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Statement by Ambassador Hmway Hmway Khyne,
Deputy Permanent Representative
of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the United Nations

on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)
at the third session of Preparatory Committee for the 2020 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT)
29 April 2019

Mr. Chairman,

1. I have the honor to deliver this statement on behalf of the Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), namely Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Viet Nam and my own country, Myanmar.

2. ASEAN aligns itself with the statement delivered by Venezuela on behalf of the Non-aligned Movement (NAM).

3. ASEAN Member States congratulate you, Mr. Chairman, on your election to preside over this important session. We are very pleased that a representative from an ASEAN Member State, Malaysia, has been elected as Chairman of this session. We are confident that under your able stewardship, this session will pave the way to yield tangible outcomes in the 2020 Review Conference of the NPT. We assure you of our support in advancing the important work of this session.

Mr. Chairman,

4. ASEAN reaffirms our commitment to uphold the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations in the maintenance of international peace and security. ASEAN's collective efforts on disarmament and non-proliferation strongly and ultimately support the goal of sustaining and maintaining a world that is peaceful and prosperous.

5. ASEAN has been a strong advocate for a world free of nuclear weapons, and a firm supporter of non-proliferation. In this regard, ASEAN continues to recognize the NPT as the cornerstone of the global non-proliferation regime and calls on all States Parties to the Treaty to renew their commitment to the urgent and full implementation of existing obligations, particularly those under Article VI.

6. ASEAN reaffirms its commitment to the NPT for preventing the spread of nuclear weapons and weapons technology and to further the goal of achieving nuclear disarmament and general and complete disarmament.

7. At the same time, ASEAN reaffirms the inalienable right of every State to the peaceful use of nuclear energy, in particular for their economic and social development, in accordance with the Statute of the International Atomic Energy Agency and the Agency's safeguards system.

8. We recognize the central role of the IAEA in nuclear non-proliferation and the promotion of peaceful uses of nuclear energy. In this regard, we look forward to formalizing the relations between ASEAN and the IAEA to promote greater cooperation on issues related to nuclear safety, security and safeguards, including capacity building.

9. We welcome the successful convening of the 5th Annual Meeting of the ASEAN Network of Regulatory Bodies on Atomic Energy (ASEANTOM), the Five-Year ASEANTOM Work Plan (2018-2022), and the ongoing negotiations on the ASEAN-IAEA Practical Arrangements.

10. ASEAN has always been at the vanguard of international efforts for nuclear non-proliferation in all its aspects. According to Article VII, the Treaty recognizes the right of any group of States to conclude regional treaties in order to assure the total absence of nuclear weapons in their respective territories.

11. In this regard, we affirm the importance of regional nuclear-weapon-free zones under the existing global non-proliferation regime. We continue to support the ongoing efforts toward the establishment of such zones.

12. We reiterate our commitment to preserve our region as a Nuclear-Weapons-Free-Zone and free of all other weapons of mass destruction as enshrined in the Treaty on the Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapon Free Zone (Bangkok Treaty) and the ASEAN Charter.

13. ASEAN acknowledges the efforts made during the Second Summit between the United States and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in Hanoi, Vietnam to bring progress to the denuclearization process of the Korean Peninsula. We encourage the US and the DPRK to continue their diplomatic endeavors in order to lay the groundwork to establish a lasting and stable peace regime and complete denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula. ASEAN stands ready to continue to play a constructive role in contributing to peace and stability in the Korean Peninsula.

14. ASEAN also stresses the importance of achieving universal adherence to the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT). On the 25th of September 2018, Thailand ratified the CTBT, making all ASEAN Member States Ratifying Parties to the CTBT. Once again, we join others in urging the Annex 2 States to sign and ratify the Treaty as soon as possible to realize its entry into force.

15. ASEAN also welcomes Security Council resolutions 255 (1968) and 984 (1995) and emphasizes the important role of the Security Council to take measures necessary to maintain international peace and security and to act immediately in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter of the United Nations, in the event that such states are the victim of an act or object of a threat of aggression in which nuclear weapons are used.

16. ASEAN recognizes the NPT as the cornerstone of the global non-proliferation regime and calls on all States parties to the NPT to renew their commitment to the urgent and full implementation of existing obligations, particularly those under Article VI. Along with the Bangkok Treaty and other nuclear weapon free zone Treaties, the Treaty on the Prohibition

of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) constitutes a vital and complementary step towards global nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation.

Mr. Chairman,

17. ASEAN reiterates its strong commitment to move forward the global non-proliferation and disarmament agenda. We call on all Member States, particularly the Nuclear Weapon States, to demonstrate good faith, promote mutual understanding, enhance trustworthy cooperation and ensure responsible collective actions in striving for a world without nuclear weapons. It is our common goal to see mankind thrive in a safe and secure environment free from fear, animosity and devastation caused by nuclear weapons.

18. We hope that the Prepcom will successfully address the substantive and procedural issues related to the forthcoming 2020 Review Conference to produce a clear and balanced roadmap that will enable a strengthened implementation of the NPT.

Now, I would like to speak in my national capacity.

Mr. Chairman,

1. Nuclear disarmament has been a principled objective for the United Nations since the adoption of the first UNGA resolution. Myanmar is of the view that the continued existence and deployment of nuclear weapons is the most serious security challenges, posing the horrible threat to the very existence of mankind and the survival of civilizations.

2. The only way to achieve a world free of nuclear weapons is not merely to constrain the spread of nuclear weapons, but to aim for their total elimination. We must therefore simultaneously pursue the goals set forth by our landmark international treaty that is the NPT.

3. Nuclear disarmament continues to be the highest priority for Myanmar on its disarmament agenda. It is our deep concern about the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of any use of nuclear weapons. Therefore, we pursue the policy of total elimination of nuclear weapons.

4. With this conviction, Myanmar has been tabling a resolution on Nuclear Disarmament at the UN General Assembly every year since 1995. The resolution always stresses the importance of the 13 steps mentioned in the Final Document of the 2000 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty.

5. Additionally, the resolution highlights on 22-points-action-plan on nuclear disarmament of 2010 Review Conference, which includes concrete steps for the total elimination of nuclear weapons. However, we are deeply concerned that the 2015 Review Conference did not reach agreement on a substantive final document.

6. Myanmar reaffirms its commitments to the principles and objectives of the NPT. We call upon all parties to NPT particularly the nuclear weapon states to fully and urgently comply with their obligations under the Treaty. We hope that this final session will help the 2020 NPT Review Conference to find a way to make progress on the full, effective and non-discriminatory implementation of the Treaty.

7. I thank you, Mr. Chairman.