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**Statement by
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on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement

at

**The General Debate of the First Committee Session
of the 71st United Nations General Assembly**

New York, 3 October 2016

Mr. Chairman,

1. I have the honor to speak on behalf of the Member States of the Non-Aligned Movement. I would like to congratulate you and other Bureau members on your election, and assure you of our full cooperation.
2. NAM reiterates its positions on the entire range of disarmament and international security issues as contained in the final document of the 17th NAM Summit, held in Venezuela in September 2016. In this context, I would like to highlight the Movement's views on some important issues.

Mr. Chairman,

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 disarmament¹ 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. 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.
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. The Movement also calls on the nuclear weapon States to immediately cease their plans to further modernize, upgrade, refurbish, or extend

¹ NAM Statement – UNDC 2016, Para 8.

the lives of their nuclear weapons and related facilities.

11. 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.
12. 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.
13. 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.

Mr. Chairman,

14. 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.
15. NAM States parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) welcome the accession of the State of Palestine to the Treaty.
16. 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.
17. Recalling the opposition expressed by the US, UK and Canada at the concluding session of the 2015 NPT Review Conference, NAM States Parties to the NPT express their disappointment that as the result of such opposition, consensus on new measures regarding the process to establish a Middle East Zone free of Nuclear Weapons and all other Weapons of Mass Destruction was not achieved. This could undermine efforts towards strengthening NPT regime as a whole. NAM reemphasizes the special responsibility of the co-sponsor States of the 1995 resolution on the Middle East in implementation of that resolution. NAM is concerned that the persistent lack of implementation of the 1995 Resolution, contrary to the decisions made at the relevant NPT Review Conferences undermine the effectiveness and credibility of the NPT and disrupts the delicate balance between its three pillars, taking into account that the indefinite extension of the Treaty agreed at the 1995 Review Conference inextricably linked to the implementation of the 1995 resolution on the Middle East does not entail the right to indefinitely possess nuclear weapons.

Mr. Chairman,

18. 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.
19. 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.
20. NAM recalls the successful conclusion of nuclear negotiations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and E3/EU+3, resulting in the finalization of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) on 14 July 2015. NAM underlines that this agreement showed once again that dialogue and diplomacy are the most appropriate means to resolve such issues, as the Movement has always been advocating.
21. 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.
22. NAM once again reaffirms the inviolability of peaceful nuclear activities and that any attack or threat of attack, including using information and communication technologies, against peaceful nuclear facilities – operational or under construction – poses a great danger to human beings and the environment, and constitutes a grave violation of principles of the UN Charter, international law, and the resolutions of the IAEA General Conference.

23. NAM recognizes that the primary responsibility for nuclear safety rests with individual states. The Movement further recognizes that the responsibility for nuclear security within a State rests entirely with that State. Any multilateral norms, guidelines or rules in nuclear security should be pursued within the framework of the IAEA. The Movement emphasizes that measures and initiatives aimed at strengthening nuclear safety and nuclear security must not be used as a pretext or leverage to violate, deny or restrict the inalienable right of developing countries to develop research, production and use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes without discrimination.

Mr. Chairman,

24. NAM believes that the Nuclear-Weapon-Free zones (NWFZs) by the treaties of Tlatelolco, Rarotonga, Bangkok, Pelindaba, the Central Asian Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone treaty as well as Mongolia's Nuclear-Weapon-Free-Status are positive steps and important measures towards strengthening global nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation. NAM reiterates that in the context of NWFZs, it is essential that nuclear-weapon States provide unconditional assurances against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons to all States of the zone. NAM calls upon all nuclear-weapon States to ratify related protocols to all treaties establishing nuclear-weapon-free zones, withdraw any reservations or interpretative declarations incompatible with their object and purpose, and respect the de-nuclearization status of these zones.

25. NAM strongly supports the establishment of a zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East. As a priority step to this end, they reaffirmed the need for the speedy establishment of a NWFZ in the Middle East. Pending its establishment, NAM demands that Israel, the only in the region that has not joined the NPT nor declared its intention to do so, renounce any possession of nuclear weapons, accede to the NPT without precondition and further delay, place promptly all its nuclear facilities under IAEA full-scope safeguards. NAM expresses great concern over the acquisition of nuclear capability by Israel, which poses a serious and continuing threat to the security of neighbouring and other States, and condemned Israel for continuing to develop and stockpile nuclear arsenals. The Movement also calls for the total and complete prohibition of the transfer of all nuclear-related equipment, information, material and facilities,

resources or devices and the extension of assistance in the nuclear related scientific or technological fields to Israel.

