Statement by the Delegation of the Republic of Indonesia

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General Debate

at the Third Session of The Preparatory Committee for the 2020 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

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Mr. Chairman,

At the outset, allow me to congratulate you on your election as Chairman of the Third Session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2020 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. It is always a pleasure to see our fellow ASEAN and NAM colleague presiding over this important forum. We believe that under your leadership, this meeting would be able to lay the necessary ground towards a successful NPT Review Conference in 2020.

Indonesia associates itself with the statement made by the Delegation of Venezuela on behalf of the Group of Non-Aligned Movement States Parties to the NPT, as well as by Myanmar on behalf of ASEAN, and wishes to add following in its national capacity. The full version on this statement will be available online.

Mr. Chairman,

We would like to re-emphasize that the objectives of the NPT can only be achieved through a balanced, comprehensive and non-discriminatory implementation of its three pillars.

Recent development has shown that such imbalance still persist and that advancement on disarmament pillar is retrogressing. Major possessor states continue to enhance its nuclear weapons program, increase its relevance in their respective military doctrine, and contributing to further deterioration of trust and confidence on the prospect of the implementation of Article VI of NPT. Indonesia believes that the said doctrine is a dinosaur relegated to our history books and that none of us should start to dust off such a relic of the Cold War into a new hype.

With regards to the peaceful use pillar, this PrepCom must reaffirm the validity of article IV with a view to ensuring that no State Party is limited in the exercise of its rights to research, produce, and use nuclear energy and technologies for peaceful purposes.

Furthermore, preferential treatment should be given to the non-nuclear-weapons States Parties to the Treaty when it comes to all activities in the promotion of peaceful uses of nuclear energy. We should also take into account the different needs of developing countries, particularly related to assistance for capacity building to prevent potential diversion from peaceful uses to nuclear weapons.

Mr. Chairman,

Regrettably, we have lost an important momentum at the 2015 NPT Review Conference. It is compounded with the politization over the disarmament machinery trinity. At the start of the 2000 NPT Review Conference, the late UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan warned of the dangers of the accumulation of “rust” in the multilateral disarmament machinery. Nineteen years later that rust has developed to the extent that neither the Conference on Disarmament (CD) nor the UN Disarmament Commission (UNDC) has produced any concrete results since 1996 and 1999 respectively.

Nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament are also facing a grim reality in the First Committee of the UN General Assembly, demonstrated by the increasing trend of voting.

On the bilateral scheme, the claim that thousands of nuclear weapons have been retired and dismantled by the two largest possessors through their bilateral strategic agreement, is yet to be verified transparently. Furthermore, the INF Treaty is now paralyzed and another arms control treaty, New Start, is set to expire in 2021. The world will be left without any limits on the two major nuclear arsenals for the first time since 1972.
These reality has impeded the efforts to assess the progress and achievements in the implementation of the 2010 Action Plan, which also prevent the improvement of transparency and confidence-building.

In the mids of all these grim development, beacons of hope yet exists. Indonesia welcomes the consistency of Iranian nuclear program compliance within the framework of JCPOA as has been confirmed through the 14 IAEA reports on that matter.

Successful non-proliferation efforts is inseparable from the application of safeguards by the IAEA. Indonesia emphasizes that strengthening of safeguards measures through the implementation of the Comprehensive Safeguards Agreements and its Additional Protocol are a sustainable method of addressing non-proliferation. Consequently, Indonesia calls upon all nuclear-weapon States, as well as all States not party to the Treaty to place all their nuclear facilities under IAEA full-scope safeguards.

Indonesia joins other state parties to reiterate that nuclear disarmament must be complete, verifiable and irreversible. To this end, we reaffirm the role of IAEA and has full confidence on the Agency as a credible and capable organization in nuclear disarmament verification, particularly for their independency, impartiality and professionalism.

Mr. Chairman,

An important development on global efforts towards total elimination of nuclear weapons is the conclusion of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. It represents the voice of majority for a more concrete and energized endeavours to reach our common goal towards a general and complete elimination of nuclear weapons.

Indonesia believes that the TPNW is complementary and mutually reinforcing to the NPT and addresses the deep concern on the catastrophic humanitarian impacts of any use of nuclear weapons, as well as being an effective legal measure under Article VI of the NPT.

Indonesia reiterates the importance of Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty and consistently calls for the earliest possible entry into force and universalization of the Treaty. In this context, Indonesia highly hopes that the Article XIV Conference this year will result in a concrete outcome towards the entry into force of the CTBT.

Indonesia recognize that the establishment and cooperation among Nuclear Weapon Free Zones represent positive steps toward attaining the objectives of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. In this regard, we call upon all concerned parties to double the efforts to convene the long-awaited Conference on the Middle East Zone Free of Nuclear Weapons and other weapons of mass destruction. A nuclear weapons free zone of the Middle East will go a long way in supporting regional and international causes for peace and security.

To conclude, Mr. Chairman, this Preparatory Committee Meeting is indeed an important phase in preparing the 2020 Review Conference, which cannot afford to have another failure. In this regard, my delegation emphasizes the importance for this forum to be able to produce a consensus substantive recommendation for the next year Review Conference.

Indonesia is prepared to work collectively with all States Parties and civil society organizations, in pursuing the balanced and non-discriminatory implementation of the three pillars of NPT, as well as for the success of the NPT Review Conference in 2020.

Thank you.