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Statement by

Kamapradipta Isnomo
Minister Counsellor, Permanent Mission of the Republic of Indonesia
to the United Nations

on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement

at

The Thematic Debate of the First Committee
of the 70th Session of the United Nations General Assembly
on Conventional Weapons

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PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS

325 East 38th Street, New York, NY 10016 • Tel. (212) 972-8333 • Fax. (212) 972-9780

www.indonesiamission-ny.org email: ptri@indonesiamission-ny.org

Mr. Chairman,

1. I am honored to speak on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement on the topic of Conventional Weapons.
2. NAM reaffirms 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.
3. 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 key importance of international cooperation and assistance.¹
4. NAM recognizes the significant imbalance in the production, possession and trade in conventional weapons between the industrialized and Non-Aligned Countries, and calls for a significant reduction in the production, possession and trade of conventional weapons by the industrialized states with a view to enhancing international and regional peace and security.

¹ NAM General Debate Statement – First Committee, 2015

5. NAM notes the adoption, by vote, of the Arms Trade Treaty by the UN General Assembly on 2nd April 2013. The Movement also notes that the Treaty, which aims at regulating trade in conventional weapons, including small arms and light weapons, entered into force on 24 December 2014. NAM calls for its balanced, transparent and objective implementation, in strict accordance with the principles of the UN Charter, and the inherent right of each State to security and to individual or collective self-defense. The Movement also underscores that its implementation should, in no way, affect 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.
6. NAM continues to deplore the use, in contravention of international humanitarian law, of anti-personnel mines in conflict situations aimed at maiming, killing and terrorizing innocent civilians. NAM calls 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.
7. NAM States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction, reiterate their commitment to the full implementation of the Cartagena Action Plan, and invite those States that have not yet done so to consider becoming parties to the Convention.

8. NAM States 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 Protocols.
9. Recognizing the adverse humanitarian impact caused by the use of cluster munitions, NAM also expresses solidarity with the cluster munitions-affected countries, and calls for providing the necessary financial, technical and humanitarian assistance to unexploded cluster munitions clearance operations.
10. Regarding the explosive remnants of the Second World War, particularly in the form of landmines which continue to cause human and material damage and obstruct development plans in some Non-Aligned Countries, NAM calls on the States primarily responsible for laying these mines and leaving explosives outside their territories, to cooperate with the affected countries and provide mine action support, including 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.
11. In closing, NAM stresses the importance of the reduction of military expenditures, in accordance with the principle of undiminished security at the lowest level of armaments, and urges all States to devote resources made available from there to economic and social development, in particular in the fight against poverty.

Thank you.