



Statement

by H.E. Archbishop Bernadito C. Auza

Permanent Representative of the Holy See to the United Nations in New York
at the Review Conference of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons
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Madam President,

This year marks the seventieth anniversary of the nuclear bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. At the beginning of the Review Conference of the NPT, this tragic event should be a reminder of the importance of this instrument as a means to rid humanity of the risks of nuclear war. The victims are still with us. The Hibakusha are a living testimony calling all of us to take the right decisions today if we do not want to face similar situations tomorrow. The very reason of the NPT is anchored in the dignity of the human person and in the collective recognition of the catastrophic humanitarian

consequences of any nuclear detonation.

The world's nuclear arsenals still

an urgent call to take concrete and effective steps to address this situation by renewing collectively the commitment to nuclear nonproliferation and nuclear disarmament which stand at the heart of the Nuclear Non Proliferation Treaty. It cannot be doubted that the

security often comes up in discussions on nuclear weapons. This concept shouldn't be used in a partial and biased manner and never in contradiction with the common good. All States have the right to national security. Why is it that the security of some can only be met with a particular type of weapon whereas other States must ensure their security without them? On the other hand, reducing peace and the security of States, in practice, to its military dimension is artificial and simplistic. Socio-economic development, political

participation, respect for fundamental human rights, strengthening the rule of law, cooperation and solidarity at the regional and international level, etc. are essential to the national security of States. Is it not urgent to revisit in a transparent manner the definition

made by States, especially the nuclear weapons states, of their national security?

All of us are aware that the goal of a world without nuclear weapons is not easy to achieve. As many say, it is a complex and difficult issue. All human realities are difficult and complex. But this is neither a reason nor an excuse not to implement the obligations undertaken in conformity with the NPT. For this, all energies and commitments are