

REMARKS

Nuclear Weapons and the Moral Compass

**Trusteeship Council Chamber – UN Headquarters, NY,
April 30, 2014**

by H.E. Ambassador Libran N. Cabactulan

Permanent Representative

**Permanent Mission of the Philippines to the United
Nations**

Distinguished guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

First of all, let me express my country's gratitude to all of you for joining us in this side event we co-organized with the Global Security Institute, with the support of United Religions Initiative, World Evangelical Alliance, Religions for Peace, Permanent Observer Mission of the Holy See, Fiqh Council of North America, Central Conference of American Rabbis, and Won Buddhism International to the UN.

The Philippines did not have to think twice when GSI approached us to get on board this important initiative as it touches on two issues that are close to our heart namely, nuclear disarmament and interfaith and inter-religious cooperation.

We are convinced that as we continue to see lack of progress in achieving our goal of global zero, our efforts towards nuclear disarmament will further be bolstered by bringing the moral dimension into the debate, to complement the legal and the humanitarian aspects of nuclear weapons.

Combined, the legal, humanitarian, and moral arguments make for a very strong case in pushing for the total elimination of nuclear weapons, as we have stated in our statement at the General Debate.

Moreover, the argument being made by some countries that deterrence, based on utilitarian grounds, is not a morally defensible idea.

In his 2009 speech in Prague, US President Barack Obama himself said that “as the only nuclear power to have used a nuclear weapon, the United States has a moral responsibility to act.”

But that moral responsibility does not only rest on the shoulders of the nuclear armed states; it is the collective responsibility of all States.

We hope that today’s discussion will be productive and will get the ball rolling in pushing for the inclusion of the moral dimension in our ongoing efforts towards nuclear disarmament.

Thank you.