Statement by

H.E. Mr. Hasan Kleib
Permanent Representative
of the Republic of Indonesia

at the General Debate of the First Committee
on All Disarmament and International Security Agenda Items

New York, 4 October 2011
Mr. Chairman,

Our congratulations, firstly, to you and the Bureau Members on your elections.

My delegation is confident that your able leadership will steer the work of the First Committee towards achieving tangible results.

On its part, Indonesia assures you of its full cooperation and support. And we also look forward to working with all delegations, to further the Committee’s work in a substantive manner.

We align ourselves with the statements made by NAM, and Myanmar on behalf of ASEAN.

Before proceeding, I wish to express continued Indonesian solidarity with the government and people of Japan in the aftermath of the earthquake and tsunami tragedies, and the accident in Fukushima earlier this year. We wish them speedy recovery and progress.

Mr. Chairman,

We are all well aware that over the past decade there has been scant or no substantive progress on nuclear disarmament.

Indonesia was buoyed last year due to the achievements of New START and consensus outcome of the NPT Review Conference. Indeed the heartened welcome and praise by Indonesia and others on these twin-achievements were well-deserved.

Since then, however, there is little progress on ground on achieving the much proclaimed vision of a world without nuclear weapons. The disarmament machinery is in impasse. And there is slim progress on the agreed Action Plan of 2010 RevCon, including its mandate to convene the crucial 2012 Mid East Conference.

The global citizenry expects that we all fulfill our respective duties and obligations to make the world peaceful and safe for all peoples and regions.

Thus the deadly scourge of nuclear weapons must be eliminated once and for all.

As an ardent advocate for realising a world without nuclear weapons, Indonesia has long both supported and actively contributed to efforts that meaningfully advance the goals of global nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation.
Many years ago, Indonesia willfully chose the path of peaceful international coexistence without the vicissitudes of nuclear deterrence paradigms. We have also embarked upon our national process of CTBT ratification. It is our hope that our action will encourage those who have not yet ratified the CTBT. On the Protocol of the South East Asia Nuclear Weapon Free Zone Treaty (SEANWFZ), we hope that the Nuclear Weapon States (NWS) will accede to it at the earliest.

Our world will achieve socio-economic progress and stability better when there will be peace and security for all.

We must not only echo the fear of nuclear weapons every year. We must also show through our actions that we mean the realisation of the vision of a nuclear weapons free world.

For that and other global security imperatives, what needs to take place and where is well known to everyone.

What is required is the political capital, particularly in NWS on meeting their agreed commitments on complete nuclear disarmament, unleashing a greater positive climate for advancing the wider international disarmament goals.

The lack of political will manifests also in the stagnation of the whole UN disarmament machinery. While Indonesia calls upon countries to do their utmost to break the CD’s deadlock, the impasse in disarmament machinery can be best addressed through SSOD IV, the urgent convening of which it supports fully.

The aims of the overwhelmingly large majority of the international community are clear: total nuclear disarmament, and pending that, negative security assurances (NSA) to non-nuclear weapon states (NNWS) along with universal and legally-binding nuclear weapons convention (NWC) prohibiting nuclear arms. Also under the NPT, the right of States Parties to pursue peaceful uses of nuclear energy must be ensured at all times without any undue impediments.

Entering the 66th Session, Indonesia is fully mindful of making tangible progress on all disarmament and international security concerns. We are thus committed to contributing effectively on the issues of small arms and light weapons (SALW), arms trade treaty (ATT), BWC Review, not to mention the SEANWFZ related and indeed any other disarmament and security discussions that will come up during the year.

On the future ATT, we will continue to work to ensure that the ‘right of all States to territorial integrity’ is recognised on the same footing with other rights of States.
On the work of civil society groups and NGOs, we are of the view that their participation has been very useful in widening global awareness and support on disarmament causes. Indonesia values their involvement in this Committee, and supports their engagement along with that from the media, youth and academia, to help garner the needed political will in important quarters.

To conclude, Indonesia stresses that all stakeholders must play their role actively to ensure that the political momentum generated last year does not dissipate.

Thank you.