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**STATEMENT**

**BY**

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AMBASSADOR AND PERMANENT  
REPRESENTATIVE OF THE REPUBLIC OF  
NAMIBIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

**DURING**

**THE GENERAL DEBATE OF THE FIRST  
COMMITTEE AT THE 70<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF  
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**NEW YORK**

**TUESDAY, 13 OCTOBER 2015**

Mr. Chairman

I wish to congratulate you on your election as Chair of the First Committee for the 70<sup>th</sup> Session of the UN General Assembly and assure you of my delegation's full support. I also wish to congratulate other members of the Bureau on their election,

My delegation aligns itself with the statements delivered by the Non-Alignment Movement and the African Group.

Mr. Chairman,

The three pillars of the NPT namely, peaceful uses, non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament are essential instruments to strengthening international peace and security. Namibia wishes to stress that nuclear disarmament should remain a priority on the Agenda of the Committee. We once again renew our strong call upon the nuclear-weapon States to fully comply with their legal obligations and unequivocal undertakings to accomplish the total elimination of nuclear weapons without further delay, in a transparent, irreversible and internationally verifiable manner.

It is essential that all non-nuclear-weapon states should be provided with universal, unconditional, non-discriminatory and legally binding assurances, by all Nuclear Weapon States, against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons under any circumstances.

Improving or modernizing the existing nuclear weapons, including developing new types, contradict the objective of achieving nuclear disarmament.

Mr. Chairman

Like many other State Parties to the NPT, Namibia regrets the failure of the 9th NPT Review Conference to reach consensus on a final outcome document despite the efforts made by many delegations.

Namibia remains a committed signatory to the Pelindaba Treaty which provides a shield for Africa by preventing the stationing of nuclear explosive devices on the continent and prohibiting testing of those destructive weapons in the continent, being the only nuclear free zone region.

In the same vein, Namibia joins those who are calling for the establishment of a nuclear weapon-free-zone in the Middle East, and expresses concern over the fact that commitments and obligations of the Action Plan of the 2010 NPT Review Conference regarding the establishment of a zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East, have not been implemented.

Namibia welcomes the accession of the State of Palestine to the NPT as its 191st State Party.

Likewise, Namibia welcomes the successful conclusion of nuclear negotiations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and E3/EU+3, which resulted in the finalization of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) on 14 July 2015.

With regard to the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT), Namibia believes that it is important to achieve universality adherence which will result in the early entry into force of the CTBT. The CTBT is an instrument of halting further development or proliferation of nuclear weapons, thereby contributing to the goal of nuclear disarmament.

Accordingly, we welcome the convening of the 9<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the CTBT on 29<sup>th</sup> September 2015 in New York and commend the ratification of the Treaty by the Republic of Angola. We urge the remaining Annex II countries to sign and ratify the CTBT.

Mr. Chairman,

We re-affirm the importance of humanitarian considerations in the context of all deliberations on nuclear weapons and in promoting the goal of nuclear disarmament. We therefore welcome the growing emphasis on the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons.

In this context we reiterate the need for all States at all times to comply with applicable international law, including international humanitarian law. Any use of nuclear weapons is a violation of the UN Charter and a crime against humanity. The total elimination of nuclear weapons and the assurance that they will never be produced again, is the only unqualified assurance against the catastrophic humanitarian consequences arising from the use of such weapons.

Mr. Chairman

The principal responsibility for nuclear safety rests with individual states. And therefore, the responsibility for nuclear security within a State rests entirely with that State. Multilateral norms, guidelines or rules on nuclear security should be pursued within the framework of the IAEA.

It is our conviction that measures and initiatives aimed at strengthening nuclear safety and nuclear security must not be used as a pretext to deny or restrict the inalienable right of developing countries to develop research, production and use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes.

Finally, we wish to highlight that only multilateral disarmament negotiations will achieve tangible results if there is a genuine and sincere political will to support the process.

I thank you