



**Statement by
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the Republic of Indonesia
to the United Nations**

at

**The General Debate of
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Madam Chair,

Allow me to begin by congratulating you, and the members of the Bureau, on the election to chair the Committee this year. I am confident that under your leadership, the work of the Committee in achieving its mandate and objectives will be greatly facilitated.

Indonesia fully associates itself with the statement made yesterday on behalf of the Non Aligned Movement.

We gather here today in the backdrop of a series of setbacks in multilateral disarmament fora in recent years. The lack of progress in pursuing disarmament and non-proliferation objectives is a cause of great distress to all those who aspire for a peaceful and stable world. Therefore, it is imperative that lessons be drawn from these setbacks.

We are dismayed that there is an increased skepticism in some states on the effectiveness of multilateral institutions and instruments in the field of disarmament and non-proliferation. Some want their global superiority in weaponry remain untouched. But at the same time, they ask others to control their armament capabilities. That is why the role of the First Committee becomes all the more important because of these realities.

In this context, symptomatic treatment and ad hoc solutions will not yield durable results. Multilateralism should be at the heart of all our efforts and negotiations in the areas of disarmament and non- proliferation. We need to do better if we are committed to the promotion of international peace and security.

Madam Chair,

The intensity of international concern about the proliferation risk of weapons of mass destruction (WMD), particularly nuclear weapons, is evident. But it should not be forgotten that thousands of nuclear weapons still exist, and even more sophisticated of such deadly weapons are being developed.

Some continue to convey the message that nuclear weapons are intolerable in the hands of rogue states and terrorists. We believe that that these catastrophic devices are dangerous in anyone's hands, including in the hands of nuclear-weapon-states. We should always keep in our mind on the dangers caused by such weapons, be it by accidents or miscalculations.

We should not try to develop new nuclear weapons. On the contrary, the existing stock of such weapons should be outlawed and eliminated in a systematic and progressive manner. Rhetoric alone will not suffice to address this issue. Leadership for peace and disarmament should be through example.

The eventual elimination of nuclear weapons is not beyond the world's reach. This is because there is still a lack of leadership on the part of nuclear-weapon-states (NWS). They do not seem to undertake their commitment to nuclear disarmament seriously. That is why we will not pause to urge them to take the necessary steps to further progress on the nuclear disarmament in a verifiable and irreversible manner.

The NPT continues to be the landmark international treaty for preventing the spread of nuclear weapons, promoting cooperation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, and for achieving

nuclear disarmament. The NPT review process will serve as an important mechanism for assessing progress in the implementation of the global nuclear non-proliferation norms and commitments.

The new cycle of the NPT Review Process, which will begin next year with its first preparatory meeting in Vienna, will provide a new opportunity to the state parties to show their commitment for a safe and secure world. In the next five years, there is a need by the state parties to the Treaty to consider what practical steps might be taken to strengthen the Treaty, and to ensure its relevance to the present situation.

Madam Chair,

The entry into force of the CTBT continues to languish due to the refusal of some NWS, to adhere to the Treaty. As a signatory to the CTBT, Indonesia believes that the prohibition of nuclear tests, be it explosive or non explosive, is an effective measure towards nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. We realize our responsibility, and will continue our constitutional process for the ratification of the CTBT.

We also look forward to an urgent commencement of the negotiations on a verifiable fissile material cut-off treaty without conditions. It is important that the negotiations in this regard should focus both on the existing stocks, and the future production of weapons usable materials.

My delegation reaffirms the establishment of the nuclear-weapon-free zones (NWFZs) as a positive step towards the strengthening of global nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. We welcome the signing of a new NWFZ in Central Asia, which was done in Semipalatinsk on 8th September, 2006.

We are of the view that the international community should not be skeptical of the activities of some states that are parties to the NPT, if they want to build a nuclear program, which is not meant for military purposes. The peaceful use of nuclear energy is the inalienable right of states guaranteed by the NPT. In this respect, we should all recognize the role of IAEA as the sole competent authority for the verification of compliance with the obligations under the Safeguards Agreement and the Additional Protocol.

Madam Chair,

It is unfortunate that the CD was unable to reach agreement on the Program of Work for the seventh consecutive year, and could not even agree on the substantive report for the 2006 session. However, we welcome the exercise of a focused structured debate on all agenda items in the CD, and hope that this will facilitate the achievement of an agreement on the Program of Work in the near future.

Despite the UNDC managing to hold a Substantive session this year after a long impasse, it was unable to produce a substantive outcome. But we very much appreciate the efforts of the delegations during its current cycle that tried to advance ideas to bridge the divisions between the member states. We look forward to the next substantive session, and hope that with the enhanced political will, we will be able to narrow the differences.

In the aftermath of the inability of the 2005 World Summit to agree on any reference to disarmament and non-proliferation issues in its Outcome Document, the WMD Commission, among others, has recommended the General Assembly to consider calling another World

Summit focused on precisely these issues. We support such a proposal taking into account that the idea behind it is inline with the proposal for convening the SSOD-IV, which has the support of an overwhelming majority of the member states.

Madam Chair,

Indonesia believes that the focus on the threat of WMD should not lessen the attention to the regulation and reduction of conventional weapons. The proliferation of conventional arms, particularly illicit SALW, has seriously violated the peace in many regions of the world. It is disappointing that the 2006 UN Conference to review the implementation of the 2001 Programme of Action in SALW, not only failed to agree on a final document but was also unable to provide a mandate to the General Assembly on a follow-up steps for its further implementation.

As a signatory to the Ottawa Convention, Indonesia is well aware of the concerns of state parties about the status of our ratification process. Being late in ratifying it does not indicate our lack of commitment to the principles and objectives of the Convention. Following the submission of the draft law of ratification on 11 September 2006 by the Indonesian Government to the Parliament for consideration, we are now in the final stage of the ratification process.

Madam Chair,

In conclusion, Indonesia assures the international community of its full support and cooperation, in working on concrete initiatives in global disarmament and non-proliferation. We must rise up to the challenges before us with greater vigour and political will, to help bring about a future that is truly deserving of our next generation, and is based on the principles of UN Charter and international law.

I thank you, Madam Chair.