



Mr President,
Excellencies,
Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen.

I wish to convey Samoa's sincerest condolences and sympathies to the Government and people of Nepal for the loss of life and devastation caused by the earthquake a few days ago. We know all too well from real-life experiences the terrible impacts natural disasters have on our people and society. Our prayers and thoughts go out to all those affected by the devastating earthquake.

Mr. President,
Let me congratulate Ambassador Taous Feroukhi of Algeria on her assumption of the
important task of chairing the Review Conference and to assure her of my delegation's

full cooperation

steps to become a state party to the IAEA Statute this year including the ratification of the Additional Protocol and modification of its Small Quantities Protocol to strengthen the overall safeguards regime of the Agency.

Mr. President,

Some Pacific island countries were sites for nuclear testing. The sense of fear and

mistrust as a consequence of this experience has given our region a shared point-of-reference that has shaped our perspective on nuclear disarmament. We recall for instance the 1996 International Court of Justice advisory opinion on the use, or threat of use of nuclear weapons that my country and other Pacific islands were intimately involved in. Not surprisingly, we take note of the cases the Republic of Marshall Islands have brought to the ICJ against states possessing nuclear weapons to enforce the obligation contained in Article 6 of the NPT and in customary law to pursue negotiations

protect themselves from the effects of nuclear weapons.

To underscore this point by working in partnership with like-minded countries, we were amongst the more than one hundred and fifty countries that subscribed to the statement delivered by Austria's Minister of Foreign Affairs about the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons. We will formally endorse the Austrian Pledge in due course.

Mr. President,

I hope to conclude by adding Canada's voice to the near unanimous call made by previous