

30 April 2015, New York

**Delivered by H.E. Dr. Caleb Otto,
Permanent Representative of Palau to the United Nations**

Good morning Excellences and Colleagues.

Good morning to you

humanitarian consequences of more than 300 nuclear test explosions conducted over the course of five decades.

We stand in solidarity with the Republic of the Marshall Islands in its legal proceedings before the International Court of Justice aimed at compelling the nuclear-armed states to fulfill, at long last, their legal obligation to disarm. Forty-five years after the entry into force of the NPT, it is unacceptable that more than 15,000 nuclear weapons remain in the world, threatening human survival and the fragile ecosystems of our precious planet. Even today, Palau, is within a striking distance of nuclear warheads from an unfriendly nation.

Mr. President,

It is clear that the NPT faces major challenges. Whilst it has been largely successful in preventing the spread of nuclear weapons to new states, very little has been achieved with obligations. It is of deep concern that all five NPT nuclear-weapon states continue to invest heavily in programs to upgrade and modernize their nuclear arsenals.

Against this backdrop, three e

Ban Treaty and Convention on Cluster Munitions would be the most likely to achieve our desired result. We stand ready to join such negotiations this year. We are determined to ensure that no one else ever suffers from the horrendous effects of these weapons.

Mr. President,

Palau considers the banning of nuclear weapons to be an essential