



Permanent Mission of the United Republic of Tanzania
to the United Nations

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

STATEMENT BY

**H.E. AMBASSADOR MODEST JONATHAN MERO.
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED
REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

DURING THE

GENERAL DEBATE OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE

NEW YORK, 2ND OCTOBER 2017

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Mr. President,

The delegation of the United Republic of Tanzania wishes to congratulate you and the Bureau for your well-deserved election. You all have our full confidence, and assurances of our cooperation and support.

We equally welcome the presence and commitment of H.E. Ms. Izumi Nakamitsu, High Representative of the Secretary General on Disarmament. We thus welcome her statement.

My delegation associates itself with statements delivered by Nigeria and Indonesia, on behalf of African Union and the Non-Aligned Movement respectively. Please allow me to make some remarks in my national capacity.

First, the successful negotiation of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons has provided new political and legal impetus for disarmament machinery. The majority of the Member States on 7th July 2017 adopted the new treaty banning nuclear weapons placing them in the same category of the international law, like treaties of other weapons of mass destruction. The Treaty has been available for countries to start signing it since 20th September 2017. The United Republic of Tanzania is looking forward to sign and ratify it consistent with its laws.

Two, my delegation underscores that the Treaty complements the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) which Tanzania is a state party since 1991. However we stress that disarmament effort must not hinder the inalienable right of developing countries to develop research, production and use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. In this regard, we note the important role being played by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in implementing safeguards for verification of nuclear programmes and application of nuclear technology for peaceful purposes.

Mr. President,

Third, The United Republic of Tanzania has long been cognizant of the presence of Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMDs) and of the grave threat that the presence of weapons of this nature poses to the peace and security of our nation, our continent and our world. In this regard, we continue to stress the need for the international community to strengthen measures that prevent Non-State Actors including terrorists from gaining access to WMDs.

Fourth, Mr. President, We remain deeply concerned with the illicit trade, stockpiling and transfer of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALWs), including their excessive accumulation and uncontrolled spread in many regions of the world. These weapons fuel and prolong conflicts, environmental crimes which include the killing of endangered species including elephants, organized crimes, including drug trafficking, violent crimes and terrorism. In this regard, we remain fully committed to effective multilateral efforts that are aimed at combating illicit trade in and proliferation of conventional weapons and their munitions. We welcome the entry into force of the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT), which United Republic of Tanzania signed on 3rd June 2013.

Fifth, The United Republic of Tanzania believes in the importance of Outer Space and its uses for peaceful purposes and is deeply concerned with ongoing arms race such as deployment of ballistic missile systems in space and its implications to the security of the space and the humanity on earth. My delegation calls upon the international community to underline the importance of strict compliance with the relevant disarmament Agreements and the existing legal regime concerning Outer Space.

In conclusion, my delegation wishes to underscore that disarmament and development are interrelated and mutually reinforcing. It is widely documented that funds used to stockpile heavy weapons that are rarely used are a drain on the national and world economies. In this regard, we urge countries to consider investing in raising the living conditions of the peoples that can also reverse the current and intense irregular migration from south to north resulting from poverty and hopelessness.

I thank you.