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**64th Session of the
General Assembly**

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

on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM)

Thematic Debate: Conventional Weapons

First Committee

New York, 19 October 2009

Mr. Chairman,

I am honoured to speak on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

At the outset, the Movement reiterates its founding principles, and also reaffirms the sovereign right of States to acquire, manufacture, export, import and retain conventional arms for their self-defence and security needs. The Group expresses its concern about unilateral coercive measures, and stresses that no undue restriction should be placed on the transfer of such arms.

We recognise the significant imbalance in the production, possession and trade in conventional weapons between the industrialised and the NAM states, and call for a significant reduction in the production, possession and trade of conventional weapons by the industrialised states with a view to enhancing international and regional peace and security.

The NAM remains deeply concerned over the illicit transfer, manufacture and circulation of small arms and light weapons (SALW) and their excessive accumulation and uncontrolled spread in many regions of the world. We recognise the need to establish and maintain controls over private ownership of small arms. We call on all States, in particular major producing States, to ensure that the supply of small arms and light weapons is limited only to Governments or to entities duly authorised by Governments, and to implement legal restrictions and prohibitions preventing the illicit trade of small arms and light weapons. Our Group encourages all initiatives by States to mobilise resources and expertise as well as to provide assistance to strengthen the full implementation of the UN Program of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in SALW in All Its Aspects.

The NAM emphasises the importance of prompt and full implementation of the Programme of Action. In this regard, we stress that international assistance and cooperation is an essential aspect in the full implementation of the Programme of Action. The Movement expresses disappointment at the inability of the UN Conference to Review the Progress made in the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in SALW in All its Aspects, held in New York, from 26 June to 7 July 2006, to agree on a final Document. We note the third Biennial Meeting of the States (BMS) held in New York, from 14 to 18 July 2008, which considered the national, regional and global implementation of the Programme of Action. The NAM reaffirms the total validity of the Programme of Action and encourages the Member States to coordinate efforts in the UN with a view to reaching agreement on a follow-up to the Programme of Action in order to ensure its full implementation. We call for the full implementation of the

international instrument to enable States to identify and trace in a timely and reliable manner the illicit small arms and light weapons, which was adopted by the General Assembly.

Mr. Chairman,

The NAM continues to deplore the use, in contravention of international humanitarian law of anti-personnel mines in conflict situations aimed at maiming, killing and terrorising innocent civilians. This denies them access to farmland causing famine, and forces them to flee their homes eventually leading to de-population and preventing the return of civilians to their place of original residence. We call upon all States in the position to do so, to provide the necessary financial, technical and humanitarian assistance to landmine clearance operations, the social and economic rehabilitation of victims as well as to ensure full access of affected countries to material equipment, technology and financial resources for mine clearance.

The NAM State Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction (the Mine Ban Convention) invite those States that have not yet done so to consider becoming parties to the Convention. The NAM States Parties to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention look forward to the upcoming Second Review Conference to be held in Cartagena, Colombia, from 30 November to 4 December 2009.

The NAM State Parties to the Convention on Prohibition or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May be deemed to be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects (CCW) and its Protocols encourage States to become parties to the Convention and its additional Protocol on Explosive Remnants of War.

We recognise the adverse humanitarian impact caused by the use of cluster munitions, and stress the Movement's principled position on the central role of the United Nations in the area of disarmament and arms control. We take note of the continued consideration of the issue of cluster munitions in the context of the CCW. We further note that the Convention on Cluster Munitions was opened for signature on 3 December 2008.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, with regard to the subject of a future Arms Trade Treaty (ATT), the NAM recognizes the need to address the problems relating to unregulated trade in conventional weapons and their diversion to the illicit market. Considering that such risks can fuel instability, international terrorism, and transnational organized crime, the NAM supports that international action

should be taken to address the problem. There should be respective responsibilities exist for both exporters and importers to address the current situation, based on the principles established in the UN Charter, in a non-discriminatory manner.

In view of the complexity of the issues of conventional arms transfers, further consideration of efforts within the UN framework to address international trade in conventional arms transfers is required on a step-by-step basis in an open and transparent manner to achieve, on the basis of consensus, a balance that will provide benefit to all, with the principles of UN Charter at the centre of such efforts.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.

