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Statement by
Delegate of the Republic of Indonesia to the United Nations

on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM)

at the Thematic Debate on Nuclear Weapons

First Committee

New York, 14 October 2009

Mr. Chairman,

It is my great privilege to speak on behalf of the Non Aligned Movement. The topic of this meeting is indeed vital, and at the core of international peace and security.

The NAM reaffirms its principled positions on nuclear disarmament, which remain its highest priority, and on the related issue of nuclear non-proliferation in all its aspects. We stress the importance that efforts aiming at nuclear non-proliferation should be parallel to the simultaneous efforts aiming at nuclear disarmament. We fully support the convening of the Fourth Special Session of the UN General Assembly devoted to Disarmament (SSOD-IV), and reiterate our deep concern over the persistent lack of consensus to date. We underscore the importance of the General Assembly to continue its active consideration with a view to reaching consensus on the objectives, agenda, and the establishment of a preparatory committee for the SSOD-IV, including by reconvening the open-ended working group to consider the objectives and agenda, including the possible establishment of the preparatory committee for SSOD-IV. Our Group would request, at an appropriate time, the convening of the open-ended working group.

The Movement cannot but do without expressing its concern at the grave threat to humanity posed by the continued existence of nuclear weapons and of their possible use or threat of use. We reiterate our deep concern over the slow pace of progress towards nuclear disarmament and the lack of progress by the Nuclear Weapons-States (NWS) to accomplish the total elimination of their nuclear arsenals. We underscore the need for the NWS to implement the unequivocal undertaking that they had provided in 2000 so as to accomplish the total elimination of their nuclear weapons. In this regard, we once more emphasise the urgent need by the NWS to commence negotiations on nuclear disarmament without delay.

The NAM emphasises the necessity to start negotiations on a phased programme for the complete elimination of nuclear weapons with a specified framework of time, including a Nuclear Weapons Convention. We reaffirm the importance of the unanimous conclusion of the ICJ that there exists an obligation to pursue in good faith and to bring to a conclusion negotiations leading to nuclear disarmament in all its aspects under strict and effective international control.

It is crucial to stress the absolute validity of multilateral diplomacy in the field of disarmament and non-proliferation. The NAM reiterates its

determination to promote multilateralism as the core principle of negotiations in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation, and in this regard, it welcomes the adoption of General Assembly Resolution 63/50 on Promotion of multilateralism in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation. We also underscore the Movement's principled position concerning the use or threat of use of force against the territorial integrity of any State.

Mr. Chairman,

Although there have been some positive signals and developments, the world is still confronted by unresolved challenges. The recent statements by some NWS about their intention to pursue actions in achieving a world free of nuclear weapons are positive. However, urgent and concrete actions by the NWS in accordance with their multilaterally agreed commitments to achieve general and complete disarmament remain essential.

The total elimination of nuclear weapons is the only absolute guarantee against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons. While noting the 2002 Moscow Treaty between the Russian Federation and the United States, and their recent negotiations to be concluded by December 2009 on reducing their respective nuclear warheads, the NAM stresses that reductions in nuclear deployments and in operational status cannot substitute for irreversible cuts in, and the total elimination of nuclear weapons.

We call on the United States and the Russian Federation to apply the principles of transparency, irreversibility and verifiability to further reduce their nuclear arsenals, both warheads and delivery systems, under the Treaty. The START 1 is due to expire at the end of 2009. We urge both countries to conclude their negotiations on the matter urgently, in order to achieve further deep cuts in their nuclear weapons.

The NAM takes note of the Summit convened by the Security Council on nuclear non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament on 24 September 2009. Our Group has always been consistent and in the forefront for promoting the realisation of the objective of a world free of nuclear weapons. We have communicated our positions to the Council in this respect.

We restate our call for an international conference to identify ways and means of eliminating nuclear dangers at the earliest possible date, with the objective of arriving at an agreement on a phased programme for the complete elimination of nuclear weapons with a specified framework of time. There should be a prohibition on their development, production, acquisition, testing, stockpiling, transfer, use or threat of use, and provision for their destruction.

Pending the total elimination of nuclear weapons, the NAM underlines the need for the conclusion of a universal, unconditional and legally binding instrument on security assurances to non-NWS as a matter of priority. We recall the establishment in 1998 of an Ad Hoc Committee on effective international arrangements to assure Non-nuclear-weapons States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons in the Conference on Disarmament to negotiate universal, unconditional and legally binding security assurances to all non-NWS.

We also stress the significance of achieving universal adherence to the CTBT, including by all NWS, which, inter alia, will contribute to the process of nuclear disarmament. The Group reiterates that if the objectives of the Treaty are to be fully realised, the continued commitment of all States signatories, especially the NWS, to nuclear disarmament would be essential.

