Statement by His Excellency Mr. Rudolph Michael Ten-Pow
Ambassador,
Permanent Representative of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana to the United Nations

at the General Debate of the Third Session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2020 Review Conference of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

United Nations Headquarters
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Thank you, Mr. Chair,

Please accept my delegation’s best wishes on your assumption of the chairmanship of the 2019 PrepCom for the 2020 Review Conference of Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT). The delegation of Guyana assures you of its full support and cooperation.

Mr. Chair,

Guyana aligns itself with the statements delivered on behalf of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) and OPANAL. We are taking this opportunity to highlight the following elements in our national capacity.

Mr. Chair,

The international security situation at the current juncture is quite volatile and raises the very real question of whether the international community is capable of forging a common path for the maintenance of international peace and security. This is the context in which we are preparing for the 2020 NPT RevCon and my delegation believes that responsible leadership and renewed commitment to the aims of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation are most needed if we are to progress with the work that the NPT was meant to accomplish.

On this note, Mr. Chair, among the elements of particular concern to Guyana are the following:

**One:** The trend towards modernization of nuclear arsenals and their delivery systems and the continued use of nuclear weapons in military doctrines.

**Two:** Recent developments that point to the possibility of a renewed nuclear arms race, and,

**Three:** The increasing risk of a nuclear weapon being used and the devastation that would result from any such use.

Mr. Chair,

Every Member State has a role in ensuring that we achieve full and complete nuclear disarmament. Our support is therefore critical for the effective application of the legal
instruments that comprise the nuclear disarmament regime and Guyana urges responsible action in this respect.

Responsible action includes taking the necessary steps to bring about the entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) more than twenty years after the Treaty opened for signature.

Responsible action also ensures that regional spaces around the world are declared free of nuclear weapons and that the countries within those spaces commit to maintaining these spaces as such. Guyana is pleased to be part of the first such space created by the Treaty of Tlatelolco. We encourage and support the establishment of other Nuclear Weapon Free Zones where needed.

Responsible action entails the willingness to bridge existing gaps in the nuclear disarmament architecture and in this regard, Guyana recognizes the leadership demonstrated by Member States which enabled the adoption of the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) in 2017. The TPNW is an important contribution to the nuclear disarmament architecture and our efforts would be better concentrated on seeking its universalization.

Mr. Chair,

Guyana hopes that the prevailing international security situation would be enough to compel us to collective action at this PrepCom with a view to providing strong recommendations to the 2020 Review Conference under all three pillars of the NPT.

In concluding, Guyana affirms the work of the IAEA in promoting the safe, secure and peaceful use of nuclear technologies including through capacity building in developing countries like Guyana.

Mr. Chair,

Guyana wishes you every success in the execution of your mandate and pledges its full support.

I thank you.