NATIONAL STATEMENT BY
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THE REPRESENTATIVE OF BRUNEI DARUSSALAM
TO THE UNITED NATIONS IN NEW YORK

AT THE GENERAL DEBATE OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE
OF THE 72ND SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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Mr Chairman,

On behalf of the delegation of Brunei Darussalam, allow me to extend my warmest congratulations to you, on assuming your role as Chairman of the First Committee, and also to the other members of the Bureau on their elections.

Brunei Darussalam associates itself with the statements delivered by Indonesia, on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement, and the statement delivered by Thailand on behalf of ASEAN.

Mr Chairman,

For decades, we have witnessed the extraordinary evolution, in which countries address emerging security challenges. Multilateral organisations, such as the UN, play an important role in coordinating and promoting global responses, to increasingly global threats. In the face of such challenges, disarmament conventions provide as a vital foundation in the maintenance of international peace and stability.

Brunei Darussalam like many others, understands that the full capacity of disarmament conventions cannot be achieved without cooperation among member states and partners. Brunei Darussalam emphasises the importance of peaceful dialogue and negotiations; capacity-building, intelligence sharing and the exchange of experiences and best practices in dealing with security threats and the maintenance of overall peace and security.

Mr Chairman,

It is important that we continue to galvanise the growing recognition of the dangerous consequences of nuclear weapons and Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMDs) on global peace, security, stability and development and translate it to actionable measures.
As part of its contributions to regional efforts to maintaining regional peace, security and prosperity, Brunei Darussalam remains committed to fulfil its obligations under the Treaty of the Southeast Asia Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone (SEANWFZ). To ensure full implementation of the Treaty, Brunei Darussalam, together with other ASEAN Member States, will continue to work with all Parties concerned to resolve all outstanding issues in accordance with the objectives and principles of the Treaty.

Additionally, Brunei Darussalam would also like to take this opportunity to reiterate our support for the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) as the cornerstone of the global non-proliferation regime and facilitating the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. We take note of the progress currently being made in approaching the next review process of the Treaty in 2020, and look forward to the strengthening of the NPT and the nonproliferation principles in general.

Brunei Darussalam is also committed to working with regional and international partners in achieving the objectives and goals of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban-Treaty (CTBT). As the Treaty is entering its 21st anniversary this year, we encourage the remaining Annex 2 states to sign and ratify the Treaty at the earliest opportunity, so it can enter into force and further our collective pursuit of nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation.

Mr Chairman,

The historic adoption of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons this year is also greatly welcomed. With the unpredictable and dynamic nature of our security environment, this Treaty is an important step towards the common aspirations of a world without nuclear weapons. Above all, the adoption sends a powerful message that nuclear weapons are unacceptable and categorically rejected. We commend those countries which have signed the Treaty last month and Brunei Darussalam looks forward to join them in the near future.
Similarly, Brunei Darussalam recognises the great importance of the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC), and acknowledges the good work that has been carried out by the OPCW over the past 20 years to achieve the vision of a world free of chemical weapons. However, it is deeply worrying that there are still attempts to use chemical weapons, especially by non-state actors.

In this regard, Brunei Darussalam joins the international community in condemning the use of chemical weapons wherever and whenever it may occur and regardless of the actor. We reiterate our support for the effective implementation of the Convention - through respective national legislations and regulatory bodies, as well as multilateral capacity building initiatives and cooperation.

We would also like to reaffirm our commitment towards the Biological and Toxins Weapons Convention (BWC) as a key element underpinning every effort made by the international community in confronting the threat posed by WMDs, particularly in a world of revolutionary technological and scientific advancements. Brunei Darussalam believes that stronger global collaboration in this Convention will allow us to jointly mitigate and eliminate the threats of biological attacks, while pursuing our development objectives peacefully for the benefit of humanity.

Mr. Chairman,

Terrorism continues to be one of the most serious security threats and to address it in a comprehensive manner, we recognise the paramount importance of strengthening regional and international cooperation. In this context, Brunei Darussalam would like to reiterate its strong support for the relevant Security Council Resolutions, including Resolution 2325 (2016), which calls for a framework to keep terrorists and other non-state actors from acquiring WMDs. For us in Brunei Darussalam, a broad and integrated
national counter-terrorism strategy has been put in place, which is further reinforced with the close cooperation and exchanges between various security agencies.

We also welcome the establishment of a new United Nations Office on Counter-Terrorism (OCT) and the appointment of its Under-Secretary General, Mr. Vladimir Ivanovich Voronkov in June this year. We are confident the office will allow for greater coordination and capability across the UN system and among Member States, in implementing the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. We also welcome the focus of the office on capacity-building assistance to Member States.

Mr. Chairman,

In conclusion, Brunei Darussalam would like to reiterate the importance of the work of the First Committee, as part and parcel of the overall goal of the UN to promote sustainable development and build a better future for all. To that end, Brunei Darussalam will continue to work constructively with all countries and the relevant bodies to help attain positive and tangible outcomes in this Committee.

Thank you.