



Permanent Mission of the United Republic of Tanzania

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STATEMENT BY

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PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE
UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA**

**DURING THE GENERAL DEBATE OF THE
FIRST COMMITTEE ON GENERAL AND
COMPLETE DISARMAMENT**

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Mr. Chairman,

We join the previous speakers in congratulating you and other members of the Bureau on your well-deserved election. I wish to assure you my delegation's full support and cooperation as you discharge your important responsibilities.

We align ourselves with statements delivered by the distinguished representatives of Nigeria and Indonesia, on behalf of African Group and the Non-Aligned Movement, respectively, and wish to compliment them with the following remarks in our national capacity.

Mr. Chairman,

On 26th September 2016 we observed the International Day for the Total Elimination of the Nuclear Weapons; and yet, this Committee's session opens while no meaningful global disarmament has taken place over the years. Regrettably, Nuclear Weapon States and their nuclear-dependent allies continue to rely heavily on nuclear weapons in their security doctrines and invest billions of dollars upgrading and modernizing their arsenals.

Although progress towards our collective disarmament goals has been slow, and sometimes painful, the United Republic of Tanzania has not lost confidence in the central role of the United Nations to control and eliminate nuclear arms as a way toward achieving international peace and security.

To the United Republic of Tanzania, disarmament and development are not unrelated. The portion of resources deployed for military expenditure could make significant contribution to securing the promise of the Sustainable Development Goals. It is for this reason the work of this Committee is important to us.

Furthermore, the scope and magnitude of the humanitarian consequences caused by nuclear weapons are catastrophic and more complex than understood. It is in this regard that the United Republic of Tanzania calls the Nuclear Weapon States (NWS) 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 under the NPT regime.

It is also vital that Non-Nuclear Weapon States (NNWS) be provided with universal, unconditional, non-discriminatory and legal binding assurances by all Nuclear Weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons under any circumstances.

United Republic of Tanzania stresses that IAEA safeguards are the fundamental component of NPT that help to create an environment conducive to nuclear cooperation. Therefore they should be implemented without affecting the rights of States to develop research, production and the peaceful uses of nuclear energy without discrimination.

The NPT should not serve as a tool to only regulate the non-nuclear weapon states. It should also not be used as a camouflage for placing stringent conditions on the transfer of nuclear technology for peaceful uses to developing nations. The benefits of nuclear technology should not, and cannot, be for the exclusive use of the nuclear powers alone.

The United Republic of Tanzania is a State Party to the African Nuclear Free Zone Treaty (Pelindaba Treaty). The treaty provides an important framework for strengthening the Non Proliferation Regime in Africa and world at large. We therefore support the establishment of Nuclear Free Zone in other regions as well.

Mr. Chairman,

The proliferation and misuse of Small and Light Weapons (SLW) is a matter that also concerns us deeply. In the Great Lakes of Africa and other places in the continent they are a source of great suffering and devastation and undermine social and economic development for countries and citizens.

Illicit transfers of such weapons have assisted trans-national organized criminals, including terrorists. It is for these reasons we continue to believe that an effective Arms Trade Treaty will not only contribute to a responsible regime for transferring SLW but will also give peace a chance to regions and people that have known little else.

Mr. Chairman,

In conclusion allow me to restate the view of the United Republic of Tanzania that multilateral diplomacy and solid political will of Member States are important in achieving the general and complete disarmament.

I thank you.