



REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA



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STATEMENT BY

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TO THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS

ON

AGENDA ITEM 102 (b)
NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT

AT THE FIRST COMMITTEE THEMATIC DISCUSSION

DURING THE

SEVENTY-THIRD SESSION OF THE
UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

22nd OCTOBER 2018
NEW YORK

MR. CHAIRMAN,

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

In the light of pursuing effective and collective holistic approach towards prevention and removal of the never ending threats to international peace and security my delegation unequivocally condemns the slow pace at which comprehensive nuclear disarmament has been moving despite several initiatives that Member States and non-state actors have been bringing forth. We note that since 1968 when the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) was concluded and coming into force in 1970, very little or insignificant progress has been achieved in nuclear weapons non-proliferation and comprehensive disarmament.

My delegation acknowledges that 191 States are party to the NPT inclusive the five Nuclear Weapons States (NWS), but is concerned with the slow pace towards the NWS approach of step by step nuclear disarmament.

From 1995 the world has witnessed the NPT extension through five yearly review conferences and interim Preparatory Committee Meetings (PrepComs). These conferences and prepcoms have resulted in several reports on NPT with minimal headways.

We recall the NPT Review Conference of May 2015 collapsing due to disagreements over the proposals for a Middle East Disarmament Conference which was due for 2016 after failure of the 2012 NPT Review Conference on the establishment of a Middle East Zone of Nuclear Weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction.

MR. CHAIRMAN,

My delegation also notes with concern that banning testing of nuclear weapons has been a key objective of the United Nations since the 1950s. Despite

183 countries having signed the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT), the world still awaits the remaining states to do the correct thing by signing and ratifying this treaty. This dimension will definitely add impetus to the elimination of nuclear weapons in their totality.

MR. CHAIRMAN,

My delegation shares deep concerns of nuclear weapons' ever present threats to humans and the environment as the use of these weapons whether intentional or accidental, would have catastrophic humanitarian consequences that would arise from nuclear explosions and radioactive contamination. Many more people that will survive will still suffer from the after effects, inclusive distortion of the climate and destruction of the agricultural pattern.

MR. CHAIRMAN,

Zambia which is party to NPT, the Pelindaba Nuclear Free Zone and CTBT will continue to work together with other Member States in ensuring that the 7th July 2017 adopted Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) produces the desired results of eliminating nuclear weapons from the face of the earth.

In this connection, Zambia will only promote and subscribe to secure and peaceful use of nuclear technologies for developmental purposes as embarked upon by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

I thank you.