



**PERMANENT MISSION OF BRUNEI DARUSSALAM
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

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STATEMENT BY:

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PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF BRUNEI DARUSSALAM TO THE
UNITED NATIONS IN NEW YORK**

AT

THE GENERAL DEBATE

OF

**THE THIRD SESSION OF THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE FOR THE
2020 NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY REVIEW
CONFERENCE**

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Mr. Chair,

At the outset, I wish to extend my warm congratulations to you. Brunei Darussalam is pleased to see its neighbour and fellow ASEAN member, Malaysia, in the leadership of this important meeting. We are especially thankful for the efforts and outreach by you, your predecessor and your team. We are confident that your dynamic leadership would help guide this session towards a productive outcome.

Brunei Darussalam aligns itself with the statement made by Myanmar on behalf of ASEAN and Venezuela on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

Mr. Chair,

We are now at a critical juncture for the future of the NPT. The inability to produce a Final Outcome Document at the last Review Conference in 2015, speaks volumes about the ever-growing tensions and differences among member states on the issue of disarmament and non-proliferation. However, this lack of consensus should not be misjudged as the failure of the review cycle or the NPT itself.

The NPT has, and will continue to remain the foundation of the non-proliferation and disarmament regime. As with other international instruments, the NPT's effectiveness relies heavily on the commitment of States Parties to implement its obligations. It is therefore, essential, for all States Parties to continue pushing for the full implementation of this Treaty, and its three pillars of nuclear disarmament, non-proliferation and the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

As we approach the 50-year anniversary of the NPT in 2020, it is imperative to rise above our differences and show a united front. Fifty years on, our efforts must not only reaffirm, but strengthen our commitment to the NPT and the universally-held goal of a nuclear-weapon free world. We must also ensure the continued implementation of previously adopted outcome documents of the 1995, 2000 and 2010 Review Conferences, to further maintain the vitality and relevance of the NPT.

Mr. Chair,

Brunei Darussalam has long abided by policies that prohibit the development, acquisition or proliferation of any weapons of mass destruction, including nuclear weapons. Like many others, we recognise the potentially disastrous humanitarian and environmental impacts of any nuclear weapons use.

In furthering this agenda, Brunei Darussalam signed the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) on 26 September 2018. We believe this Treaty complements the NPT and other important frameworks such as the CTBT, needed to achieve and effectively maintain global nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation.

Nuclear weapon free zones also play an important role in reinforcing the NPT and contributing to confidence building measures. In our region, the South-East Asia Nuclear Weapon Free Zone (SEANWFZ) Treaty, or Bangkok Treaty, has been integral in promoting peace, security and stability. As a State Party, we reiterate our hope for the early accession of all nuclear-weapon states to the Protocol of the SEANWFZ Treaty.

In keeping with these principles, we also welcome the convening of the Conference on the establishment of a Middle East Zone Free of Nuclear and all other Weapons of Mass Destruction, as mandated by General Assembly decision 73/546.

Mr. Chair,

In line with ASEAN, Brunei Darussalam's approach to nuclear energy, generally supports its peaceful uses, peaceful nuclear energy cooperation and access to nuclear energy without discrimination – all integral components of Article 4 of the NPT.

Brunei Darussalam recognises the central role of the IAEA in establishing safeguards and verification mechanisms for the peaceful uses of energy. In order to ensure the safe use of nuclear energy, we urge all NPT States Parties to follow the highest safety and security standards.

Nationally, Brunei Darussalam has been undertaking such efforts, for example in pursuing its nuclear medicine services for The Brunei Cancer Centre (TBCC). After meeting the required infrastructural requirements and undergoing inspections by representatives from the IAEA in 2018, The Brunei Cancer Centre has safely added the provision of nuclear medicine treatments for its patients.

Regionally, our country is also part of the ASEAN Network of Regulatory Bodies on Atomic Energy (ASEANTOM), which allows for the exchange of nuclear-related information and best practices and the development of capacities on nuclear safety, security and safeguards.

Mr. Chair,

Recently, many worrying developments in the context of global nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation have taken place. Moving forward, we must strive to lower tensions and bridge gaps in the lead up to the 2020 Review Conference next year. While reaching consensus is seldom without challenges, we believe that sincere dialogue and the will for compromise can push the nuclear disarmament agenda forward.

The simple fact remains that the NPT is a multilateral instrument, which can only flourish under the aegis of multilateralism and our genuine concerted efforts. You can be assured that Brunei Darussalam will continue to engage constructively in this process.

Thank you.