

**Statement by H.E ALA Azeez
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**2015 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear
Weapons (NPT)**

Main Committee III -Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy, 7th May 2015

Mr. Chairman,

Let me begin my remarks by complimenting you, as a friend, for the effective stewardship of this meeting. You may rest assured of the support and cooperation of my delegation towards bringing the work of this Committee into fruition.

I would like to make a few points highlighting our expectations from the NPT Review Conference.

First of all, Mr. Chairman, we take this opportunity to reiterate the continued validity and relevance of the concept of peaceful uses of nuclear energy and nuclear technology in the advancement of socio-economic development of states. It is in this context that we recall the inalienable nature of the right to peaceful uses provided for in Article IV of the NPT.

Second, as is inherent in the principle of inalienable right, peaceful uses is an area, which should remain unrestricted and untrammelled. We are cognizant, however, of the potential of the duality of the use of nuclear technology, but hold the firm view that there are norms and standards which serve to ensure that effective safeguards are in place. The relevance of verification in this arena is beyond question.

Third, safety, safeguards and security are essential towards ensuring a comprehensive system of oversight at national and local levels, which the states concerned have to take in consonance with existing and accepted standards. It is, first and foremost, the responsibility of states concerned to take effective measures in this field, which would help create a positive atmosphere in the region and beyond, to better appreciate the soundness and efficacy of such measures.

Fourth, the role of nuclear energy and nuclear technology for the development of states is increasingly being recognized despite recent challenges. It is the right of a state, when it deems it appropriate to exercise, to use nuclear energy as part of its national energy mix since it is the state concerned, which is best placed to determine the pace, scope and priorities of its national development. It is important in this context to ensure that, subject to accepted safeguard standards, there should be no obstacles placed on the path to peaceful uses, such as those that may amount to denial of technology.

Fifth, civil nuclear cooperation, which is an important tool for realizing peaceful uses by many countries, must be encouraged. The positive contribution that it makes through bilateral, regional and multilateral arrangements is well acknowledged. Similarly, technical assistance and cooperation of IAEA should be supported and made more effective to achieve the intended outcomes.

Sixth, it is our well-considered view that peaceful uses of nuclear energy and nuclear technology should be made a lasting reality and an important priority through meaningful, sustained, practical measures. It should be noted that it remains one of three pillars of NPT, which would underpin a safe, secure, prosperous world.

Mr. Chairman, let me state as I conclude, that Sri Lanka associates itself with the statement delivered by NAM at the plenary of the conference.

I thank you, again for the opportunity given.