Mr. Chairman,

The NAM is deeply concerned at the increasing global military expenditure, a substantial part of which could otherwise be spent on facilitating global development and wellbeing. Hence, we welcome the adoption without a vote of General Assembly Resolution 63/52. It is worth reminding ourselves the virtues of the principle of undiminished security at the lowest level of armaments.

We should also remind ourselves that the development of nuclear and other such weapons violate the commitments undertaken by the NWS at the time of the conclusion of the CTBT.

Our Group remains deeply concerned at the strategic defence doctrines of NWS, including the "NATO Alliance Strategic Concept", which not only set out rationales for the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons, but also maintain unjustifiable concepts on international security based on developing military alliances and nuclear deterrence policies.

The NAM continues to be also concerned over the implications of the development and deployment of anti-ballistic missile (ABM) defence systems, and the threat of weaponisation of outer space that have, inter alia, contributed negatively to the promotion of disarmament and strengthening of international security. The abrogation of the ABM Treaty brings new challenges to strategic stability and the prevention of the arms race in outer space. We are concerned that the implementation of a national missile defence system could trigger arms races and the further development of advanced missile systems as well as an increase in the number of nuclear weapons.

The NAM States Parties to the NPT hope that the work done at the first, second, and third sessions of the Preparatory Committee could be used as the basis for the Review Conference. The States Parties to the NPT need to intensify their efforts toward ensuring success of the NPT Review Conference in 2010.

The States Parties to the NPT reiterate their call for the implementation of all provisions of the Treaty. They call for the full implementation of the 13 practical steps for systematic and progressive efforts to implement Article VI, particularly an unequivocal undertaking by the NWS to accomplish the total elimination of their nuclear arsenals leading to nuclear disarmament.

Pending the total elimination of nuclear weapons, they recall that the Final Document of the 2000 Review Conference of the NPT had stressed on legally binding security assurances by the five NWS to the non-NWS parties to the Treaty. The States Parties to the NPT underline the importance for establishing subsidiary bodies to the relevant Main Committees of the 2010 Review Conference of the NPT, to deliberate on practical steps for systematic and progressive efforts to eliminate nuclear weapons; to consider and recommend proposals on the implementation of the resolution on the Middle East adopted by the 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the NPT; and to consider and adopt a legally binding international instrument on unconditional security assurances to non nuclear weapon states.

The NAM States Parties to the NPT underline that nothing in the NPT shall be interpreted as affecting the inalienable right of all parties to the Treaty to research, develop, produce and use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes without discrimination and in conformity with Articles I, II, and III of the Treaty. They stress that this right constitutes one of the fundamental objectives of the Treaty, and emphasise that each country's choices and decisions pertaining to peaceful uses of nuclear energy should be respected without jeopardising its policies or international co-operation agreements and arrangements for peaceful uses of nuclear energy and its fuel cycle policies. We note with concern that undue restrictions on exports to developing countries of material, equipment and technology, for peaceful purposes persist. It is the responsibility of developed countries to support the legitimate requirements of developing countries for nuclear energy.

The Movement reiterates the importance and need for nuclear-weapon-free zones, and considers the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones created by Treaties of Tlatelolco, Rarotonga, Bangkok, Pelindaba, Central Asia and Mongolia's nuclear weapon free status as positive steps and important measures towards attaining the objective of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation.

We welcome the entry into force of the Treaty on the nuclear-weapon-free zone in Central Asia on 21 March 2009, as well as the entry into force of the African nuclear-weapon-free zone Treaty (Treaty of Pelindaba) on 15 July 2009.

The NAM would welcome efforts aimed at establishing nuclear-weapon-free zones in all regions of the world freely arrived at among the States of the region concerned. We call for cooperation and broad consultation in order to achieve agreements in this respect. The Group notes the convening of the second meeting of the nuclear-weapon-free zones to be held in New York immediately before the 2010 NPT Review Conference, and calls upon all relevant member states to support the holding of this Conference.

The NAM also reaffirms its support for the establishment in the Middle East of a nuclear-weapon-free zone, in accordance with the Security Council resolution 487 (1981), and paragraph 14 of the Security Council resolution 687 (1991), and the relevant UNGA resolutions adopted by consensus. Pending the establishment of such a zone, the NAM demands Israel to accede to the NPT without delay, and to place promptly all its nuclear facilities under comprehensive IAEA safeguards. We note the adoption of two resolutions, GC53 Res 16 on Application of IAEA safeguards in the Middle East, and GC53 Res 17 on Israeli nuclear capabilities at the 53rd IAEA General Conference, and urge the continued consideration of this issue pending the implementation of both resolutions.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, on the issue of nuclear non proliferation, the NAM believes that this should be approached through political and diplomatic means, and that measures and initiatives on this issue should be taken within the framework of international law, relevant conventions, and the UN Charter. The international community should see to it that its policies and actions contribute to and not detract from the attainment of global peace, security and stability.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.