STATEMENT BY
DR. JUSTIN N. SERUHERE, MINISTER PLENIPOTENTIARY
AND CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I., PERMANENT MISSION OF THE UNITED
REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS DURING THE FIRST
COMMITTEE DELIBERATIONS ON NUCLEAR WEAPONS

NEW YORK, 13 OCTOBER 2011
Mr. Chairman,

It is a great honour for my delegation to share our perspective on this important thematic debate on nuclear weapons.

At the outset, let me restate that, the United Republic of Tanzania is against these lethal weapons of all generations, whose presence and advancement continue to pose indiscriminate threat to peace and security of all humankind.

Whereas, the research and development of nuclear technology for peaceful purposes, such as curing deadly non-communicable diseases; increasing agricultural productivity; pest control; ground water management; and power generation is an inalienable right of all nations and was the best innovation of the past century; its use in weapon systems remains our worst nightmare. The potential use of these weapons in a new millennium, where several states are in possession of the same, will certainly lead to a catastrophe of unimagined proportion.

In this regard, we support all efforts by the international community that are geared towards a total, irreversible and verifiable disarmament of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction. We are party to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) and are pleased with the commitment expressed by some delegation with regard to the implementation of the Plan of Action that was adopted at the 2010 NPT Review Conference. The full realisation of these goals will surely bring us closer to the goal of a world free of nuclear weapons. Likewise, the entry into force of the CTBT will be a global public good.
Mr. Chairman,

The United Republic of Tanzania is also a party to the Treaty of Pelindaba which establishes the African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone. We were delighted by the entry into force of the Treaty in July 2009 and are looking forward to the ratification of the Protocols to the Treaty by the remaining members of the United Nations Security Council. We welcome the announcement by the USA that the matter is being considered by the Senate. Indeed, a positive outcome will be a great present to the African continent.

We welcome the entry into force, this February, of the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START) between the USA and Russia. We are cognisant of the fact that the nuclear weapons will not disappear overnight; it is a matter of great comfort, however, that they are being dismantled. It is a bitter reality that the possession of these weapons gives other states an excuse to acquire them. In a complex and unpredictable world these are dangerous realities. Thus we deem complete disarmament to be the best way out of this quagmire. In that regard, we call for all declared and undeclared Nuclear Weapon States (NWS) to embark on the path towards nuclear global zero in a transparent and verifiable manner under the supervision of the IAEA.

Mr. Chairman,

The United Republic of Tanzania is not a member of the Conference on Disarmament but shares the frustration expressed by most states including the members of this sole multilateral negotiating body on disarmament and arms control agreements. Despite the frustration, we must find a functional way out. Negotiations on a nuclear weapons convention; on fissile material cut-off treaty; peaceful uses of the outer space; negative securities and many others must take place without further delay. Perhaps the tranquil spirit that my delegation brings to these forums could be a positive factor in the CD. In this regard, it is very appropriate that we also consider the expansion of the machinery to give it a better multilateral appearance.
Mr. Chairman,

Nuclear disarmament, non-proliferation and development of nuclear technology for peaceful uses must go in tandem with nuclear safety and security. We must do whatever it takes to ensure that non-state actors, particularly terrorists, pirates; mercenaries and other organised criminal gangs do not get hold of these dangerous substances as they do with conventional weapons, including small arms and light weapons that devastate most of our communities on daily basis. The implementation of the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1540 of 2004 is of paramount importance. The supervision of the IAEA is pivotal; and cooperation between States in this area is crucial in averting unilateral innovations, that genuinely raises suspicion from some of us. In particular, we call for the establishment of a common fuel bank under the custody and monitoring of its use by the IAEA.

We commend the Secretary-General for convening the High-Level Meeting on Nuclear Safety and Security during the ongoing Session of the General Assembly. We support the outcome of the Washington Nuclear Security Summit of 2010, which underscored the multilateral efforts to suppress nuclear terrorism. The Nuclear Summit in Seoul next year has the potential of reinforcing this agenda. We are hopeful that eventually, the outcome will be shared with all member states in this multilateral forum.

Mr. Chairman,

We are the United Nations against the perils of war, diseases and poverty. It is our duty to eliminate all weapons of mass destruction. We must do that progressively and with the goal to achieve their total and irreversible elimination. Tanzania stands ready to do its part.

I thank you.