

Check against delivery

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Statement by

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on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) at the General Debate on All Disarmament and International Security Agenda Items of the First Committee

New York, 4 October 2010

Mr. Chairman,

- 1. I am honoured to speak on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.
- 2. I congratulate you and other Bureau members on your election, and assure you of our full support.
- 3. NAM views the First Committee as an essential component of the UN disarmament machinery and remains committed to strengthening it.
- 4. Reiterating its strong opposition to unilateralism, NAM reaffirms the absolute validity of multilateral diplomacy as the only sustainable method of addressing disarmament, non-proliferation and international security issues and reaffirms its determination to promote multilateralism as the core principle of negotiations in this field.
- 5. While noting some positive developments, the Movement emphasises that much more remains to be done to attain a world free from nuclear weapons. NAM expresses concern at the threat to humanity posed by the continued existence of nuclear weapons and by their possible use or threat of use. We urge States, particularly the Nuclear Weapon States (NWS), to accelerate efforts to fulfil their obligations on nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation in all its aspects.
- 6. NAM emphasises its principled positions on nuclear disarmament, which remain its highest priority, and on the related issue of nuclear non-proliferation in all its aspects. The ultimate aim in the disarmament process is the general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control. We stress that the efforts aimed at nuclear non-proliferation should be in parallel to the efforts for nuclear disarmament. All States should fulfill their respective undertakings in relation to disarmament, in particular nuclear disarmament and prevent proliferation in all aspects of nuclear weapons as well as other weapons of mass destruction.
- 7. NAM underscores that all States need to pursue in good faith intensified multilateral negotiations, as agreed by consensus in the Final Document of the SSOD-I, to achieve general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control.
- 8. NAM States Parties to the NPT commend the efforts of the President of the 2010 NPT Review Conference, and consider that although imperfect, "Conclusions and Recommendations for Follow-on actions" of the Conference represent an outcome that can be built upon and further enhanced in the near future, to realise a world free from nuclear weapons.

- 9. NAM States Parties to the NPT are concerned on the lack of concrete progress by the NWS in implementing their obligations under the Treaty and full implementation of the 13 Practical Steps, particularly the unequivocal undertaking by NWS to accomplish the total elimination of their nuclear arsenals leading to complete nuclear disarmament. NAM States Parties to the NPT call on NWS to implement their obligations and undertakings, as reaffirmed by successive NPT Review Conferences.
- 10. NAM underlines that reductions in strategic and tactical nuclear weapons, as envisaged in the New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty, should be irreversible, verifiable and transparent, and cannot substitute negotiations in multilateral fora to achieve the ultimate goal of complete nuclear disarmament.
- 11. NAM reiterates that the total elimination of nuclear weapons is the only absolute guarantee against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons. The Movement emphasises the necessity to start negotiations, as soon as possible, in the Conference on Disarmament on a phased programme for the complete elimination of nuclear weapons with a specified framework of time, including a Nuclear Weapons Convention. The aim should be the complete elimination of nuclear weapons by 2025. Pending the total elimination of such weapons, efforts for the conclusion of a universal, unconditional and legally-binding instrument on security assurances to all non-nuclear-weapon-States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons, should be pursued as a matter of urgent priority.
- 12. NAM remains deeply concerned at strategic defense 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 promoting and developing military alliances and nuclear deterrence policies.
- 13. NAM reaffirms the inalienable right of developing countries to develop research, production and use of nuclear energy, including the right to nuclear fuel cycle, for peaceful purposes without discrimination. The Movement continues to note with concern that undue restrictions on exports to developing countries of material, equipment and technology, for peaceful purposes persist. NAM emphasises that proliferation concerns are best addressed through multilaterally negotiated, universal, comprehensive and non-discriminatory agreements. Non-proliferation control arrangements should be transparent and open to participation by all States, and should ensure that they do not impose restrictions on access to material, equipment and technology for peaceful purposes required by developing countries for their continued development.

- 14. NAM 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 UN General Assembly resolutions adopted by consensus. Pending the establishment of such a zone, NAM demands Israel to accede to the NPT without delay, and to place promptly all its nuclear facilities under comprehensive IAEA safeguards. The Movement regrets the lack of progress on the implementation of the 1995 Resolution on the Middle East, and underscores the importance of an expeditious process leading to full implementation of the 1995 Resolution. In this context, Nuclear Weapons Capabilities of Israel are a matter of serious concern. To that end, NAM States Parties to the NPT welcome the steps on Middle East in the "Conclusions and Recommendations for Follow-on actions" of 2010 NPT Review Conference, inter alia, the UN Secretary General and the cosponsors of the 1995 Resolution, in consultation with the States of the region, to convene a conference in 2012, to be attended by all States of the Middle East on the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction.
- 15. NAM continues to consider the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones created by the Treaties of Tlatelolco, Rarotonga, Bangkok, Pelindaba, Central Asia and Mongolia's nuclear weapon free status as positive and important measures toward attaining the objective of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation.