26. NAM States Parties to the NPT reiterate their serious concern over the two decades delay in the implementation of the 1995 Resolution on the Middle East and urge the cosponsors of the Resolution to take all necessary measures to fully implement it without any further delay.
27. NAM State Parties to the NPT reiterate their profound disappointment that the 2010 action plan on the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction has not been implemented. They strongly reject the alleged impediments for not implementing the 2010 Action plan on the Middle East and the 1995 Resolution on the Middle East. This runs contrary to the letter and spirit of the 1995 Resolution which constitutes the original terms of reference of establishing this zone. It also violates the collective agreement reached at the 2010 NPT Review Conference.
28. NAM also stresses the significance of achieving universal adherence to the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, including by all nuclear-weapon States, which, inter alia, should contribute to the process of nuclear disarmament. The Movement reiterates that if the objectives of the Treaty were to be fully realized, the continued commitment of all States signatories, especially the NWS, to nuclear disarmament would be essential. In this context, NAM welcomes the recent ratification of the CTBT by Angola, Myanmar, and Swaziland.

Mr. Chairman,

29. NAM States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons (CWC) note with satisfaction the effective operation of the CWC as the only comprehensive multilateral treaty banning an entire category of WMD, providing for a verification system and promoting the use of chemicals for peaceful purposes. They urged all possessor State Parties to take every necessary measure to ensure their compliance with their “Detailed plan for the destruction of Chemical Weapons remaining after the final extended destruction deadline of 29 April 2012”, in the shortest time possible, in order to uphold the credibility and integrity of the Convention. They call for the promotion of international cooperation in

the field of chemical activities for purposes not prohibited under the Convention without any discrimination and restriction. In this regard, they attach high importance to the adoption of a Plan of Action on Article XI on economic and technological development for the full, effective and non discriminatory implementation of all the provisions of the Article XI.

30. NAM State Parties to the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) considers that the Convention represents an important component of the international legal architecture related to WMD. They recognize that the lack of a verification system continues to pose a challenge to the effectiveness of the Convention. They call for the resumption of the multilateral negotiations to conclude a non-discriminatory legally binding Protocol, dealing with all Articles of the Convention, in a balanced and comprehensive manner to sustainably strengthen the Convention, including through verification measures. They urge the party rejecting negotiations to reconsider its policy. They further emphasize the need for enhancing, without restrictions, international cooperation and assistance and exchanges in toxins, biological agents equipment and technology for peaceful purposes without any discrimination, in conformity with the Convention. NAM States Parties to the BWC look forward to a successful Review Conference of the BWC which is to be held in 2016.

31. In the context of resolutions 1540 (2004), 1673 (2006), 1810 (2008) and 1977 (2011), adopted by the Security Council in the areas covered by multilateral WMD treaties, NAM underlines the need to ensure that any action by the Security Council does not undermine the UN Charter, existing multilateral treaties on weapons of mass destruction, and international Organizations established in this regard, as well as the functions and power and role of the General Assembly. NAM cautions against the continuing practice of the Security Council to utilize its authority to define the legislative requirements for Member States in implementing its decisions. In this regard, NAM stresses that the issue of acquisition of weapons of mass destruction by non-State actors should be addressed in an inclusive manner by the General Assembly, taking into account the views of all Member States.

32. NAM continues to affirm the sovereign right of States to acquire, manufacture, export, import and retain conventional arms and their

parts and components for their self-defense and security needs. NAM expresses its concern about unilateral coercive measures and emphasizes that no undue restriction should be placed on the transfer of such arms.

33. NAM remains deeply concerned over a wide range of security, humanitarian and socio-economic consequences arising from the illicit manufacture, transfer, and circulation of small arms and light weapons (SALW). NAM calls on all states, in particular major producing States, to ensure that the supply of SALW is limited only to governments or to entities duly authorized by them. NAM also underlines the need for a balanced, full and effective implementation of the Program of Action and the International Tracing Instrument, and in this regard, stresses the urgent need to intensify efforts to promote international cooperation and assistance.
34. NAM stresses the importance of the reduction of military expenditures by major arms producing countries, in accordance with the principle of undiminished security at the lowest level of armaments, and urges those countries to devote these resources to global economic and social development, in particular in the fight against poverty.
35. In the context of the thematic debate, NAM will further elaborate on other issues related to conventional weapons.
36. NAM remains concerned over the developments related to the anti-ballistic missile systems and the threat of weaponization and militarization of outer space and reiterates its call for the commencement of negotiations in the CD on a universal legally binding instrument on the prevention of an arms race in outer space, which remains a priority. In this regard, NAM reaffirms that the outer space, as the common heritage of all mankind, must be explored and utilized for exclusively peaceful purposes and for the benefit of all States, irrespective of the degree of their social, economic or scientific development.
37. Recalling NAM's position that the elaboration of any code of conduct for outer space activities should be consistent with the respective mandate of all relevant UN bodies and should be held in the format of inclusive, transparent and consensus-based multilateral negotiations

within the framework of the United Nations, based on a proper and unequivocal mandate, without specific deadlines and taking into account the interests of all States, irrespective of their level of development, in order to reach a balanced outcome that addresses the needs and reflects the concerns of all States.

