PHILIPPINE STATEMENT

Vienna Conference on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons

Hofburg Palace, Vienna, Austria
09 December 2014

The Philippines conveys its great appreciation to the Government of Austria for graciously hosting the Vienna Conference on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons.

The convening of this conference for the second time this year is a clear manifestation of the international community’s determination to keep the momentum going on this discourse.

The Philippines has been strongly lending its voice in promoting global awareness of the humanitarian dimension of the possession and use of nuclear weapons since the 2010 NPT Review Conference.

The Conclusions and Recommendations for Follow-on Actions of the 2010 NPT Review Conference states the “deep concern at the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of any use of nuclear weapons and reaffirms the need for all States at all times to comply with applicable international law, including international humanitarian law.”

The Philippines welcomes all three conferences held to date. There is no doubt that the countless testimonies we have heard from the hibakushas, as well as the studies and presentations made by various technical experts, have raised our global consciousness at a higher level on the evils of nuclear weapons.

For the Philippines, our discussions on the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons must be two-pronged. Firstly, our discourse must aim to heighten global awareness on the detrimental and lasting effects of these weapons on human life and the environment. Secondly, but more importantly, this awareness must translate into action on how we can immediately and effectively ban and eliminate the world’s remaining nuclear weapons.

The conference in Mexico took a step further when many States expressed the urgent need for a legal framework to effectively abolish nuclear weapons. It is our hope that Vienna will sustain this positive momentum.

With only four months left before we re-convene for the 2015 NPT Review Conference, our discussions here could provide the much-needed impetus on possible actions to take towards the ultimate goal of nuclear disarmament.

Thank you.