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**STATEMENT BY  
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PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF PERU,  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

**PREPARATORY COMMITTEE FOR THE 2005 REVIEW  
CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE TREATY ON THE NON-  
PROLIFERATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS**

**NEW YORK, 8 APRIL 2002**

Mr. Chairman,

I would like to offer the greetings and acknowledgment of the Peruvian Delegation for your election as Chairman of the First Preparatory Committee of the 2005 Review Conference of the Non Proliferation Treaty. We feel certain that, we will achieve progress through your leadership in the fulfillment of the objectives that have been outlined in the final document of the Review Conference of the year 2000.

I am allowing myself to remember that during the Review Conference of the year 1990, in which I acted as Chairman of the same, the two nuclear states that did not form part of the Non Proliferation Treaty (NPT) participated then as Observers, providing a new boost for the non proliferation regime. This permitted a gradual and positive evolution that in the nineties materialized in an active Conference on Disarmament, a strengthening of the measures of verification and control of fissile materials, a larger number of member states and of nuclear weapon free zones as well as an indefinite extension of the NPT, so that we were capable of agreeing in the year 2000 upon specific goals that would lead to nuclear disarmament, non proliferation and peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

Today, we can see that two years after this so-called success, the Plan of Action has in practice not caused almost any change in the national policies of the nuclear states, nor has it further advanced the work of the Conference on Disarmament. The lack of political will, the lack of interest in complying with the commitments that had been assumed, the potential restarting of an arms race that would include outer space with the establishment of National Defense Systems and the end of the ABM Treaty and the reacceptance of the political and strategic value of nuclear weapons are the most outstanding aspects of the current situation.

Within this discouraging context, the future and feasibility of the Non Proliferation Treaty depends on the extent in which the Nuclear States will comply with the responsibility they have accepted in the final document of the year 2000, particularly with regard to nuclear disarmament, and that they are willing to achieve progress in new mechanisms that guarantee, in their turn, the security of the great majority of the States. We must record in a universal legal document, the guarantee that Non Nuclear States will not be the victims of the use of those weapons, which is known as "Negative Assurances" until the total elimination of nuclear weapons.

The current tendency, however, would appear to be far from this legitimate interest. The concerns about the use of nuclear weapons as a military, strategic and tactical option appear to constantly increase, eroding the political and diplomatic alternatives that would permit the creation of a stable and predictable international atmosphere.

The refusal of the Nuclear States to abandon their arsenals as an element of power and privilege is, in itself, an invitation towards proliferation, thus contributing towards a weakening of the essence of the NPT.

Faced with these prospects of an apparent retreat in nuclear disarmament and due to the lack of efficient instruments that would prevent the development of new generations and testing of nuclear weapons or offer a more effective control to illegal exports of fissile material, we observe the beginning of a questioning of the regime that is defended by the NPT offering the argument that proliferation and the return to a policy of "deterrence" represent a security option. This position alludes to the fact that the "deterrence" policy worked during the Cold War and would also continue to be necessary under these circumstances of stagnation in

nuclear disarmament and the lack of a political will in the execution of the steps that were agreed upon by consensus in the Review Conference of the year 2000.

Peru, in spite of these circumstances, continues to recognize for the NPT an essential role in the efforts that seek to achieve nuclear disarmament and non proliferation as well as an essential instrument of an almost universal nature that must be respected, supported and promoted.

My country firmly supports the steps that have been established for nuclear disarmament that are included within the final document of the latest Review Conference and calls for their prompt execution, specifically the unequivocal commitment to accomplish the total elimination of nuclear weapons, the moratorium on nuclear tests until the entry into force of the CTBT, the application of transparency measures by nuclear states, the negotiation treaty banning the production of fissile material in the Conference on Disarmament and the execution of the START agreements.

The importance of radiological protection and the control, monitoring and reduction of nuclear materials (more than one thousand tons of highly enriched uranium and plutonium ) is a fundamental aspect that does not count with the enough financial cooperation. Several studies point for this purpose it is count only US\$ 750 million from US\$3 billion needed in a yearly basis, with the subsequent danger of appropriation for non-state actors and terrorist groups who do not require a high technology for its use. The possibility of "dirty bombs" (mixture of fissile material with explosives) is a possible consequence of this situation. In our view, the only effective prevention policy towards nuclear terrorism is the total elimination of nuclear weapons.

Mr. Chairman,

Peru considers vital the reduction of the operational status of nuclear weapons and therefore we have received with interest the announcements of some nuclear states that point as irrational the maintenance on a state of high alert of nuclear warheads which leads to the risk of an accidental nuclear war. The reduction of this state of alert must be supplemented, in our opinion, with their destruction to prevent their potential re-installation.

Peru will continue to support the need to establish within the Conference on Disarmament a subsidiary body related to nuclear disarmament. Also, as part of the first Nuclear Weapon Free inhabited Zone in the world, it hopes that within the near future the entire Southern hemisphere will have this status and that a greater synergy will be achieved between the already established Nuclear Weapons Free Zones. In that sense, we firmly support the universality of the NPT.

Mr. Chairman,

Peru has complied with signing the Additional Protocol of Safeguards of the International Atomic Energy Agency, convinced of the need to count on an effective and real international verification system of fissile material and its facilities. Based on this conviction, it has contributed towards promoting the signing of that Protocol through the organization together with the IAEA, OPANAL and the United Nations Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, the "Regional Seminar on the Additional Protocol to the Nuclear Safeguards Agreements" in December, last year.

We have also promoted in the General Conference of this Agency, measures to strengthen the safe transport of fissile material and the need to establish liability mechanisms that will be exercised against the economic losses of an affected State as the product of a radioactive material accident.

Finally, it is important to continue to promote the assistance and cooperation devoted to the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, including the project on fuel cycles and nuclear reactors, in which those States that apply the NPT in a responsible manner should have priority.

Mr. Chairman,

My country remembers the negative environment and uncertainty that surrounded the Review Conference of the year 2000 and that, in spite of them, the States of the world were able to secure a positive final document that was a consensus with a Program of Action that faces the future. Let this experience serve us as a guide and hope in this new path.

Thank You.