



BANGLADESH

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Statement by Dr. A.K. Abdul Momen, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the UN at the General Debate of the 70th Session of the First Committee on 15 October 2015

Thank you, Mr. Chairman,

1. At the outset, I would like to congratulate Mr Karel Jan Gustaaf van Oosterom (very good friend of mine) on his election as the Chair of the First Committee. I have no doubts about his ability to successfully shepherd the work of this Committee. I also wish to assure the members of the Bureau of the fullest cooperation of the delegation of Bangladesh in discharging their responsibilities.
2. Bangladesh aligns itself with the statement made by Indonesia on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement. However, I would like to highlight a few points on the entire range of disarmament and international security issues in my national capacity.

Mr. Chairman,

3. As a signatory to all major multilateral disarmament treaties, including the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, the Chemical Weapons Convention, the Biological Weapons Convention, the Certain Conventional Weapons Convention, the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty and the Arms Trade Treaty, Bangladesh is committed to general and complete disarmament---
a commitment that flows from its constitutional obligation to disarmament.

Mr. Chairman,

04. Attaining global nuclear disarmament is one of the key goals of the creation of United Nations. Even after 70 years, the horrors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki so strongly shakes our conscience that the very first resolution that the General Assembly adopted envisioned a world, **free of nuclear weapons**. Nuclear disarmament has been on the General Assembly's agenda since 1959 and supported by every UN Secretary General.
05. Sixty nine years have elapsed since the first resolution of General Assembly been adopted. Unfortunately, the rhetoric on nuclear disarmament has not matched with concrete and tangible achievement. Mankind today, as it was sixty nine years ago, is still confronted with an unprecedented threat of self-extinction arising from the massive and competitive accumulation of nuclear weapons sufficient enough to destroy all human lives on earth.

06. Time has now come to conclude a comprehensive convention that will ensure and guarantee the objective of a world free of nuclear weapons. Many world leaders expressed this view during the first ever High Level Meeting of the General Assembly on nuclear disarmament on 26 September 2013.

Mr. Chairman,

07. Bangladesh's position on nuclear disarmament has been consistent, straight-forward and unambiguous. Convinced that nuclear weapons cannot guarantee security and peace to humanity, we have unequivocally reaffirmed our commitment to a **world, free of nuclear weapons.**

08. Bangladesh welcomes the successful conclusion of nuclear negotiation between the Islamic Republic of Iran and E3+3, resulting in the finalization of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) on 14 July, 2015. The agreement underlines the fact that **dialogue and diplomacy are the most appropriate means to resolve such issues.** Bangladesh also welcomes the decision of the second General Assembly Plenary Meeting to **Commemorate the 26 of September as the ' International Day of the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons'.**

09. Bangladesh as party to the Treaty of Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) **welcomes the accession of the State of Palestine to the Treaty as its 191st State Party.** Bangladesh regrets the failure of the 9th NPT Review Conference to reach consensus on a final document.

10. The only purpose that nuclear technology serves to us is its peaceful use under comprehensive IAEA safeguards that may help address key development challenges of many countries. In this regard, Bangladesh, with the assistance and strict supervision of IAEA, has been working on civil and peaceful use of nuclear technology, especially in agriculture, producing energy and health sectors.

11. Unfortunately, a handful of states, insensitive to the security of the majority, sadly continue to possess or seek to possess these wrong weapons to guarantee their security. Valuable resources that could feed and provide decent lives to the deprived humanity are being used and diverted to create yet more sophisticated nuclear weapons having power to annihilate the mankind and the world. To these handful nuclear weapons states, we urge to ponder for a brief moment that while they spend more than US \$105 billion each year for researching and testing new nuclear arsenals. But research shows only an average US \$50 billion per annum would be sufficient to halve poverty for nearly 6 billion people of this world.

Mr. Chairman,

12. Following five decades of struggle against nuclear testing, the CTBT was humanity's first silver lining towards a comprehensive globally verifiable non-proliferation regime banning any and all nuclear explosions. 30 days within its adoption, Bangladesh an Annex 2 State, had demonstrated its full faith in the CTBT and was the first country from South Asia to have signed the treaty in 1996 and ratified it in 2000. **We welcomes the recent ratification of the CTBT by Angola.**

13. After 19 years, 183 signatures and 164 ratifications that the Treaty is yet to enter into force is a great disappointment for us. We call upon the remaining eight Annex 2 States, whose ratifications are necessary for the treaty to come into force, to ratify the Treaty without further delay. Bangladesh believes entry into force of that CTBT would mark a vital step towards the reduction and eventual elimination of nuclear weapons by constraining their development and qualitative improvement.

Mr. Chairman,

14. The Conference on Disarmament (CD) remains deadlocked for decades now wasting valuable resources and time. The last time the Conference agreed to negotiate was in 1996 for the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty. Ever since, the CD remains stagnated and is unable to undertake substantive work. We call on the CD to agree on a balanced and comprehensive program of work. We urge all states to demonstrate the necessary political will so that the CD fulfills its negotiating mandate.

Mr. Chairman,

15. While the specter of nuclear danger remains ever daunting, it is conventional weapons that are turning out to be the real weapons of mass destruction in many parts of the world. Horrific consequences of the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons have devastated many societies killing and maiming millions of civilians. Limitation, reduction, and regulation of conventional arms are therefore a matter of cardinal importance. It is indeed an encouraging development that the Arms Trade Treaty came into force in December 2014. As a signatory to the treaty, we hope that the treaty would put an end to the illegal trade in and illegitimate use of conventional weapons that caused and are causing untold sufferings to mankind. *Bangladesh welcomes the outcome document of the First State Party Conference held in Cancun, Mexico in August this year.*

Mr. Chairman,

16. Bangladesh considers the outer space as a common heritage of mankind. We support strengthening of the international legal regime and development of a Code of Conduct for Outer Space Activities to protect and preserve access to space for all and to prevent the weaponization of Outer Space.

Mr. Chairman,

17. This year we are celebrating the 70th anniversary of the United Nations striving to build a safer and more prosperous world. Member States have laid the foundations for future generations through the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development. Promoting peace and justice (goal 16 of SDGs) is one of the Global Goals that make up the Agenda for Sustainable Development. The challenges of disarmament and international security become increasingly complex and intertwined and detrimental to development of a country, a region and the world as a whole. We must learn to make multilateralism work to create a more secure world to ensure development as well as SDGs. It is our sincere hope that our collective endeavor here in the First Committee will contribute to revitalizing the UN disarmament machinery and securing international peace and security through effective arms control, non-proliferation and disarmament.

I thank you Mr. Chairman.

