STATEMENT BY

AMBASSADOR OMBENI Y. SEFUE,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNIFIED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS

DURING THE GENERAL DEBATE OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE

NEW YORK, 7 OCTOBER 2010
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Mr. Chairman,

Allow me to join other delegations in congratulating you and the Bureau upon your election to preside over these critical deliberations on the maintenance of international peace and security. We wish you success and assure you of the full support and cooperation of the delegation of the United Republic of Tanzania.

Mr Chairman:

The United Republic of Tanzania associates itself with statements delivered by Nigeria and Indonesia, on behalf of the African Union and the Non-Aligned Movement respectively.

We also welcome your statement and that of the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, H.E. Mr Sergio Duarte, particularly in support of disarmament of Small Arms and Light Weapons, the establishment of a zone free of Nuclear Weapons in the Middle East and of course, ultimate Nuclear Disarmament.

Small Arms and Light Weapons

Mr Chairman:

We have just concluded a successful High-level Plenary Meeting of the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals. We do realize however that those goals cannot be achieved in societies embroiled in conflict. Secondly, we do realize that conflicts on the African continent are sustained by an
unending supply of small arms and light weapons, especially to non-state actors and other destabilizing and negative forces. The United Nations must address the challenge of disarmament and illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in a more resolute and compelling manner.

Arms employed to wreak havoc in Africa and elsewhere thrive also on account of the supply of ammunition. Disarmament efforts should go in tandem with the curtailment of the supply of ammunition to non-state actors, war mongers and organized criminal gangs wherever they may be.

**Disarmament and Development**

**Mr. Chairman,**

Development can be a good incentive to end conflicts and disarm. In post-conflict societies, development and opportunity are the best anchors and guarantee of disarmament and sustainable peace. Tanzania believes that peace and security needs to be underpinned by growth and development.

People must have a peace dividend; they need to have a stake in peace for them to cherish and preserve it. My country belongs to the African Great Lakes sub-region where, for almost two decades, armed conflicts have afflicted societies at the expense of development. We need to live up to the letter and spirit of Security Council Resolution 1653 (2006).

**Demining**

**Mr. Chairman,**

Many years after the end of conflicts too many innocent people in Africa and elsewhere continue to lose life and limb on account of unexploded mines. It is important that we find an effective and least costly way to deal with this problem. For many years now, the Belgian NGO APOPO has worked with the Sokoine University of Agriculture in Tanzania to train and use rats for detecting landmines as a cheap and efficient mine detection tool. The technology is now accredited with the UN and some countries have already made use of it to clear their minefields. We invite the UN, the International Community and indeed Member States to take advantage of this cost-effective technology in demining operations.

**Somalia**

**Mr. Chairman,**

The situation in Somalia has to be a concern of the whole world. Its deterioration will have dangerous repercussions far beyond the region. This conflict too is fuelled by a steady supply of small arms and light weapons. It is true the conflict embraces more
than the supply and use of arms, but the ready supply of these arms exacerbates the conflict. Somalia needs disarmament and we support UN efforts in that regard.

We welcome the appointment of Ambassador Augustine Mahiga, Former Permanent Representative of the United Republic of Tanzania to the United Nations here in New York, as the Secretary-General’s Special Representative in Somalia. We urge that he receives the full support and cooperation of this body, of its Member States and of the protagonists in Somalia and leaders of influence in the region.

We hope and trust that Somalia will eventually embark on the course of disarmament with the support of the African Union, particularly the troop contributing countries, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), the UN and the international community at large. The Security Council must be more engaged with Somalia.

**Nuclear Disarmament**

Mr. Chairman,

We have met several times this year, to discuss how we can make the world a better place by committing to disarmament and non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction, as well as small arms and light weapons. We have witnessed powerful nations pledging to reduce their nuclear arsenals and to do more in ensuring nuclear security. We have heard many voices saying more needs to be done to achieve a just and secure world, free of weapons of mass destruction. We are here to offer our support towards that endeavour.

The right things have been said; now the right things have to be done. Promises and commitments have to be kept. The successful conclusion of the NPT Review conference in May this year is a major achievement. We thus call on all States Parties to support the implementation of the five-phase Action Plan proposed by the Secretary General in good faith. Likewise, we call for the immediate and unconditional accession to the Treaty by states that have not yet done so.

While underscoring our unwavering commitment to the NPT we also wish to reaffirm that no rule or principle of international law should be interpreted in a manner that inhibits, in part or in whole, the inalienable right of all parties to the Treaty to develop, research, produce and use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes.

We urge the annex II States that are yet to sign and/or ratify the comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty to expedite the processes to allow the treaty to enter into force at the earliest opportunity. A Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction will contribute, a great deal, to regional and global stability, peace and security. Similarly, the immediate launch of negotiations for the Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty and Nuclear Weapons Convention under the auspices of
the Conference on Disarmament would add value to our collective commitment of eliminating nuclear weapons.

Mr. Chairman,

Distinguished delegates;

In conclusion, I urge all Member States to commit themselves to working together and deliver on the commitment made at the birth of our Organization, 65 years ago – namely, “to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war, which twice in our lifetime has brought untold sorrow to mankind”. We have not done too well on this noble commitment. These deliberations provide us with another opportunity to do so, beginning with total, complete and irreversible disarmament, particularly of weapons of mass destruction. It is our duty to make amends – and to do so swiftly. Tanzania is ready to do its part.

I thank you for listening.