38. NAM continues to call for a universal, comprehensive, and non-discriminatory multilateral approach toward the issue of missiles in all its aspects, negotiated multilaterally within the UN. Any initiative on this subject should take into account the security concerns of all States and their inherent right to peaceful uses of space technologies.
39. As the use of information and communication technologies has the potential to endanger international peace and security, countering such emerging security challenges and reducing their risk is essential. Development of a legal framework to address these issues should be pursued within the UN with the active and equal participation of all States.
40. The Movement highlights the important socio-economic opportunities, in particular for developing countries, provided by information and communication technologies, and underscores the need to prevent all discriminatory practices and policies that hinder access by developing countries to the benefits of information and communication technologies. NAM notes with concern cases of the illegal use of new Information and Communications Technologies, including social networks, to the detriment of Member States of the Movement, and expresses its strongest rejection of those violations.
41. The Movement stresses the importance of ensuring that the use of such technologies is fully in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, International Law and, especially, the principles of sovereignty, non-interference in the internal affairs and internationally-known rules of peaceful coexistence among States.
42. NAM calls for transparency and strict application of the principle of equitable geographical representation, including, in particular in the composition of the Groups of Governmental Experts established in the field of disarmament and international security. The movement also underlines the importance of transparency and openness of the work of

such groups. In this regard, NAM highlights that keen interest was expressed by many developing countries to meaningfully contribute to the subject of ICTs in the context of international security and deeply regrets that their request for participation in the recently constituted GGE was not considered.

43. Expressing its deep concern on the continued lack of adequate representation from NAM countries in United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA), the movement requests the Secretary General and High Representative to undertake steps to ensure balanced and equitable representation in the office (UNODA).
44. NAM is of the view that Lethal Autonomous Weapon Systems (LAWS) raise a number of ethical, legal, moral and technical, as well as international peace and security related questions which should be thoroughly deliberated and examined in the context of conformity to international law including international humanitarian law and international human rights law. In this regard, NAM States Parties to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW) welcome the third informal meeting of CCW experts on Lethal Autonomous Weapon Systems held in Geneva from 11-15 April 2016 and support continued deliberations on this issue in the open-ended Group of Governmental Experts (GGE) on the basis of the mandate agreed by consensus at the informal meeting of CCW experts. NAM States Parties to CCW welcome the accession of Algeria and Palestine to the Convention and its annexed protocols. NAM States Parties to CCW also look forward to a successful fifth Review Conference of the Convention to be held in December 2016 under Pakistan's presidency.
45. NAM remains concerned at the continuous erosion of multilateralism in the field of disarmament, non-proliferation, and arms control. The Movement is determined to continue promoting multilateralism as the core principle of negotiations in these areas and as the only sustainable approach to address these issues, in accordance with the UN Charter.
46. NAM reaffirms the importance of the Conference on Disarmament (CD) as the sole multilateral negotiating body on disarmament, and reiterates its call on the CD to agree by consensus on a balanced and comprehensive program of work without any further delay taking into

account the security interests of all States. In this regard, the movement reaffirms the importance of the principle contained in the final document of the SSOD-I that “The adoption of disarmament measures should take place in such an equitable and balanced manner as to ensure the right of each State to security and to ensure that no individual State or group of States may obtain advantages over others at any stage”.

47. To instill a fresh impetus to global nuclear disarmament efforts, NAM calls for the urgent commencement of negotiations, in the CD, for the conclusion of a comprehensive convention on nuclear weapons, as called for in resolution 70/34 presented by the Movement. NAM expresses its appreciation for the Working Paper Submitted by Mongolia on behalf of the Member States of G-21 on ‘Follow-up to the 2013 high-level meeting of the General Assembly on nuclear Disarmament’ contained in the document CD/2067.
48. Enhancing the effectiveness of UN disarmament machinery is a shared objective. Based on its existing rules of procedure and methods of work, this machinery has produced landmark treaties and guidelines. NAM believes that the main difficulty lies in the lack of political will by some States to achieve progress, particularly on nuclear disarmament.
49. The Group welcomes the efforts made by the CD Presidents from NAM members states towards resumption of CD’s substantive work in 2016 which include Nigeria, Pakistan and Peru. NAM takes note of the deliberations and discussions on substantive issues that were held during CD’s 2016 session. While welcoming the efforts made during the 2016 session of the Conference on Disarmament on its programme of work, the Movement encourages all CD member states to demonstrate the necessary political will so that the CD fulfills its negotiating mandate.
50. For its part, NAM stands ready to engage constructively on the advancement of the issues on the UN disarmament agenda and the ways and means of strengthening the disarmament machinery. NAM underscores the importance of the convening of the Fourth Special Session of the General Assembly devoted to Disarmament, as it would offer an opportunity to review, from a perspective more in tune with the current international situation, the most critical aspects of the disarmament process, and to mobilize the international community and

public opinion in favor of the elimination of nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction and of the control and reduction of conventional weapons. In this regard, the Movement welcomes the successful convening of two substantive sessions in 2016 of the Open Ended Working Group on SSOD-IV chaired by Ecuador.

51. 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.

52. The Movement underlines that the exercise of political will by all States is necessary to achieving concrete results. It is confident that with political courage and working together cooperatively, the First Committee can contribute tangibly to building a more secure world.

Thank you