International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons
3 p.m.-6:00 p.m. Tuesday,
28 September 2021

PHILIPPINE STATEMENT
By H.E. Mr. ENRIQUE A. MANALO
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Philippines
(3 minutes, 563 words)

Mr. President,

The Philippines joins the international community in commemorating and promoting the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons. Along with NAM, we believe that the annual observance of this International Day is one of the effective ways to draw the attention of the international community to the dangers of nuclear weapons, the necessity for their total elimination, and the advantages of nuclear disarmament for development, as well as for international peace and security.

Today, we are again reminded that the prosperity, peace and security that we endeavor to nurture can be annihilated in the blink of an eye with a single nuclear incident. Hence, it is only rational for humanity to work towards eliminating nuclear threats.

Mr. President,

The global health crisis is far from over and it continues to exacerbate and further complicate global security challenges, characterized by increasing polarization and intensifying conflicts. It even threatens to set back our efforts in disarmament and nonproliferation. The Philippines shares the concern of many Member States that, as most of us are occupied with battling COVID-19, the nuclear weapons capabilities of the nuclear weapon states continue to be modernized and developed. In this landscape, amidst the pandemic, we remind each other to continue to be vigilant and pursue forward-looking, action-oriented outcomes to implement the obligations under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

The Philippines is very engaged in the efforts towards the elimination of nuclear weapons:
We continue to support the 13 Practical Steps and the 64-point Action Plan that was agreed upon in the 2010 NPT Review Conference. And following this, we emphasize and call upon the eight remaining Annex II States to ratify the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) without further delay and usher in its entry into force.

In addition to the NPT, the cornerstone of the global nuclear nonproliferation regime, the Philippines takes pride in being the 53rd country to ratify the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW). The treaty represents efforts towards the universalization of global norms against nuclear weapons and is in line with the Philippine Constitution and the Bangkok Treaty. It also fulfills the goal set out in the NPT and de-legitimizes, once and for all, the use of nuclear weapons.

In the coming 10th NPT Review Conference in January, we look forward to constructive engagement among Member States, particularly the nuclear weapon states. We recognize the NPT’s relevance and our collective success, particularly in nuclear nonproliferation since the NPT’s entry into force in 1970, in establishing safeguards to verify treaty compliance and in our global cooperation in the peaceful use of nuclear energy. Nevertheless, we believe that much has to be done to further nuclear disarmament. While we see the importance of building trust and confidence through an open, inclusive and transparent dialogue, we believe that we should proceed with disarmament and honor commitments under the NPT.

Finally, Mr. President,

The Philippines emphasizes once again that as long as nuclear weapons exist, the risk of their use or threat of use, as well as their proliferation persists. Any use of nuclear weapons is a violation of the Charter of the United Nations and considering the catastrophic humanitarian consequences, the only and absolute guarantee against the use of nuclear weapons is their total elimination.

Thank you, Mr. President. END