



REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA



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STATEMENT

BY

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

ON

THE FIRST COMMITTEE ON DISARMAMENT AND
INTERNATIONAL SECURITY AGENDA ITEMS

NEW YORK
7TH OCTOBER 2014

Mr. Chairman,

Zambia takes the honour to congratulate you Ambassador, Courtenay Ratiray, for having been elected as Chair of the First Committee for the 69th Session of the United Nations General Assembly.

My delegation assures you of its commitment to the works of the First Committee and shall render you maximum support during deliberations of the First Committee. Zambia further takes cognisance and gratitude to the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs for inspirational remarks on Comprehensive Disarmament and International Peace and Security.

Mr. Chairman,

Zambia is concerned with the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons. Zambia is further concerned that past testing and manufacturing of nuclear weapons has not only created unacceptable humanitarian consequences but has undermined progress in global development.

Mr. Chairman,

Zambia envisages that this First Committee of the 69th Session of the General Assembly will come up with refined approaches that will provide an opportunity for a global common treaty that will prohibit nuclear weapons. For the better lives of future generations, consequences of nuclear weapons regarding their production, deployment and stockpiling should be adequately negated by all Member States.

Zambia joins all global peace custodians in calling upon all the nuclear-armed states to scale back on investing in nuclear weapons advancement. In this connection, Zambia takes the opportunity to discourage other Member States that could be considering joining in the nuclear arms race.

Mr. Chairman,

Despite the first conference on Nuclear Disarmament held in Oslo in 2013 and the second conference in Mexico, attended by 146 Member States, little progress has been made. Zambia is of the considered view that this session will open a new window for concerted efforts of positive results when Member States gather again during the third conference on nuclear disarmament to be held in Vienna, during the month of December 2014. There are no ultimate winners in nuclear warfare. We therefore

urge all Member States to work together towards a nuclear-weapons free world.

Regarding other weapons of mass destruction, Zambia joins the African Group in condemning the use of chemical weapons in recent years, an action which has led to the loss of many lives including innocent women and children. We urge the international community to work together and to encourage states which have not ratified the Chemical Weapon Convention (CNC) to do so.

Mr. Chairman,

Regarding the Arms Trade Treaty, Zambia fully supports the Treaty's Provisions and joins in congratulating the Member States that have contributed to the fifty ratifications that will bring it into force on 24 December, 2014. With the ATT coming into force, it is hoped that the proliferation of illegal firearms will be controlled or drastically reduced. Zambia is of the considered view that the deliberations of the First Committee of the 69th Session of the General Assembly will synergize with the renewed international commitment in enforcing the ATT.

Mr. Chairman,

I once again wish to reiterate my delegation's commitment to having a nuclear-weapons free world and we urge all states to

join in negotiating for the treaty banning nuclear weapons completely. Further, Zambia supports all initiatives to eradicate the world of Weapons of Mass Destruction and to put control measures towards all forms of trading in Arms and other conventional weapons as agreed under various conventions.

I thank you all for your attention.