



**Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Eswatini
to the United Nations**

**Statement by
H.E. Mr. Melusi Martin Masuku
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the Kingdom of Eswatini to the United Nations**

**During the Thematic Debate of the
First Committee on Cluster 1: Nuclear Weapons**

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Mr. Chairman,

As this is the first time that we are taking the floor, permit me to congratulate you and the members of the Bureau on your able stewardship of our deliberations thus far. Let me assure you of our full support.

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation aligns itself with the statement made by the distinguished representative of Indonesia on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement and Morocco, on behalf of the African group. However, we wish to add the following;

Total elimination of nuclear weapons remains the single absolute guarantee toward complete nuclear disarmament. Continued possession of nuclear weapons constitutes a threat to global peace and the future survival of humanity. There exist therefore, an urgent need to rid our planet of this threat.

Mr. Chairman,

This as a prerequisite, if we are to make headway toward nuclear disarmament and contribute to international peace and security. It is with this in mind that, the Kingdom of Eswatini welcomes the adoption of the landmark Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW), on 7 July 2017. Eswatini considers this as an essential building block in the international legal framework that is needed if we are to have a strong and effective message on the ban of nuclear weapons.

The Treaty therefore complements the existing nuclear non-proliferation regime, and we see the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) as its foundation.

Similarly, the importance of nuclear-weapon-free zones across the world to the overall objectives of the NPT cannot be overlooked. Nuclear Weapon Free Zones contribute a significant milestone towards achieving nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation objectives, thereby enhancing global and regional peace and security.

To this end, we wish reiterate our commitment to the Treaty of Pelindaba.

We applaud the efforts of the Secretary General in organising the 5th General Assembly Plenary Meeting on the "International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons" held on 26 September 2018.

We therefore wish to underscore the importance of this Day as an integral part of the multilateral disarmament effort where it reaffirmed the world's commitment to global nuclear disarmament as a high priority.

I thank you!