Mr. Chairman,

- 16. NAM takes note of the High Level Meeting on revitalising the work of the Conference on Disarmament on September 24. In this regard, NAM presented its positions, which remain valid in the way forward. NAM believes that the summary of this meeting issued under the sole responsibility of the UN Secretary General, should have duly reflected the views of Member States. Any possible follow-up should be inclusive, Member States driven, and should strengthen the role and work of the CD, as mandated by the First Special Session of the UN General Assembly devoted to Disarmament (SSOD-I) and efforts aimed at achieving nuclear disarmament.
- 17. The Movement underlines the importance and the relevance of the UN Disarmament Commission (UNDC) as the sole specialised, deliberative body within the UN multilateral disarmament machinery. We continue to fully support the work by the UNDC.
- 18. NAM reaffirms its longstanding position on the urgent need to convene the 4th Special Session of the General Assembly Devoted to Disarmament

- (SSOD-IV). NAM expects the current session of the First Committee to take concrete action to actualize SSOD-IV.
- 19. NAM underscores the significance of achieving universal adherence to the CTBT, including by all nuclear-weapon States, which, inter alia, should contribute to the process of nuclear disarmament. The continued commitment of all State signatories, especially the NWS to nuclear disarmament is necessary, if the objectives of the CTBT are to be fully realised.
- 20. NAM States Parties to the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) call for its comprehensive and effective implementation and stress the importance of the establishment of its verification mechanism. In this regard, NAM States Parties to the BWC recognise the particular importance of strengthening the Convention through multilateral negotiations for a legally binding protocol, and universal adherence to the Convention.
- 21. NAM States Parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) reaffirm the importance of meeting the 2012 final destruction deadline of the Convention, and note with concern that two of the major possessor State Parties have indicated that they would not meet this deadline. We strongly urge the possessor States Parties to take all necessary measures to accelerate their destruction operations. Any eventualities where the final deadline is not met should be addressed in a manner that does not undermine the Convention or lead to rewriting or reinterpreting of the Convention's provisions. We reaffirm the significance of international cooperation in the field of chemical activities for purposes not prohibited under the CWC, and stress the need for full and balanced implementation of all provisions of the convention.
- 22. NAM is convinced of the need for a multilaterally negotiated, universal, comprehensive, transparent, and non-discriminatory approach toward the issue of missiles in all its aspects, as a contribution to international peace and security. NAM further emphasises the importance of the contribution of peaceful uses of space technologies to human advancement. NAM also reaffirms that any initiative to address the issues related to delivery systems for weapons of mass destruction should be conducted through inclusive negotiations in a forum where all States could participate as equals.
- 23. We call upon all States in a position to do so, to provide the necessary financial, technical and humanitarian assistance to landmine clearance operations upon request. The social and economic rehabilitation of victims, as well as full access of affected countries to the needed material, equipment, technology and financial resources for mine clearance, are critical for their wellbeing and progress.

- 24. The Group remains concerned over the explosive remnants of Second World War, particularly in the form of landmines, which continue to cause human and material damage and impede development in some NAM countries. We call on the States primarily responsible for laying these mines and leaving explosives outside their territories during Second World War, to cooperate with the affected countries and provide mine action support to affected countries, including with information exchange, maps indicating the locations of mines and explosives, technical assistance for mine clearance, defrayal of the costs of clearance and compensation for any losses caused by mines-laid.
- 25. NAM States Parties to Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention take note of the Outcome of the Second Review Conference of the Convention.
- 26. NAM States Parties to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW) and its Protocols encourage States to become parties to the Convention. They further note that negotiations on proposals regarding the draft protocol on Cluster Munitions are under way in the CCW.
- 27. We are concerned on the adverse humanitarian impact caused by the use of cluster munitions. In this regard, we reiterate NAM's principled position on the central role of the UN in the area of disarmament and arms control. We note that the Convention on Cluster Munitions entered into force on August 1, 2010.
- 28. Our Group remains deeply concerned on the illicit transfer, manufacture and circulation of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) in various regions of the world. This harms the innocent and obstructs their socioeconomic progress. In this regard, the Movement stresses the implementation of the Program of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in SALW in All Its Aspects (PoA), which it considers to be the main framework for addressing the issue of the illicit trade in these weapons. We take note of the fourth Biennial Meeting of States (BMS-4) held in June this year. We stress that international assistance and cooperation is an essential aspect in the full implementation of the PoA and encourage all countries to assist the countries in need for resources and expertise to implement the PoA.
- 29. The Movement welcomes the adoption without a vote of General Assembly resolution titled Relationship between Disarmament and Development. The NAM is deeply concerned at the increasing global military expenditure, a substantial part of which could otherwise be spent on promoting international development efforts and eradicating poverty and disease. The need for the implementation of the principle of undiminished security for all is crucial.

- 30. In closing Mr. Chairman, the Movement stresses the importance of political will in addressing international disarmament issues. We remain committed to constructive engagement to contribute to the work of the First Committee. In this regard, we intend to submit resolutions on:
- Measures to uphold the authority of the 1925 Geneva Protocol
- Effects of the use of armaments and ammunitions containing depleted uranium
- Relationship between disarmament and development
- Observance of environmental norms in the drafting and implementation of agreements on disarmament and arms control
- Promotion of multilateralism in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation
- Convening of the fourth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament
- United Nations regional centres for peace and disarmament.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.