



Permanent Mission of the Republic of Namibia to the United Nations
135 East 36th Street, New York, NY 10016
Tel: (646)627-8670 Fax: (646)-627-8678 E-mail: namibia@un.int

(PLEASE CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY)

STATEMENT
BY
HIS EXCELLENCY, WILFRIED I. EMVULA,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE
REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA TO THE UNITED
NATIONS

DURING

THE GENERAL DEBATE OF THE FIRST
COMMITTEE AT THE 71st SESSION OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE UNITED
NATIONS ON GENERAL AND COMPLETE
DISARMAMENT

NEW YORK
MONDAY, 10 OCTOBER 2016

Mr. Chairperson,

I would like to congratulate you on your assumption of the Chairmanship of this Committee of the 71st Session of the General Assembly. We stand ready to cooperate fully with you and your team in the discharge of your current assignments to advance the work of the First Committee.

Mr. Chairperson,

Namibia associates itself with the statements delivered on behalf of the Non-Alignment Movement and the African Group.

We also wish to seize this opportunity to welcome the ratification of the CTBT by Angola, Swaziland and Myanmar.

Namibia believes in the non-selective implementation of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty non-proliferation and the peaceful use of nuclear energy as key to disarmament. In this regard, we reiterate our strong commitment to multilateralism. Suffice it to say, we look forward with optimism to the envisaged Review Cycle of the NPT in Vienna in 2017, as well as a Third NPT Review Conference, which is scheduled to take place in 2020.

Namibia further supports the noble position adopted by the International Court of Justice in its 1996 Advisory Opinion, that the use or threat to use nuclear weapons, is contrary to the rules of international law on armed conflicts and, violates the principles and rules of international humanitarian law.

In this context, we join the call for the de-legitimization of nuclear weapons in their entirety. The belief in military doctrines based on the myth of advancing national security through nuclear deterrence, are counter-productive and against the spirit of the Non Proliferation Treaty.

Mr. Chairperson,

The threat to humanity posed by the continued existence of nuclear weapons and of their continued testing, including underground or underwater, as well as their potential for use or threat of use, still remains very real. We remain concerned over the difficult and complex situation which pertains the field of disarmament and international security.

It is therefore, important, to ensure that efforts aimed at nuclear non-proliferation are parallel to simultaneous efforts aimed at nuclear disarmament. The total elimination of nuclear weapons is the only absolute guarantee against the use or threat of use, of nuclear weapons.

The establishment of Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones (NWFZs) created by the Treaties of Tlatelolco, Rarotonga, Bangkok, Pelindaba, the Central Asian Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty as well as, Mongolia's Nuclear-Weapon-Free-Status, are positive steps and, important measures towards strengthening global nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation.

In this connection Namibia fully supports the establishment in the Middle East, of a zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction.

Mr. Chairperson,

With regard to outer space activities, the common interest of all humankind and the inalienable, legitimate sovereign rights of all States in the exploration and use of outer space for exclusively peaceful purposes, should be recognized. We oppose and reject any act denying or violating peaceful uses of outer space for the benefit of all mankind.

Namibia reiterates the inalienable right of developing countries to develop research, produce and use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes without discrimination. However, there is concern that undue restrictions on exports to developing countries of material, equipment and technology, for peaceful purposes continues to persist.

As one of the biggest producers of uranium, Namibia is actively participating in the IAEA activities for the promotion of the peaceful uses of nuclear material for the treatment of cancer, agricultural production and energy generation.

Hence, our conviction that the production and possession of nuclear materials other than for peaceful uses, is not a sustainable guarantee for security. Namibia supports commends and, urges all Nuclear Weapon States to take the requisite steps that would eventually lead to the reduction of nuclear proliferation and, ultimately nuclear disarmament.

Mr. Chairperson,

In conclusion, Namibia welcomes the successful conclusion of nuclear negotiations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and E3/EU+3, which resulted in the finalization of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) on 14 July 2015, and is looking forward to its complete implementation.

I thank you.