

Statement by Nepal
at the General Exchange of View of the Third Meeting of States Parties
to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) New
York, 3-7 March 2025

(Please check against delivery)

Mr. President,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Participants,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me congratulate you, Mr. President, on your election to preside the Third Meeting of States Parties (3MSP) to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW).

I am confident that this crucial meeting, under your able leadership, will bring a meaningful and impactful outcome.

Mr. President,

The threat posed by nuclear weapons remains an existential challenge to humanity.

Despite decades of dialogue, agreements, and treaties aimed at nuclear disarmament, we continue to witness the modernization and expansion of nuclear arsenals, heightening global security threats.

Escalating geopolitical tensions and the increasing role of nuclear weapons in military doctrines further aggravate the situation.

As long as nuclear weapons exist, the potential for their use—whether by miscalculation, accident, or intent—remains a dire reality.

Their devastating consequences on human lives, the environment, and the socioeconomic development are well-documented and undeniable.

We cannot afford to let this complacency prevail.

Mr. President,

Nepal strongly believes that nuclear weapons serve no legitimate purpose in ensuring security.

Instead, they perpetuate instability, mistrust, and the threat of catastrophic destruction.

The vast resources allocated for nuclear weapon modernization should instead be channeled towards sustainable development, poverty eradication, climate action, and global health security.

The TPNW represents a landmark achievement in our collective efforts to eliminate nuclear weapons.

It reaffirms the humanitarian imperative of disarmament and provides a robust legal and moral foundation to delegitimize these weapons of mass destruction.

We welcome the progress made in implementing the Vienna Action Plan and encourage States Parties to accelerate efforts towards universalization and compliance with the treaty's obligations.

We urge nuclear-weapon states and those under nuclear umbrellas to take concrete steps towards disarmament by joining the TPNW and fulfilling their longstanding commitments under international law.

Mr. President,

Nepal reiterates its commitment to the principles of general and complete disarmament. As a State Party to NPT and signatory to the TPNW and CTBT, we advocate for the absolute prohibition of nuclear weapons, including their development, testing, possession, use, or threat of use.

With its firm conviction in nuclear disarmament, Nepal signed the TPNW in 2017.

We were also among the 122 states voting in favor of its adoption.

Nepal has an unwavering commitment to the goals and obligations of the treaty.

We are determined to ratify the treaty at the earliest opportunity.

Nepal emphasizes complementarity between the TPNW, NPT, CTBT, and IAEA safeguards. Strengthening verification mechanisms, ensuring compliance, and enhancing transparency are critical in building confidence and advancing the cause of a nuclear-weapon-free world.

Furthermore, Nepal underscores the importance of supporting victims and survivors of nuclear testing. Addressing their rights and providing necessary assistance must remain a priority. The devastating human and environmental consequences of nuclear testing demand sustained international cooperation and redress.

Mr. President,

Nepal emphasizes the inalienable right of all states to research, produce, and use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes under the safeguards of the IAEA. Least Developed Countries (LDCs) must be supported in harnessing nuclear technology for development, particularly in areas such as medicine, agriculture, and energy.

Education and awareness play a pivotal role in advancing nuclear disarmament.

As the host of the UN Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific (UNRCPD), Nepal will continue to support regional and global initiatives towards achieving a world free of nuclear weapons.

To conclude, Mr. President, the urgency of nuclear disarmament cannot be overstated. The moral, legal, and security imperatives are clear. We must act decisively to ensure that nuclear weapons remain in history. Nepal remains steadfast in its commitment to the goals of TPNW and calls upon all states to work collectively towards a safer, more secure, and nuclear-free world.

I thank you.