



Permanent Mission of Eritrea
to the United Nations

STATEMENT

BY

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**IN THE GENERAL DEBATE
OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE**

3 October 2006

Madame Chair,

At the outset, allow me to extend my delegation's warmest congratulations on your election as Chairperson of the First Committee during the 61st session. My sincere appreciation goes to your predecessor, Ambassador Choi Young-jin of the Republic of Korea who led us to a successful conclusion in the 60th session.

My delegation fully associates itself with the statements delivered by the delegation of Indonesia, on behalf of the Non-Allied-Movement, and by the delegation of Nigeria on behalf of the African Group.

Madame Chair,

We meet once again in this Committee to address issues related to international security, disarmament, arms control and non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, and it does not come as a surprise that, there have been mixed results during the past year as achievements have been countervailed by challenges.

Madame Chair,

My delegation regrets that the 2006 Review Conference on the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons failed to conclude an outcome document which would have improved on the way forward in the implementation of the Programme.

The climate for agreement on arms control and disarmament has actually deteriorated. Efforts to consolidate global treaties, like the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention, have stagnated, ratifications of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test Ban-Treaty remain lagging, and negotiations have not even opened on the much needed treaty to stop the production of fissile material for weapons. While we cannot expect to change the somewhat strained international climate overnight, my delegation believes that there are actions that can be taken to preserve and build international confidence to advance the cause of international disarmament and non-proliferation; i.e. by reaffirming collective commitment to preserve the sanctity of international agreements and by recognizing collectively the need to pursue progress concurrently, on both fronts of disarmament and non-proliferation.

Madame Chair,

My delegation is pleased to reiterate that my country, Eritrea, is deeply committed to international efforts aimed at arms control and non-proliferation of any weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery. Accordingly, Eritrea is a state party to many of the conventions on arms control, including to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and Their Destruction; the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT); and the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT). Eritrea has signed the African Nuclear-Weapon-Free-Zone Treaty (Treaty of Pelindaba), and is also a subscribing state to the International Code of Conduct against Ballistic Missile Proliferation. Furthermore, Eritrea is also an active member of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW).

Madame Chair,

My country has profound and abiding interest in the maintenance of international and regional peace and security, as well as the peaceful and legal settlement of disputes. My Government, fully convinced in the importance of respecting the UN Charter and the International Law, is ready to implement the final and binding decision of the Eritrea-Ethiopia Boundary Commission (EEBC). Eritrea is likewise willing to contribute to regional peace, security and stability. In this regard Eritrea is currently engaged in the collective negotiation efforts to promote peace and stability in the Sudan. My Government is hosting the Eastern Sudan Peace Talks between the Sudanese Government and the Eastern Sudan Front.

Madame Chair,

My country reaffirms its strong condemnation to terrorism in all its forms, and pledges its full cooperation in combating this phenomenon. It has acceded to the Organization of African Unity Convention on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism. Law enforcement authorities of the State of Eritrea have already been jointly working with their counterparts in countries of our sub-region and in the continent at large as well as cooperating with the ICPO/Interpol in the exchange of information on prevention and suppression of terrorism.

Before I conclude, my delegation wishes to express its hope and confidence that this Committee will be able to work purposefully forward, under your able leadership. My delegation assures you, Madame Chair of its fullest cooperation and support.

Thank you.