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Statement

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To the United Nations in New York**

on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement

Thematic Debate “Nuclear Weapons”

**First Committee
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Mr. Chairman,

1. Let me begin by extending our heartfelt condolences for the People and Government of the Kingdom of Thailand for the passing of King Bhumibol. May his Majesty rest in peace.
2. I am honored to speak on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.
3. The Movement reaffirms its principled positions on nuclear disarmament, which is its highest priority, and remains extremely concerned at the threat to humanity posed by the continued existence of nuclear weapons and of their possible use or threat of use. The situation in the realm of nuclear disarmament continues to be characterized by impasse. The nuclear-weapon-States have not made progress in eliminating their nuclear weapons. The role of nuclear weapons in security policies of the nuclear-weapon-States has not diminished. Almost all nuclear weapons States are modernizing their nuclear arsenals and planning research on new nuclear warheads, or have announced their intention to develop new delivery vehicles for nuclear weapons. The Movement is deeply concerned by this dismal state of affairs as a result of non-compliance of NWS with their legal obligations and unequivocal undertakings.
4. The international community has waited too long for the realization of the goal of the total elimination of nuclear weapons. It has become obvious that the existing approach adopted by nuclear weapon States, the so-called step-by step approach, has failed to make concrete and systematic progress towards the total elimination of nuclear weapons. Despite positive developments on nuclear non-proliferation in the past decades, forward movement on nuclear disarmament cannot be held hostage to progress on non-proliferation or the perceived notions of strategic stability. It is time to take a new and comprehensive approach on nuclear disarmament.
5. The Movement underlines that the General Assembly resolution 70/34, entitled "Follow-up to the 2013 High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on Nuclear Disarmament", provides a concrete roadmap to achieve the objective of nuclear disarmament in particular

its calls for the urgent commencement of the negotiations in the Conference on Disarmament for the early conclusion of a comprehensive convention on nuclear weapons to prohibit their possession, development, production, acquisition, testing, stockpiling, transfer, use or threat of use and to provide for their destruction.

6. NAM reiterates that the United Nations High-level International Conference on Nuclear Disarmament, to be convened no later than 2018, as decided through the General Assembly resolutions, would indeed provide the General Assembly with an opportunity to review progress made in nuclear disarmament and to make concrete recommendations in order to maintain the momentum created by the 2013 HLM and to intensify international efforts towards a nuclear-weapons-free world. NAM proposes the establishment of a preparatory committee for the United Nations high-level international conference in New York.
7. The Movement also notes the convening of the Open-Ended Working Group on Taking Forward Multilateral Disarmament Negotiations held in Geneva, Switzerland, in 2016 as mandated by the UNGA under Resolution 70/33. NAM Members States participating in the OEWG appreciate the efforts of the Chairman of the WG, Ambassador Thani of Thailand, and welcome the report of the WG and the recommendations therein as a contribution to global discussion on nuclear disarmament. They look forward to follow-up discussion in the First Committee.
8. NAM reiterates its deep concern over the greatest threat to peace posed by the continued existence of nuclear weapons and the military doctrines of the Nuclear-Weapon-States and NATO that set out rationales for the use or threat of use of such weapons against non-Nuclear-Weapon-States. Such doctrines cannot be justified on any grounds.
9. NAM once again renews its strong call upon the nuclear-weapon States to fully and urgently comply with their legal obligations and unequivocal undertakings to accomplish the total elimination of their nuclear weapons without further delay, in a transparent, irreversible and internationally verifiable manner.

