to the issue of establishing timelines for the elimination of nuclear weapons, since accurate reporting would give other NPT

States Parties a clear account of the number of nuclear weapons in existence, therefore projections can be made, taking into consideration various factors such as cost and time to disassemble and eliminate the existing nuclear stockpiles. Such data can then be used to extrapolate an appropriate timeline for the elimination of nuclear weapons.

Third is the need to make progress on the Middle East Resolution.

The first step is the organization of the international conference and the appointment of a facilitator as were both agreed in the Final Document. This issue was one of the most difficult to agree upon during the Review Conference. I hope that the international conference will be convened as planned in 2012 and will be attended by all States of the Middle East. The time to begin dialogue on the implementation of the 1995 Resolution is long overdue.

On the facilitator the Secretary-General and the co-sponsors of the 1995 Resolution, I am certain, will appoint the right person for the job. The sooner this person is selected and appointed, the better it will be so that the chosen facilitator can begin to lay the groundwork to implement the 1995 Resolution. The facilitator's task will not be easy and therefore a wide and very thorough selection process must be undertaken, most important of all though and a basic consideration, is that the facilitator must be acceptable to all States in the Middle

East, and these States should be consulted widely before any appointment is made.

In order to implement some of the action points in the 2010 NPT Final Document, some of which I just mentioned, financial provisions are necessary. For instance whoever will be appointed facilitator will need to have a staff and office space all of which cost money. Therefore NPT States Parties also have to now consider the financial implications of implementing some of the action points and allocate the necessary funds.

Fourth point is the importance of the entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty. The remaining Annex 2 countries need to take the necessary steps in order for the treaty to finally enter into force, thus preventing the chance of any future qualitative improvement of nuclear arms. The CTBTO under the able leadership of Mr. Tibor Toth must be given all possible support in its campaign to make the CTBT a universal treaty. States must recognize that it is to their benefit for the Treaty to enter into force. I understand that some issues that delay ratification relate to domestic procedures, which can be easily resolved, while others are political considerations, which would take time. Nevertheless, speedy action is required. Therefore the campaign for CTBT entry into force must be ratcheted up. The upcoming Ministerial Meeting on the CTBT in New York this month is a positive step, but I believe it would also help if civil society got more involved in a publicity campaign that would raise awareness

among the various constituencies the world over on the importance of the CTBT entering into force. Policy makers and more importantly, lawmakers, need to be convinced by their constituencies that it would be to the benefit of their countries that the CTBT is in effect.

Aside from these points, other matters that need to be dealt with include the Conference on Disarmament. The CD must begin to function once more. There are specific references to the CD in Actions 7 and 15 of the outcome document and there is a follow-on activity that will be held in New York in one week being organized by the Secretary-General which is the High Level Meeting entitled "Revitalizing the Work of the Conference on Disarmament and Taking Forward Multilateral Disarmament Negotiations." I commend the Secretary-General for taking this action. It is hoped that this High Level Meeting could reinvigorate and breathe life anew to the CD. It is clear though that there will be little or no progress in the CD on an FMT or FMCT if the legitimate concerns of a delegation are not addressed. If the concerns of the particular delegation are not addressed then I am afraid that the CD will remain in a state of atrophy.

Progress is also essential on the non-proliferation and peaceful uses of nuclear energy pillars of the NPT. The non-proliferation of nuclear weapons is just as crucial and important as nuclear disarmament. There are many steps that can be taken in order to strengthen this pillar, but the most crucial would be the universal subscription to the IAEA Additional Protocol even though it is not required by the

NPT. Member States signing on to the protocol is the only way to ensure that there is non-diversion from peaceful to non-peaceful uses. States should seriously consider ratifying this important measure. All States Parties to the NPT must also bring into force the comprehensive safeguards agreements. More basic in the strengthening of this pillar is the need for States to comply with all their obligations as stipulated in the Treaty. Cases of non-compliance on the other hand must be taken seriously and dealt with appropriately. It is therefore of the utmost urgency that the IAEA be strengthened and given enough financial support so that it may perform its monitoring function and be able to give appropriate reports to States. In order to ensure non-proliferation, States must also ensure the security of nuclear material and prevent all cases of the illicit trafficking of such material.

On the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, States Parties to the NPT are guaranteed this right and must be given all available assistance to ensure that they have the necessary access to nuclear technology and material so they can supply the energy needs of their respective populations.

The IAEA has a special role to play in this regard since it can provide technical cooperation to States that either already have or would like to start peaceful nuclear energy programs. An initial step is for those States that can contribute financial assistance to the 100 million dollar fund to assist the IAEA. Aside from monetary assistance, nuclear technicians in developing countries need the

technical training and transfer of know-how. Such technology and information transfer as well as training would ensure safety in the operation of nuclear power plants. There also needs to be further discussions on the assurances of nuclear fuel supply so that countries' energy producing capabilities are not disrupted.

On a final note, I would also like to stress the importance of eventually making the NPT a universal treaty. This task I am certain will prove to be most difficult, but necessary if we are ever to achieve that goal of a world free from nuclear weapons. Furthermore, in terms of the overall implementation of the action plan of the 2010 NPT Review Conference, a mechanism needs to be set up that would be able to keep track of the action of States in terms of complying with the action points.

In conclusion, the NPT States Parties took a step forward last May 2010, but that is all we accomplished. Many more difficult steps will have to be taken if we are to continue to fulfill the promise of the NPT. In that sense it is important that the spirit of flexibility and compromise that was the trademark of the 2010 NPT Review Conference be maintained throughout the 2012 to 2014 PrepComs and the 2015 RevCon and even beyond.

Before closing, I again wish to reiterate my most heartfelt thanks and appreciation to the States Parties and civil society for providing me with all the support. As a result of your trust, confidence, and flexibility, we achieved a

measure of success last May 2010 that our leaders and more importantly, our people had been clamoring for and which they so richly deserved.

Thank you and good day.