STATEMENT BY H.E.DATO' SELWYN DAS
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF MALAYSIA TO VIENNA
AT THE CONFERENCE ON HUMANITARIAN IMPACT OF NUCLEAR
WEAPONS
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Thank you Mr. Chairman,

Let me begin by joining other delegations in thanking the Government of Austria for organising the Third Conference on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons. Malaysia is pleased to be one of the supporters of the initiative and has continued to annually support the Joint Statement on the Humanitarian Consequences of Nuclear Weapons at the framework of the NPT as well as at the United Nations General Assembly. Malaysia welcomes the outcome of the discussion at the previous Nayarit and Oslo Conferences and believes that we have had a fruitful and meaningful discussion at this Conference. Malaysia is of the view that the humanitarian approach would contribute towards broadening the international discourse on nuclear disarmament.

Malaysia has always maintained a principled position on the general and complete disarmament of weapons of mass destruction. Malaysia firmly believes that the complete and total elimination of nuclear weapons is the only solution against the possible use or threat of use of nuclear weapons. Despite some reduction in nuclear-weapon stockpiles by nuclear weapon States, there still remain huge stocks of these weapons, whose combined explosive potential is hundreds of thousands times greater than the bombs which were dropped in Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945. These weapons are on alert and
ready to be fired at a moment's notice. Whether intentional or by accident, the effects of a nuclear weapons explosion is catastrophic and cannot be risked.

Mr. Chairman,

At the recent Third Session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2015 Review we shared the story of Mr. Abdul Razak Abdul Hamid, Malaysia’s sole hibakusha. Following his harrowing experiences on the devastation caused by the atomic bomb Mr. Razak had preached the message of peace. Mr. Razak stated, I quote “It is terrible that today we have thousands of nuclear weapons which are much more powerful than the atomic bomb in Hiroshima. Only by remembering the bitter lessons of the first atomic bomb, can we hope to lead people back to the path of peace and love among all people”. Last year on 18 July 2013, Malaysia’s sole hibakusha died at the age of 88 years old.

Malaysia is deeply encouraged by the growing support of the joint statement by the like-minded countries on the humanitarian dimension of nuclear disarmament during the NPT Preparatory Commission. The initial sixteen countries in 2012 which were now supported by more than sixty countries in 2013, displayed the growing recognition among governments of the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons, is a positive development which cannot be ignored nor be denied. This must now be translated into meaningful action towards a treaty to outlaw and eliminate nuclear weapons. Malaysia reaffirms the ultimate goal of eliminating nuclear weapons and calls for the commencement of negotiations on nuclear disarmament. Malaysia is ready to work with other member States on any proposal with the ultimate aim of total elimination of nuclear weapons. We also recognize and welcome the role played by civil society in these efforts.

The world does not need nuclear weapons. The world does not need future hibakushas like Malaysia’s Mr. Razak. Let us not forget him nor any of the other hibakusha’s or victims of the bombs of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Let us move forward to that goal of a world without nuclear weapons.

Thank you.