Statement by H.E. Mr. Antonio Pedro Monteiro Lima
Permanent Representative of the Republic of CapeVerde to the United Nations

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

68th Session of the UN General Assembly

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Mr. Chairman,

At the outset, allow me to extend my heartfelt congratulations to you and to other Bureau Members on your election to lead this important Committee.

Allow me also to thank your predecessor, His Excellency Mr. Desra Percaya, for his excellent work and leadership during the previous session of the UNGA First Committee.

I would like to assure you of the support of my delegation throughout this current session. We are confident that the First Committee will successfully complete its deliberations under your leadership.

Mr. Chairman,

Cape Verde aligns with the statement delivered by the Representative of Nigeria in the name of the African Group. But let me also add the following remarks in my national capacity.

We believe that a successful multilateralism and international cooperation are crucial to achieve the goals set in disarmament and international security agenda items. Cape Verde remains committed to the international peace and security as sacred by UN Charter and we support all legal instruments and mechanism regarding the above-mentioned goals.

We congratulate the UN General Assembly initiative in convening the first High Level Forum on Nuclear Disarmament that took place on 26\textsuperscript{th} September 2013 at the UN Headquarters, representing a positive signal of strengthening the international community dialogue and framework in this field.

Another landmark was the adoption of the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT), on 2\textsuperscript{nd} April 2013, which Cape Verde endorsed.

This important treaty, if widely signed by UN Members and fully implemented will lead to an effective regulation on arms trade and have significant impacts on armed conflicts, mainly in Africa. The regional organizations have a vital role to play in this regard.
We consider that the ATT will provide basis to discourage terrorism, urban violence and insecurity as well as drug trafficking activities and international organized crime related.

Accordingly to ECOWAS Small Arms Control Programme (ECOSAP) Report, the national surveys on small arms pointed at associated factors such as linkages with drug as aiding illicit circulation of weapons across borders. It pointed out that increasing sophistication of local manufacturers continue to be recovered in crime scenes thereby posing great danger in West Africa Region.

Cape Verde, a Small Island Developing State (SIDS), due to its strategic location, is in the crossroad of transatlantic drug trafficking. We are firmly engaged at national, regional and international level to combating this universal plague. Our State is putting a lot of its meager resources in this common duty that we could use for health, agriculture or other priority issues in my country. Furthermore, we have been undertaken measures with view to strengthen national legislation and mechanism to better control and regulate conventional arms. So we welcome the commitments drawn on the Arms Trade Treaty.

Mr. Chairman,

According to the statistics, there are still more than 20,000 nuclear warheads in the world, if used could destroy civilizations and the majority of Earth's life. The impacts of use of these weapons are colossal for humankind and the global environment, contributing also to the negative effects of climate change.

We strongly condemn all nuclear tests and as an island state, Cape Verde rejects all the nuclear tests in oceans or high seas having impact on the marine biodiversities and ecosystems.

The use of nuclear weapons certainly will refrain the accomplishment of the sustainable development goals.

My country welcomes the announcement made by Mexico in hosting the next conference on humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons, which will take place in February 2014, and looks forward to contribute to its deliberations.
Regardless being a non nuclear weapon state, Cape Verde firmly defends the rejection of use of NW in all its form. In addition, Cape Verde supports the universality of all treaties that consent to disarmament machinery.

We consider the Resolution 2118 of the Security Council adopted last September by consensus as a cornerstone to not allow the use of chemical weapons in the future. The use of such massive destruction weapons constitutes violence of human rights and a threat to regional and international peace and security.

Cape Verde being part of Africa a Nuclear weapons free zone, supports not only Middle East nuclear weapons free zone but also the world as a nuclear weapons free zone. We regret that the conference on this issue has been postponed.

Mr. Chairman,

As State Party on Non-proliferation Treaty (NPT), Cape Verde recognizes the importance of its review processes and also urges other non state parties to endorse it in order to prevent the horizontal and vertical proliferation of nuclear weapon for the benefit of international security.

We are firmly engaged with international forums/discussions setting to reach the reduction of massive destruction weapons.

Recently in 2008, Cape Verde endorsed the Convention on Cluster Munitions and has been taken part on the international dialogue to further undertake decisions and measures in order to complete its obligations.

Mr Chairman,

Ladies and gentlemen,

I would like to end by recalling what Dwight Eisenhower, in a speech in 1953 said:

"Every gun that is made, every warship launched, every rocket fired signifies in the final sense, a theft from those who hunger and are not fed, those who are cold and are not clothed. This world in arms is not spending money alone. It is spending the sweat of its laborers, the genius of its scientists, the hopes of its
children. This is not a way of life at all in any true sense. Under the clouds of war, it is humanity hanging on a cross of iron." Unquote.

We are convinced in Cape Verde that we cannot set a constructive 2015 post development agenda without building-up the ways for peacemaking. Let us underpin the pillars to bring the peace and security to all. I thank you.