Statement of the Non-Aligned Movement on the occasion of the Third Conference on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons
Vienna, Austria, 8-9 December 2014

The Movement of Non-Aligned Countries welcomes the convening of the Vienna Conference on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons (8-9 December 2014) and looks forward to a successful Conference. The Movement affirms the importance of humanitarian considerations in the context of all deliberations on nuclear weapons and in promoting the goal of nuclear disarmament. In this regard, NAM wishes to state the following:

1. NAM reiterates its deep concern over the greatest threat to peace posed by the continued existence of nuclear weapons and the military doctrines of the Nuclear Weapon States and NATO that set out rationales for the use or threat of use of such weapons.

2. The Movement expresses its deepest concern over the immediate, indiscriminate, and massive death and destruction caused by any nuclear weapon detonation and its long term catastrophic consequences on human health, environment, and other vital economic resources, thus endangering the life of present and future generations.

3. NAM recalls the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the Legality of the Threat or Use of Nuclear Weapons in which the Court concluded, inter alia, that the threat or use of nuclear weapons would generally be contrary to the rules of international law applicable in armed conflict, and in particular the principles and rules of humanitarian law. In this context, the Movement reaffirms the need for all States at all times to comply with applicable international law, including international humanitarian law.

4. NAM reaffirms that the total elimination of nuclear weapons and the assurance that they will never be produced again, is the only absolute guarantee against the catastrophic humanitarian consequences arising from their use. The Movement takes this opportunity to reaffirm that nuclear disarmament remains the highest priority of the international community. Therefore, the Movement calls for the urgent compliance with the legal obligations and the fulfillment of the commitments undertaken on nuclear disarmament.

5. The Movement underlines the importance of the UN General Assembly Resolution on the “Follow-up to the 2013 High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on nuclear disarmament”, which provides a concrete pathway for realizing the objective of nuclear disarmament. In this context, the Movement is confident that the full implementation of this resolution, in particular through the commencement of negotiations in the CD for the conclusion of a comprehensive convention on nuclear weapons, will ensure tangible progress on nuclear disarmament.

***