10. NAM expresses concern regarding the joint statement on the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty by the Nuclear Weapon States issued on 15 September 2016, and rejects their assertion in that statement that their nuclear stockpile maintenance and stewardship programs are consistent with NPT and CTBT objectives.
11. The Movement also calls on the nuclear weapon States to immediately cease their plans to further modernize, upgrade, refurbish, or extend the lives of their nuclear weapons and related facilities.
12. NAM reaffirms the urgent need for conclusion of a universal, unconditional, non-discriminatory and legally binding instrument to effectively assure all non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons under any circumstances as a matter of high priority, pending the achievement of the total elimination of nuclear weapons, which remains the only absolute guarantee against their use or threat of use. NAM expresses concern that despite this long-standing request by non-nuclear-weapon States to receive such legally binding assurances no tangible progress has been achieved.
13. NAM affirms the importance of humanitarian considerations in the context of all deliberations on nuclear weapons and in promoting the goal of nuclear disarmament. In this connection, NAM welcomes the growing focus on the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons, including at the three Conferences in Oslo, Nayarit and Vienna. The broad participation at those Conferences reflects that the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons are a fundamental and global concern. The Movement expresses its deepest concern over the immediate, indiscriminate, and massive death and destruction caused by any nuclear weapon detonation and its long term catastrophic consequences on human health, environment, and other vital economic resources, thus endangering the life of present and future generations. In this context we reaffirm the need for all States at all times to comply with applicable international law, including international humanitarian law. As reaffirmed by the General Assembly over decades, any use of nuclear weapons is a violation of the UN Charter and a crime against humanity. NAM also

reaffirms that the total elimination of nuclear weapons and the assurance that they will never be produced again, is the only absolute guarantee against the catastrophic humanitarian consequences arising from their use.

14. Furthermore, NAM calls upon the nuclear-weapon States to reduce immediately the operational status of nuclear weapons, including through complete de-targeting and de-alerting in order to avoid the risks of unintentional and accidental use of such weapons.
15. NAM stresses the importance of enhancing public awareness about the threat posed to humanity by nuclear weapons and the necessity for their total elimination, including through the observance of 26 September as the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons. NAM welcomes the strong calls to expeditiously and with priority achieve complete nuclear disarmament that were made by a large number of speakers at the recent meeting of the General Assembly to mark this day.

Mr. Chairman,

16. The Movement reaffirms its principled positions on non-proliferation of nuclear weapons in all its aspects. NAM believes that nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation are mutually reinforcing and are essential for strengthening international peace and security. Non-proliferation derives its legitimacy from the larger objective of nuclear disarmament. Pursuing non-proliferation alone while ignoring nuclear disarmament obligations is both counterproductive and unsustainable. NAM emphasizes that proliferation concerns are best addressed through multilaterally negotiated, universal, comprehensive and non-discriminatory agreements.
17. NAM states Parties to the NPT regret the failure of the 9th NPT Review Conference to reach consensus on a final outcome document despite the efforts made by NAM delegations. This failure should serve as a stimulus to work harder towards achieving nuclear disarmament, the ultimate objective of the NPT.

18. NAM reaffirms the inalienable right of each State to develop research, production and use of nuclear energy, including the sovereign right to develop full national nuclear fuel cycle, for peaceful purposes without discrimination. The Movement once again reaffirms the sovereign right of each State to define its national energy policies. NAM stresses that any decision on multilateral approaches to the nuclear fuel cycle shall be made by consensus and without prejudice to the inalienable right of each State to develop a full national nuclear fuel cycle.
19. NAM strongly rejects, and calls for the immediate removal of any limitations and restrictions on exports to developing countries of nuclear material, equipment and technology for peaceful purposes, consistent with the provisions of relevant multilateral treaties. In this regard, NAM stresses that the technical cooperation and assistance provided by the IAEA in meeting the needs of its Member States for material, equipment and technology for peaceful uses of nuclear energy shall not be subject to any conditions incompatible with its Statute.
20. NAM is of the firm belief that non-proliferation policies should not undermine the inalienable right of States to acquire, have access to, import or export nuclear material, equipment and technology for peaceful purposes.
21. Finally, the Movement would like to stress that on its part, it remains ready to engage constructively with all countries to work actively to help fulfill the collective vision of a world free from all nuclear weapons. But this vision can only be realized, if the required political will and action is clearly demonstrated by all parties.
22. This year, the Movement will once again table the updated version of the draft resolution entitled "Follow-up to the High-level Meeting on Nuclear Disarmament". In this regard, NAM seeks the support of all Member States to vote in favor of this draft resolution.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.