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STATEMENT

BY

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AMBASSADOR AND PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE
REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS

ON

FIRST COMMITTEE GENERAL DEBATE ON ALL
DISARMAMENT AND INTERNATIONAL
SECURITY AGENDA ITEMS

NEW YORK
4TH OCTOBER 2017
MR. CHAIRMAN,

My delegation conveys Zambia’s deepest condolences and sympathy to the people of the United States of America regarding the mass shooting in Las Vegas on 2\textsuperscript{nd} October 2017.

May I now take the honour to congratulate you Ambassador Mohammed Hussein Bahr Aluloom on your election as Chairperson of the Committee on Disarmament and International Security. Let me assure you of my delegation’s full support and cooperation during this Committee’s deliberations.

My delegation wishes to align itself with the statements delivered by Indonesia and Nigeria on behalf of the Non Aligned Movement and the African group respectively.

MR. CHAIRMAN,

Zambia takes this opportunity to re-affirm its total commitment and support to the United Nations Member States concerted efforts towards the general and complete disarmament towards a world free of Nuclear Weapons. Admittedly, nuclear weapons are the most dangerous weapons on earth with the potential to destroy human life and putting at risk the natural environment and lives of future generations through long lasting catastrophic effects.

The risks of nuclear weapons arise from various angles of their existence, production, stockpiling and testing. Although nuclear weapons have only been used twice in warfare, over 15,000 nuclear weapons remain in existence in Nuclear Weapons States and in some instances in a few non-Nuclear Weapons States with over 2,000 nuclear tests having been conducted on land, sea and in laboratories.

Despite a number of multilateral treaties being in existence with the purpose of eliminating proliferation and testing through the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) and the Comprehensive-Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) of 1996, little has been achieved in this direction.
Zambia continues to support the General Assembly Resolution 3472 on Nuclear-Weapons-Free-Zones as a tool towards strengthening global nuclear non-proliferation norms and promotion of international efforts towards peace and security. Zambia is encouraged that all African States are state parties to the Treaty of Pelindaba with a common agenda of an African Continent Nuclear Weapons Free Zone. In this connection, my delegation calls upon other regions which have not attained such targets to work towards the realization of Nuclear Weapons Free Zones.

My delegation would be compelled to look at nuclear energy as a public good as opposed to usage of nuclear in weaponry systems. In this vein, Zambia has continued to support the works of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the strengthening of the agency’s additional protocols which tend to uphold the living standards of people in the field of nuclear energy. In this direction, Zambia has engaged some stakeholders in the generation of electricity from nuclear energy, purely for peaceful purposes.

MR. CHAIRMAN,

Regarding Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) which Zambia is state party to, Zambia is putting in place measures that will necessitate the effective implementation of the treaty. Among the measures being enforced are the enactment of national legislation, development of a national control list, mechanisms to enhance inter-agency coordination and cooperation inclusive capacity building. For ATT to effectively attain its objectives and purpose, Zambia calls for the ATT promotion and universalization through sub-regional actors and other stakeholders.

Zambia fully acknowledges the problem of proliferation of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) in all aspects. In this connection, we are committed to the process of materializing the objectives of various international, continental and regional instruments which are fashioned to address the problem of SALW proliferation in line with the international community’s commitment to taking action against individuals and groups involved in illicit trade and proliferation of SALW, by adhering to main instruments that include the firearms protocol, United Nations Programme of Action to combat and eradicate illicit arms and the International Tracing Instruments which enables states to identify and trace illicit arms.
MR. CHAIRMAN,

My delegation also wishes to raise concerns regarding acquisition of weapons of mass destruction by terrorist groupings. Zambia joins hands with other Member States in the fight against weapons of mass destruction being in the hands of terrorists and other non-state groups. This can be achieved together with the United Nations encouraging all states to strengthen national anti-proliferation regimes in the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) which seeks to keep non-state actors from acquiring nuclear, biological and chemical weapons of mass destruction. In this connection, there should be concerted efforts in information sharing. Greater strides should also be upheld in the assistance for building state capacity through greater co-operation among all stakeholders, civil societies and researchers.

MR. CHAIRMAN,

My delegation would also like to highlight some concerns towards the arms race in outer space. All Member States should devise comprehensive outcomes towards the prevention of an arms race in outer space and come up with measures to prevent the outer space from becoming an area of conflict but to be used by all states as a common heritage for the greater benefits of peaceful uses of the outer space. Zambia is of the view that initiatives of no first placement of weapons in outer space should be upheld by all Member States.

In conclusion, my delegation reiterates Zambia’s commitment and support to the global efforts towards complete disarmament in all aspects in order to uphold international peace and security.

I THANK YOU.