

# Statement

By

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Permanent Representative of Liberia to the United  
Nations

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Disarmament and International Security Agenda  
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**Mr. Chairman,**

I am honored to address this Committee for the first time, and to both congratulate and assure you and other elected members of the Bureau of the support of the Liberian Delegation.

**Mr. Chairman,**

Liberia associates with the Statements of the African Group and the Non-Aligned Movement, and wishes to emphasize the following national perspectives.

We feel compelled to again insist that the attainment of peace and the maintenance of security cannot become a reality unless the forces responsible for raising the levels especially of weapon-related anxiety are brought under some reasonable form of effective international control. Important therefore as unilateral and bilateral actions continue to be, Liberia believes the real fear posed by either the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons are best addressed by through multilateral approaches and actions. As together, we can all become victims so must we stand together to remove this threat.

This is why Liberia was proud to join other countries in signing the Humanitarian Pledge against the use of nuclear weapons. We hope the realization remains strong that the use, or threat of the use of nuclear weapons, presents our human family with its most serious existential threat just as our collective will to act against that threat must be equally unwavering.

And this, also, is why we were firm in our recent condemnation of North Korea. The world does not need more nuclear tests. It needs more elimination of nuclear weapons.

Indeed, Liberia is committed to the peaceful use of nuclear energy. However, we believe our support for the total elimination of nuclear weapons reflects an urgent and reasonable priority in the search for universal peace and security. We will not ignore at our peril, the increasingly chilling and frightening consequences of the use of nuclear weapons. Like many represented in this hallowed halls, this real fear has emboldened us further to call on all States with nuclear weapons to not only fulfill all their obligations under the Non-Proliferation Treaty but also to resist the temptation to undermine the efforts of the international community to realize the

total elimination of nuclear weapons and its attending threats to our peace and security.

**Mr. Chairman,**

Liberia shares the view that nuclear weapons-free zones are indispensable to strengthening the NPT and to promoting nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, and therefore reaffirms the value of the Treaty of Pelindaba which cements Africa's Status as a nuclear-weapons free zone. We call for continued international support to further strengthen the capacity of Pelindaba and the other weapons-free zones around the world.

**Mr. Chairman,**

Liberia recognizes the efforts of States Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT). As a State Party, we believe that scrupulous implementation of the ATT will assist States in their efforts to curb the illicit acquisition of small arms, light weapons, and other conventional weapons. We continue to take national actions in support of the ultimate goal of strengthening the legal regime of the conventional arms trade thereby preventing the diversion of weapons to unauthorized recipients.

With a goal of preventing persons from trafficking in or gaining unauthorized access to weapons, working in partnership with the Economic Community of West African States, the Liberian government is strengthening the capacity of security personnel tasked with patrolling our borders especially in the wake of the assumption of full security responsibilities by Liberian securities from UNMIL on June 30. My country has also passed into law the Firearms and Ammunition Control Act of 2015, which provides a legal framework for regulating the possession and use of small arms and light weapons.

To further curb the proliferation of conventional weapons, on September 9, 2016, the Government of Liberia declared full amnesty for all persons who surrender small arms and light weapons under the ECOWAS-EU Weapons Collection Program. We know that such projects which entail voluntary weapons surrender by civilians in targeted communities will continue to contribute toward the consolidation of peace in Liberia as well as the safety and security of the sub-region.

The Liberian government also supports the full implementation of the UN Programme of Action on small arms and light weapons. Clearly, this program can assist in filling the technical and capacity gaps that could otherwise pose serious challenges to the full implementation of the ATT and other small arms-related objectives.

Similarly, we know that strengthening State and civil society partnerships, and increasing international training and assistance, including through the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Togo, are crucial to ensuring Africa's success in addressing the flows of illicit weapons.

**Mr. Chairman,**

We do not have to live with the threat of nuclear weapons. We know this to be possible. And we know we can do this for ourselves and for our children.

I thank you.