



## Permanent Mission of Samoa to the United Nations

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### **Samoa National Statement Delivered by HE Fatumanava III Dr. Pa'olelei Luteru 11th Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons 27 April to 22 May 2026**

**Mr. President,**

Samoa aligns with the Statement delivered by the Solomon Islands on behalf of Parties to the South Pacific Nuclear Free Zone Treaty, the Treaty of Rarotonga.

I congratulate you on your assumption of the Presidency and assure you of Samoa's full support.

This Review Conference takes place at a moment of acute global risk. The NPT has, for over fifty years, been the foundation of the nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime. Today, that foundation is under serious strain.

We are witnessing rising geopolitical tensions, expanding and modernizing nuclear arsenals, and increasingly confrontational rhetoric. These developments weaken strategic stability and increase the risk of proliferation and active wars.

**Mr President, the world and the Pacific region do not need nuclear weapons to survive. Nuclear weapons are a nemesis to all, including those that possess them.**

For our Pacific region, this reality is deeply personal. Our region has endured over 300 nuclear tests, the consequences of which continue to affect our people and environment across generations. Samoa therefore reiterates its total opposition to all nuclear testing and calls for the immediate universalization and entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty. Nuclear disarmament is not an abstract policy debate for us, but a historical necessity to ensure that the tragedies of the past are never repeated.

Some of our communities living close to “ground zero” were relocated from their ancestral islands and restricted from using the ocean resources for their livelihoods. They also experience an upsurge in medical problems, including cancers and birth defects. At the end of these nuclear tests, radioactive waste and machinery were either buried or dumped into the Pacific Ocean.

Samoa supports the peaceful uses of nuclear science and technology and values its cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency through its Technical Cooperation Programme. However, such use must always meet the highest standards of safety, security, and safeguards.

Strengthening verification and compliance remains essential. For Small Island Developing States, the risk of transboundary and transgenerational harm – particularly to the health of our ocean – is of existential concern.

Our region has set a clear course. Under the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent, our Leaders have declared the Blue Pacific an “Ocean of Peace” – committed to the elimination of nuclear weapons and the protection of our environment and peoples. This vision, rooted in the Treaty of Rarotonga, is closely linked to the goal of this Conference: to ensure the NPT’s provisions are fully realized.

We call on all States Parties to match commitment with action. The credibility of the NPT depends on tangible progress, particularly on disarmament.

Let this Conference be a turning point—one that reinforces the integrity of the Treaty and delivers meaningful outcomes for all, including the safeguarding of our Blue Pacific, for generations to come.

I thank you.