STATEMENT BY

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TIMOR-LESTE PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

AT

DISARMAMENT AND INTERNATIONAL SECURITY COMMITTEE OF THE 71st SESSION OF THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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Mr. Chairman,

I thank you for the giving me the floor.

At the outset of my remarks, allow me to congratulate you on your election as the Chair of the First Committee. I am confident that, given your in depth knowledge and experience, this session will deliver the best possible outcome. I assure you the full cooperation of the delegation of Timor-Leste in contributing to the success of our work.

Mr. Chairman

The world is currently facing an international security crisis with the proliferation of nuclear weapon and increase in terrorist attacks and small arms trafficking and conflicts. Being a post conflict Nation, Timor-Leste believes that arms race and the use of weapons will never bring peace and justice to the world. This is reflected in our Constitution where we defend international security through the promotion of peace and reconciliation in the nation building process.

The world that we know today is faced with numerous challenges. War, terrorism, race towards weapon of mass destruction, inequality, exploitation, injustice, just to mention a few, are still part of our daily reality. Timor-Leste welcomes the initiative of world leaders who urged States to find a common solution to reduce the number of nuclear weapons and the prevention of their use. Timor-Leste thus
associates itself with the statement of Indonesia on behalf of the Non Aligned Movement and with the statement by Myanmar on behalf of ASEAN in promoting multilateral diplomacy as the sole and sustainable method of addressing the disarmament, non-proliferation and international security. The United Nations, specifically through this committee has served as the platform for the multilateral diplomacy in addressing international security issues.

Timor-Leste also gives its full support and confidence to the United Nations Security Council to find a peaceful solution to the Nuclear issue on the Korean Peninsula.

Mr. Chairman,

On January 13th of 2007, Timor-Leste signed the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in South East Asia. The purpose of the treaty is to promote perpetual peace, everlasting amity and co-operation among the people of South East Asia. By doing so, we expect a high solidarity and collaboration among nations of the region based on the fundamentals of respect, non-interference, settlements of differences by peaceful means, renunciation of threat or use of force and effective co-operation among nations.

Over the years, the links between disarmament and peaceful development has been the main focus of the General Assembly. Post conflict countries, face many challenges during the initial stages of its State building process. Being one of the post-conflict nations, Timor-Leste knows what it means to have a security crisis in a non-peaceful environment. Timor-Leste is a founding member of the g7+group of countries, whose purpose is a sharing of experiences and lessons learned between ourselves and with other post-conflict nations, and
promoting cooperation for the achievement of peace and development. The motto of g7+ suggests there is no peace without development and there is no development without peace.

Committed to this principle, Timor-Leste ratified the Non-Nuclear Proliferation Treaty, Comprehensive Test ban treaty (CTBT) and the Convention on the Prohibition of the development, production, stockpiling and use of chemical weapons and on their destruction and on the prohibition of Bacteriological (biological) Weapons or Toxics. These Mr. Chairman, are clear manifestations of our commitments to promoting a peaceful and just world.

Mr. Chairman,

In conclusion, Timor-Leste recognizes the efforts of the United Nations through this committee and through the multilateral diplomacy in securing regional and international stability. The reduction of nuclear weapon, disarmament and the elimination of small arms trafficking have been and should remain the top priorities of the UN in order to promote regional and international stability, peace and development.

Thank you Mr. Chairman