Statement by

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Ambassador & Permanent Representative of the People's Republic of Bangladesh to the UN
at the Thematic Debate (Nuclear Weapons) of the First Committee of the

67th Regular Session of the UNGA

Please check against delivery

19 October 2012

Permanent Mission of Bangladesh To The United Nations
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Thank you Mr. Chairman,

Bangladesh aligns itself with the statement made earlier by Indonesia on behalf of Non-Aligned Movement.

Mr. Chairman,

As we noted in our statement in the general debate, Bangladesh reiterates its strong support to the global agenda of nuclear disarmament achieved within the framework of NPT’s three clearly-defined pillars of nuclear disarmament, nuclear non-proliferation and peaceful uses of nuclear energy. Over the years, while significant progress has been achieved regarding nuclear non-proliferation to limit the horizontal proliferation of nuclear weapons, tens of thousands of nuclear weapons continue to threaten humanity. Billions of dollars are being spent to modernize them, despite pressing social needs and growing global expectations for progress in disarmament. We, therefore, call upon the Nuclear-Weapon States to accomplish the total elimination of their nuclear arsenals in fulfillment of their relevant multilateral legal obligations and to immediately cease all plans to further modernize, upgrade, refurbish, or extend the lives of their nuclear weapons and related arsenals.

Mr. Chairman,

We welcome the positive outcome of the 2010 NPT Review Conference and call for the full implementation of the action plans adopted in the Conference on nuclear disarmament, nuclear non-proliferation, and peaceful uses of nuclear energy. We also recognize the successful conclusion of the first session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2015 NPT Review Conference and look forward to the adoption of additional concrete steps, including a binding timeframe, for complete nuclear disarmament at the next Review Conference in 2015.
Mr. Chairman,

Pending the ultimate goal of complete, irreversible, verifiable and transparent nuclear disarmament, non-nuclear weapon states have the legitimate right to receive security assurances from nuclear weapon states. However, commitments of negative security assurances made by nuclear weapon states had not been adequate to dispel the security concerns of non-nuclear weapon states, mainly due to the non-binding nature of such commitments. We, therefore, underscore the need for the conclusion of a universal legally binding instrument on unconditional negative security assurances to all NNWS, as a matter of high priority. Establishment of Nuclear Weapon Free Zones and accession to their protocols may be useful interim steps towards securing Negative Security Assurances as well as achieving global nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation objectives. Nuclear Weapons Free Zones may be established in regions where they do not exist in accordance with the Final Document of the SSOD-I and the 1999 UNDC principles and guidelines.

Mr. Chairman,

Bangladesh has been the first Annex-2 South Asian nation to join the CTBT. To us, it is a matter of great disappointment that sixteen years after its adoption by the General Assembly, the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty has not yet entered into force. We, therefore, urge upon all States that are yet to ratify the CTBT, especially all nuclear-weapon States and those listed in Annex 2, to sign and ratify the CTBT urgently and unconditionally. Pending the treaty's entry into force, we call on all states to maintain a moratorium on nuclear tests or any other form of nuclear explosions and to refrain from activities that undermine the provisions of the CTBT.

Mr. Chairman,
Since the Conference on Disarmament (CD) remains deadlocked for the last one
decade and half, it is an urgent necessity to revitalize the work of the CD and take
forward multilateral disarmament negotiations. We call on all members of the CD to
begin negotiations immediately on an FMCT and to engage in substantive discussions
on all the core issues in the agenda of the CD. If the current stalemate in the CD
continues, we urge the General Assembly to exercise its primary responsibility in
carrying forward the disarmament process.

Mr. Chairman,

In our view, the continued existence of nuclear weapons and their possible use,
either by design or accident, or the threat of their use poses the greatest threat to
humanity. We, therefore, believe that the total elimination of nuclear weapons is the
only absolute guarantee for a peaceful and secure world. Although we all believe that
disarmament is the best protection against the dangers of nuclear weapons, achieving
this goal has been a tremendously difficult challenge. With a view to overcoming this
challenge, Bangladesh has been co-sponsoring a number of resolutions seeking nuclear
disarmament, non-proliferation, peaceful use of nuclear energy, regional disarmament
and confidence building measures. We call upon all states to support these resolutions.

I thank you Mr. Chairman