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Statement by

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to the United Nations

At the General Debate of the First Committee
New York, 11 October 2012
Mr. Chairman,

Not the least because of your position as the Indonesian Permanent Representative to the United Nations, I would like to congratulate you as the Chairman of the First Committee. Indonesia is confident that your able leadership will steer the work of the First Committee towards achieving tangible results.

We would also like to congratulate the Bureau Members upon their elections and 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 the Islamic Republic of Iran on behalf of NAM, and Myanmar on behalf of ASEAN.

Mr. Chairman,

We are all well aware that over the past decade there has been limited or little substantive progress on nuclear disarmament.

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

Mr. Chairman,

In the absence of a comprehensive and non-discriminatory Nuclear Weapons Convention, the NPT remains the cornerstone for non-proliferation and disarmament machinery. As the starting point of the 2015 Review Conference, the First Preparatory Committee of the NPT this year bear high importance. It has exerted its role in enhancing the momentum to enable advancement on nuclear disarmament and non proliferation and for that, we thank Ambassador Peter Wolcott of Australia for his able leadership as the chair of the First PrepCom.

However, the good objective of NPT dilutes when Nuclear Weapon States (NWSs) back pedals their commitment to total elimination of nuclear weapons even though NPT has already existed over three decades. To this day, we are still unable to answer the international call to undertake complete disarmament and achieve a world without nuclear weapons.

The disarmament machinery is in impasse. There is slim progress on the agreed Action Plan of 2010 Review Conference.

There are trust deficit among UN Member States on how we create a good delicate balance between nuclear disarmament and non proliferation.
The lack of political will manifests in the stagnation of the UN disarmament machinery to achieve actual progress. Indonesia hopes that we seek tangible progress on the subjects of negotiating a Nuclear Weapons Convention for the complete elimination of nuclear weapons with a specified time frame, Preventions of an Arms Race in Outer Space and a Treaty, Banning the Production of Fissile Materials for nuclear weapons in accordance with the Shannon Mandate.

We should do our utmost to break the deadlock of the Conference on Disarmament (CD), as the impasse in disarmament machinery can be best addressed through the Fourth Special Session on Disarmament.

It is imperative that the CD resume its original function – as the world's sole multilateral body for negotiating disarmament treaties. Political will to address the trust deficit must be taken to revitalize the Conference and strengthen its mechanism

Mr. Chairman,

Indeed, Indonesia remains optimistic that we could move our agenda forward.

With regard to the creation of Nuclear Weapon-Free-Zones, our commitment to strengthen and expand Nuclear Weapon Free Zones should not be wavered. Political will is imperative to establish a Nuclear Weapon-Free-Zone in the Middle East. Indonesia continues to encourage countries to find ways for establishing such Zone as such arrangement bares a significant importance to achieve sustainable peace in the Middle East. We remain hopeful that a conference of establishing a Middle East Zone free of nuclear weapons is to be this year as mandated by the 2010 Review Conference.

In our region, while ASEAN countries have already had a robust Nuclear Weapon Free Zone, Indonesia continues to strive for the signing of the Protocol to the SEANWFZ Treaty by all Nuclear Weapon States. I wish to commend ASEAN Members and Nuclear Weapon States for their constructive engagement in finalizing the negotiations of the revised Protocol. In this regard, we call upon ASEAN Countries to play their important role and continue to be proactive so that NWSs can sign the revised Protocol at the earliest opportunity.

NWFZs have a close connection with the CTBT. There is no doubt that the promotion of CTBT is vital to advance our agenda. Therefore let me reiterate that our support remains consistent to the earliest entry into force of the CTBT.

Indonesia has been a strong supporter of the CTBT and, at the national level, gave it a further vote of confidence by ratifying it on the 6th of December 2011. Indonesia fully supports the increasing number of signatories and state parties to the CTBT, which now stands at 157 countries. Eight more ratifications by Annex II countries and the Treaty will come into force.
Indonesia wishes to continue noble goals of the CTBT. At the regional level, we will continue to promote concrete collaboration between CTBTO and the ASEAN Secretariat with a view to utilizing the verification mechanism embedded in the CTBT through the SEANWFZ Treaty. Also, Indonesia is integrating the importance of national implementation of CTBT for its States Parties into the proposed "National Legislation Implementation Kit" which we initiated at the Nuclear Security Summit in Seoul earlier this year.

Mr. Chairman,

Our disarmament and non proliferation agenda should be advanced in other WMD areas.

Despite the fact of slim progress towards a complete nuclear disarmament, we are witnessing today an entire category of mass destruction has been banned by the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC).

Since the entry into force of the CWC in 1997, the Convention has historically contributed to steady and universal progress in the destruction of declared chemical weapons stockpiles.

As part of the Non-Aligment Movement CWC States Parties, Indonesia would like to urge possessor States Parties to take every necessary measure in meeting the final extended deadline that has been lapsed by April 2012. We remain concerned that those States Parties who have not complied with this obligation of the CWC, as this would endanger the credibility and integrity of the Convention.

We look forward for the convening of Review Conference of the CWC in 2013.

In the area of total elimination of biological weapons, Indonesia welcomes the successful review conference of the BWC. We would like to congratulate Ambassador Paul van den Ijssel of the Netherlands for his able leadership for steering the Conference. There are many recommendations from that Review Conference which should be implemented in order to advance our agenda in the areas bio-security and bio-safety. Indonesia would like to see a more collaboration between the ISU and WHO in this which at the end will enhance national capacities of States to bio-security and bio-safety.

Mr. Chairman,

On the issue of conventional weapons, this year we have witnessed the important deliberations of Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) and Review Conference of UN Plan of Action of SALW.
Our position regarding the future ATT must be in line with the Law on Defense Industry which has just been passed on October 2, 2012. The Government is obligated to ensure that when it imports arms from exporting countries, it has to make certain that such transfer of arms will not be attached with any political conditionality. The Government has also the obligation to avoid arms trades which have the potential to be politicized and embargoed. Such transfer should not in any way undermine or limit the capability and capacity of the Government of Indonesia to use force in the situations of international or internal armed conflicts.

On Second Review Conference Plan of Action (PoA) of Small Arms and Light Weapons, we welcome the adoption of the outcome of Plan of Action of Small Arms and Light Weapons. We should double our efforts to tackle the illicit trade and use of small arms and light weapons which continues to pose a threat to peace and security at the national, regional and international level. It is paramount for the global community to carry out our respective roles in the full implementation of this Plan of Action and to work together to achieve the objectives of Plan of Action.

Mr. Chairman,

Before I conclude, allow me to address the issue of information security which has been on the UN agenda since 1998.

We call on the need to convene further dialogue among states discussing norms on the use of Information and communication technologies in order to protect critical national and international infrastructures. We need to find possibilities to elaborate common terms and definitions relevant to past discussions in the Governmental Group of Experts. In this context, confidence building and risk reductions measure to address on the implication of information and communication technologies is vital.

Finally, Indonesia stresses that all of us must play their active role to ensure that the political momentum generated last year does not dissipate. It is in our best interest to contribute constructively during this session of the Committee. Together we shall discharge the committee’s responsibility to contributing to the maintenance of peace and security.

Thank you.