STATEMENT BY

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DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS

DURING THE PLENARY MEETING OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE ON GENERAL AND COMPLETE DISARMAMENT

NEW YORK, 7 OCTOBER 2013
Mr. Chairman,

On behalf of the United Republic of Tanzania I wish to congratulate you and the bureau for your election. I believe you shall lead us to a successful conclusion and I assure you of the cooperation of our delegation. I also commend your predecessor for his tireless efforts and dedication to the work of the First Committee.

My delegation aligns itself with the statement of the African Group delivered by Nigeria and that of NAM delivered by Indonesia. We also welcome the statement of the High Representative for Disarmament, Ms Angela Kane.

Mr. Chairman,

The United Republic of Tanzania advocates for total, complete and irreversible disarmament of Nuclear Weapons and all Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMDs). Just as we oppose the possession and development of nuclear weapons, we oppose all efforts to wage war by whatever weapons, nuclear or conventional. The First Committee was established to assist the Organization in discharging its primary responsibility of ensuring peace, security and human development. To date this goal has not been met fully, owing to
various challenges which are yet to be overcome and those which have received partial or wrongful answers.

Upon the ending of the Second World War, the arms race ensued, not that the World wanted more weapons but because some Member States wrongly perceived that Military might would guarantee them absolute security. That was not to be so an arms race developed between the victorious nations instead of preventing the defeated nations from developing unnecessary weapons.

Mr. Chairman
The use of nuclear weapons in the last days of the Second World War gave rise to the beginning of disarmament. The GA embarked on disarmament process in order to serve the World from the scourge of another war, failure of which reduced the zeal from disarmament to arms control. That made a loose hole in the disarmament process and Member States developed other weapons – to wage biological and chemical warfare – where and when they did not want to use nuclear weapons. The decision to do that was not prompted by military might but by political and self aggrandizement considerations. Decisions to wage were not therefore made by defense authorities, but in Law-making bodies of the State and Supreme Offices thereof. At the heart of these high offices were human beings - with certain ambitions, both political and strategic.
Mr. Chairman,

Has political and strategic ambitions ceased to exist? Nay! Thus in order to address the issues of general and complete disarmament we need, at the bottom of our hearts to address our political and strategic ambitious with the view to bridging gaps between nations and ultimately establishing harmony between them.

Mr. Chairman,

We are not advocating for a World without competition, on the contrary, we seek a World with cooperation and competition for human development, not human destruction. With the debates and resolutions on general and complete disarmament we shall only come up with fixes not durable solutions. But all hope is not lost, after the WWII the UN resolved that”: I quote: “They Shall Beat Their Swords Into Plough Shares, Their Spears Into Pruning Hooks.....and that...Nation Shall Not Lift Sword Against Nation. And They Shall Learn War No More”. Let us therefore translate the resolutions we make this month into development processes and enable the World population to live in larger freedom as enshrined in the Charter.

I thank you.