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Statement by
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to the United Nations

at

the General Debate of the First Committee
70th Session of the United Nations General Assembly

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Mr. Chairman,

Let me join others in congratulating you and other Bureau members on your election to chair the Committee.

I assure you, Mr. Chairman, of my delegation's support and cooperation throughout the session.

My delegation wishes to associate itself with the statement on behalf of the Non-Alignment Movement, as well as the statement delivered by Myanmar on behalf of ASEAN.

Mr. Chairman,

We need to continue building every positive momentum towards the strengthened nuclear architecture, we must admit that there is still a long way to go before we achieve satisfactory results.

We have to be cautious and remain aware that the current volatile situation could rapidly change for the worse due to the possession, the use, or the threat of use of nuclear weapons.

Geopolitical tensions in many areas of the world are a testament to the precariousness of false confidence.

The non-proliferation challenge on the Korean Peninsula is a constant reminder. Miscalculation, catastrophic accident, and the potential consequences of brinkmanship could dramatically erase the current peace dividend that we enjoy right now.

The failure to convene the Conference to establish a zone free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East is another testament. It is a very unfortunate situation in the international community that may be described as "benign neglect".

At the heart of Europe, the current situation has demonstrated to us that the negative security assurances can be withdrawn rapidly as a result of dramatic changes in domestic political situations.

In Southeast Asia, after the successful conclusion on the Protocol to the accession to the SEANWFZ Treaty, conditions conducive to ensure the signing and ratification by all Nuclear-Weapon-States have not yet been met.

Mr. Chairman,

For so long as even a single nuclear weapon exists, humankind is in danger of suffering a nuclear catastrophe—by design or by accident.

As a country long committed to advancing regional and international peace and stability, nuclear disarmament remains the highest priority for Indonesia.

In our assessment, compliance with nuclear disarmament commitments remains far behind compared to those related to non-proliferation or peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

Regrettably, despite the fact that the current international system is equipped with an architecture of treaties, commitments and forums to advance the objectives of non-proliferation, thousands of nuclear weapons continue to exist.

Positive signs that were evident after the 2010 NPT Review Conference are diminishing. The 2015 NPT Review Conference failed to agree on a draft Final Document which sets forth concrete steps to advance progress in the field of nuclear disarmament.

The world's sole multilateral negotiating body on disarmament, the Conference on Disarmament (CD), has been deadlocked for almost two decades. The deliberation in the United Nations Disarmament Commission (UNDC) has sparked frustration among member states.

While we are celebrating the 70th anniversary of the UN, for decades, the lack of political will in the multilateral disarmament forums remain to be a major obstacle in abolishing nuclear weapons.

Thus, necessary political will to address the trust deficit must be taken to revitalize the UN disarmament machinery, including the First Committee.

Despite the bleak picture in the field of global disarmament and non-proliferation, we continue to be hopeful, as the overwhelming majority of nations remain firm on their demands of ridding the world from nuclear weapons.

In order to get our message across to more people, more clearly, it is imperative that we place the humanitarian dimension of nuclear weapons at the center of the nuclear disarmament discourse.

Global awareness regarding the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons must reinforce all efforts directed towards negotiating a comprehensive instrument to ban nuclear weapons.

Mr. Chairman,

Indonesia remains optimistic that we could move the disarmament agenda forward. There are practical ways that can be explored by countries and international community to advance nuclear disarmament objective.

First, at the global level, Indonesia invites countries to show their political will by supporting practical ways to achieve such objective.

Countries and international community should lend their full support for the commencement of negotiations of a comprehensive nuclear weapons convention, in line with resolution 69/58 entitled '*Follow-up to the 2013 high-level meeting of the General Assembly on nuclear disarmament*'.

It is our firm belief that such step is consistent to what the international community has done in the past to prohibit and outlaw other weapons of mass destruction.

Second, at the regional level, every non-nuclear weapon state has an important role to play to ensure that their territory and region will not in any way be used in contravention with the objective of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation.

In this regard, Indonesia would like to reiterate the importance of maintaining Southeast Asia as a nuclear weapon free zone and free from threat of nuclear weapons and weapons of mass destruction.

We look forward to the signing of the Protocol to the Treaty on SEANWFZ and its related documents by Nuclear-Weapon-States as early as possible.

As President of the “2015 Conference of States Parties and Signatories to Treaties that Establish Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones and Mongolia”, Indonesia continues to support the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones in regions that have yet to establish them, in particular in the Middle East.

Mr. Chairman,

Pending a comprehensive international legal framework that outlaws nuclear weapons, Indonesia fully supports the urgent conclusion of a universal, unconditional and legally binding instrument on security assurances to all non-nuclear weapon States.

Indonesia is also of the view that the universalization and entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) is vital. Countries, especially Annex II States, need to demonstrate their political will and leadership by ratifying CTBT to enable the Treaty to enter into force.

Indonesia, as one of the Annex II countries, has showed its leadership by ratifying the CTBT in 2012.

On 29 September 2015, Indonesia, together with Hungary, has just handed over the Co-Presidency of the Article XIV Conference of CTBT to Japan and Kazakhstan.

Even though it is no longer in that position, Indonesia will always be ready to contribute and support efforts for the successful universalization of CTBT, as well as to further advance international peace and stability.

While we have not seen much progress in the area of disarmament, we are encouraged by significant progress achieved under the non-proliferation regime, in particular the prevalence of diplomatic solution in the negotiation on Iran nuclear issue. However, we are of the view that further efforts are needed to attain the universalization of the IAEA Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement to ensure universal adherence to the non-proliferation commitments under the NPT.

In the NPT context, Indonesia supports the continued efforts to strengthen the Treaty’s incentive, where commitments by State Parties to non-proliferation can allow for more access to nuclear technology for peaceful purposes.

Mr. Chairman,

Indonesia continues to affirm the sovereign right of States to acquire, manufacture, export, import and retain conventional arms and their parts and components for their self-defense and security needs.

In this regard, we express our concern on unilateral coercive measures and emphasizes that no undue restriction and conditionality should be placed on the transfer of such arms.

We also stress the importance of the reduction of military expenditures by major arms producing countries, in accordance with the principle of undiminished security at the lowest level of armaments.

The illegal supply and illegitimate use of conventional weapons by unauthorized actors must be stopped. This can be done by strengthening The UN Programme of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons.

Indonesia is also concerned over the developments related to the anti-ballistic missile systems, and the threat of weaponization and militarization of outer space. The exploration and use of outer space should be for peaceful purposes only and benefit for all States.

With regard to the issue of outer space, the negotiation of any code of conduct on outer space activities should be consistent with the respective mandate of all relevant UN bodies and should be convened in the format of inclusive, transparent and consensus-based multilateral negotiations within the framework of the United Nations.

Mr. Chairman,

Indonesia remains concerned with any initiative that will erode multilateralism in the field of disarmament, non-proliferation, as well as arms control. We are determined to continue promoting multilateralism as the core principle of negotiations in accordance with the UN Charter.

In the midst of 70 years of the UN, we must redouble our efforts for nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. Let us ensure that humankind forever be absolved from the threat of nuclear annihilation.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.