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Statement by

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to the United Nations**

on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement

at

**The Thematic Debate of the First Committee
of the 70th Session of the United Nations General Assembly
on Nuclear Weapons**

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Mr. Chairman,

1. I am privileged to speak on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.
2. The Movement reaffirms its principled positions on nuclear disarmament, which remains its highest priority, and remains extremely concerned at the threat to humanity posed by the continued existence of nuclear weapons and of their possible use or threat of use.
3. Notwithstanding the longstanding calls for the total elimination of nuclear weapons, reiterated by the High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on Nuclear Disarmament, the situation in the realm of nuclear disarmament continues to be characterized by impasse. The Movement is deeply concerned by this dismal state of affairs.
4. NAM reiterates its deep concern over the lack of progress by the Nuclear-Weapon States (NWS) to accomplish the total elimination of their nuclear arsenals, in accordance with their relevant multilateral legal obligations and their unequivocal undertakings in 2000 and 2010.
5. Compliance by the NWS with their nuclear disarmament obligations and commitments under the NPT is imperative and must not be delayed any further. Furthermore, the NWS must accomplish the total elimination of their nuclear weapons in a transparent, irreversible and internationally verifiable manner.
6. The Movement also calls on the NWS to immediately cease their plans to further modernize, upgrade, refurbish or extend the lives of their nuclear weapons and related facilities.

7. The international community has waited too long for the realization of the goal of the total elimination of nuclear weapons. It has become obvious that the existing approach adopted by nuclear weapon States, the so-called step-by step approach, has failed to make concrete and systematic progress towards the total elimination of nuclear weapons. Forward movement on nuclear disarmament cannot be held hostage to progress on non-proliferation or the perceived notions of strategic stability. It is time to take a new and comprehensive approach on nuclear disarmament.
8. The Movement underscores the importance of the General Assembly resolution 69/58 entitled "Follow-up to the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on Nuclear Disarmament", which provides a concrete pathway for realizing the objective of nuclear disarmament. The Movement is confident that the full implementation of this resolution will ensure tangible progress on nuclear disarmament. NAM urges the early commencement of negotiations in the Conference on Disarmament, on a comprehensive nuclear weapons convention pursuant to UNGA resolution 69/58.
9. NAM recalls the decision of the General Assembly to convene, no later than 2018, a UN high level conference to review progress made in this regard and emphasizes the need for early and appropriate preparation to ensure a successful conference.
10. NAM welcomes the second General Assembly Plenary Meeting to commemorate the 26 of September as the "International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons", and further welcomes the reaffirmation by Ministers participating that nuclear disarmament continues to be the priority of the international community.
11. NAM reaffirms the importance of humanitarian considerations in the context of all deliberations on nuclear weapons and in promoting the goal of nuclear disarmament. In this connection, NAM welcomes the growing focus on the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons, including at the three Conferences in Oslo, Nayarit and Vienna. The broad participation at those Conferences reflects that the catastrophic humanitarian

consequences of nuclear weapons are a fundamental and global concern. The Movement expresses its deepest concern over the immediate, indiscriminate, and massive death and destruction caused by any nuclear weapon detonation and its long term catastrophic consequences on human health, environment, and other vital economic resources, thus endangering the life of present and future generations. In this context we reaffirm 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. At the same time, NAM underscores that the total elimination of nuclear weapons and the assurance that they will never be produced again, is the only absolute guarantee against the catastrophic humanitarian consequences arising from their use.

12. NAM reiterates its deep concern over the military doctrines of the nuclear-weapon-States and NATO that set out rationales for the use or threat of use of such weapons against non-nuclear-weapon-States. Such doctrines cannot be justified on any grounds.
13. Pending the total elimination of nuclear weapons, NAM reaffirms the urgent need for conclusion of a universal, unconditional, non-discriminatory and legally binding instrument to effectively assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons under any circumstances as a matter of high priority.
14. The Movement reaffirms its principled positions on non-proliferation of nuclear weapons in all its aspects. NAM believes that nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation are mutually reinforcing and are essential for strengthening international peace and security. Non-proliferation derives its legitimacy from the larger objective of nuclear disarmament. Pursuing non-proliferation alone while ignoring nuclear disarmament obligations is both counterproductive and unsustainable. NAM emphasizes that proliferation concerns are best addressed through multilaterally negotiated, universal, comprehensive and non-discriminatory agreements.

15. NAM States parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) welcome the accession of the State of Palestine to the Treaty as its 191st State party.
16. NAM is of the firm belief that non-proliferation policies should not undermine the inalienable right of States to acquire, have access to, import or export nuclear material, equipment and technology for peaceful purposes.
17. NAM states Parties to the NPT regret the failure of the 9th NPT Review Conference to reach consensus on a final outcome document despite the efforts made by NAM delegations. This failure should serve as a stimulus to work harder towards achieving nuclear disarmament, the ultimate objective of the NPT.
18. Recalling the opposition expressed by the US, UK and Canada at the concluding session of the 2015 NPT Review Conference, NAM States Parties to the NPT express their disappointment that as the result of such opposition, consensus on new measures regarding the process to establish a Middle East Zone free of Nuclear Weapons and all other Weapons of Mass Destruction was not achieved. This could undermine efforts towards strengthening NPT regime as a whole. NAM States Parties to the NPT reemphasizes the special responsibility of the co-sponsor States of the 1995 resolution on the Middle East in implementation of that resolution. NAM States Parties to the NPT are concerned that the persistent lack of implementation of the 1995 Resolution, contrary to the decisions made at the relevant NPT Review Conferences undermine the effectiveness and credibility of the NPT and disrupts the delicate balance between its three pillars, taking into account that the indefinite extension of the Treaty agreed at the 1995 Review Conference inextricably linked to the implementation of the 1995 resolution on the Middle East does not entail the right to indefinitely possess nuclear weapons.

19. NAM reaffirms the inalienable right of each State to develop research, production and use of nuclear energy, including the sovereign right to develop full national nuclear fuel cycle, for peaceful purposes without discrimination. NAM strongly rejects, and calls for the immediate removal of any limitations and restrictions on exports to developing countries of nuclear material, equipment and technology for peaceful purposes, consistent with the provisions of relevant multilateral treaties. In this regard, NAM stresses that the technical cooperation and assistance provided by the IAEA in meeting the needs of its Member States for material, equipment and technology for peaceful uses of nuclear energy shall not be subject to any conditions incompatible with its Statute.
20. NAM believes that the establishment of Nuclear-Weapon-Free zones (NWFZs) created by the relevant treaties are positive steps and important measures towards strengthening global nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation. NAM strongly supports the establishment of a zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East. Pending its establishment, NAM demands that Israel, the only in the region that has not joined the NPT nor declared its intention to do so, renounce any possession of nuclear weapons, accede to the NPT without precondition and further delay, and place promptly all its nuclear facilities under IAEA full-scope safeguards. They expressed great concern over the acquisition of nuclear capability by Israel which poses a serious and continuing threat to the security of neighbouring and other States, and condemned Israel for continuing to develop and stockpile nuclear arsenals.
21. The Movement would like to stress that on its part, it remains ready to engage constructively with all countries to work actively to help fulfil the collective vision of a world free from all nuclear weapons. But this vision can only be realised, if the required political will and action is clearly demonstrated by all parties.

22. This year, the Movement will once again table the updated version of the draft resolution entitled "Follow-up to the High-level Meeting on Nuclear Disarmament". In this regard, NAM seeks the support of all Member States to vote in favour of this draft resolution.

Thank you.