



PHILIPPINES

PLEASE CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

**Statement to be delivered by
Ambassador and Deputy Permanent Representative Ariel R. Peñaranda
Permanent Mission of the Republic of the Philippines to the United Nations**

**Thematic Debate Cluster 2: Other Weapons of Mass Destruction
Conference Room 4, 1500H**

Mister Chair,

Excellencies and distinguished delegates,

The Philippines associates itself with the statement delivered by Indonesia on behalf of NAM and by the Lao People's Democratic Republic on behalf of ASEAN.

No aspiration nor ambition can justify the use of weapons that destroy indiscriminately and completely. These weapons of death put everyone at mortal risk, especially if they fall in the hands of terrorists.

It is in this context that the Philippines remains committed to upholding, enriching, and strengthening the global governance structures that prohibits the use of weapons of mass destruction and prevents their proliferation. These exigencies emphasize the necessity of robust strategic trade management at the national level and international cooperation in reinforcing global nonproliferation norms.

We participate in the processes at all levels to effectively and comprehensively implement the Chemical Weapons Convention and Biological Weapons Convention, the latter of which will mark its golden anniversary this year. We continue to pursue regional cooperation to advance these conventions' goals. Together with the U.S. and the ROK, we hosted this year a table-top exercise on CBRN response under the framework of the ASEAN Regional Forum.

We remain committed to the full implementation of U.N. Security Council Resolution 1540. In this regard, we have established a Strategic Trade Management Office, which implements our relevant nonproliferation obligations. We benefit from multilateral export control regimes, which are an essential component of the global nonproliferation architecture.

Weapons of mass destruction, their means of delivery, related equipment and technology are rapidly developing and getting more sophisticated. National strategic trade controls should continuously respond to evolving threats to international security. It is equally important to ensure that global processes, including multilateral export control regimes, remain technically driven and insulated from politicization. Measures should be explored to make these groups more inclusive, especially with regard to relevant information that could advance national controls on transferring and using strategic groups. Further, politically driven unilateral measures must not unduly restrain international cooperation on peaceful uses.

We support the Secretary-General's call to reimagine our efforts in WMD disarmament in the context of development. There is space for taking further steps to unlock the synergies between the disarmament paradigm and the Sustainable Development Goals. International cooperation on peaceful uses would benefit from the strengthening of international organizations that are committed to maintaining the proper balance between peaceful uses and nonproliferation, such as IAEA and OPCW, and the institutionalization of the BWC, including the operationalization of Article X.

I thank you, Mister Chair,