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Statement by

Mr. Kamapradipta Isnomo
Minister Counsellor, Permanent Mission of the Republic of Indonesia
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 Other Disarmament Measures and International Security

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PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS

325 East 38th Street, New York, NY 10016 • Tel. (212) 972-8333 • Fax. (212) 972-9780

www.indonesiamission-ny.org email: ptri@indonesiamission-ny.org

Mr. Chairman,

1. I am pleased to speak on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.
2. While noting that considerable progress has been made in developing and applying the latest information technologies and means of telecommunication, the Movement is concerned that these technologies and means can potentially be used for purposes that are inconsistent with the objectives of maintaining international stability and security and may adversely affect the integrity of the infrastructure of States to the detriment of their security in both civil and military fields.
3. While taking into account the ongoing efforts within the United Nations, NAM calls upon Member States to further promote at multilateral levels the consideration of existing and potential threats in the field of information security, as well as possible strategies to address the threats emerging in this field.
4. The Movement emphasizes that these technologies and means should be utilized by Member States in a manner consistent with international law and the principles and purposes of the UN Charter. In this regard, NAM calls for the intensification of efforts towards safeguarding cyberspace from becoming an arena of conflict, and ensuring instead the exclusive peaceful uses which would enable the full realization of the potential of ICTs for contributing to social and economic development. The Movement further highlights the central role of governments in areas related to public policy aspects of ICT security.
5. The Movement notes with concern cases of the illegal use of new Information and Communications Technologies (ICTs), including social networks, to the detriment of Member States of the Movement, and expresses its strongest rejection of those violations. The Movement stresses the importance of ensuring that the use of such technologies is fully in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, International Law and, especially, the principles of sovereignty, non-interference in the internal affairs and internationally-known rules of peaceful coexistence among States.

6. As the use of information and communication technologies has the potential to endanger international peace and security, countering such emerging security challenges and reducing their risk is essential. Development of a legal framework to address these issues should be pursued within the UN with the active and equal participation of all States.

Mr. Chairman,

7. The Movement emphasizes the importance of the observance of environmental norms in the preparation and implementation of disarmament and arms limitation agreements. Furthermore, the Movement reaffirms that international disarmament forums should take fully into account the relevant environmental norms in negotiating treaties and agreements on disarmament and arms limitation, and that all States, through their actions, should contribute fully to ensuring compliance with the aforementioned norms in the implementation of treaties and conventions to which they are parties.

Mr. Chairman,

8. The Movement expresses concern at the increasing global military expenditure, which could otherwise be spent on development needs. NAM also stresses 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, and urges those countries to devote these resources to global economic and social development, in particular in the fight against poverty.
9. NAM is presenting two draft resolutions in this cluster, entitled "Observance of environmental norms in the drafting and implementation of agreements on disarmament and arms control", and "Relationship between disarmament and development" for which it urges and will appreciate support from all Member States.

Thank you.