



**Permanent Mission of the United Republic of Tanzania  
to the United Nations**

**CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY**

**STATEMENT BY  
H.E. AMBASSADOR AUGUSTINE P. MAHIGA,  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE  
OF THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

**DURING THE GENERAL DEBATE  
OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE  
OF THE 61<sup>ST</sup> SESSION  
OF THE UNITED NATIONS  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**6<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER, 2006**

**201 East 42nd Street, Room 1700, New York, New York 10017  
Tel. No. (212) 972-9160**

**STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR AUGUSTINE P. MAHIGA,  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF  
TANZANIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS DURING THE GENERAL  
DEBATE OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE OF THE 61<sup>ST</sup> SESSION OF THE  
UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**6<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER, 2006**

**Madame Chair,**

Let me join others who spoke before me in congratulating you on your assumption as Chairperson of the First Committee of the 61<sup>st</sup> General Assembly. I also congratulate the members of the Bureau on their election. I am confident that your able leadership, rich and vast experience will contribute to anticipated success and serve as a springboard in dealing with vital aspects of our disarmament efforts.

My delegation associates itself with the statements made by the Representatives of Indonesia, Nigeria and Lesotho on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement, the African Group and the SADC, respectively.

Achieving full disarmament in conventional and non-conventional weapons remains the cornerstone of international peace and security spearheaded by the United Nations. The consecutive failures of the 2005 NPT Review Conference to come up with the final document and lack of any agreement to include multilateral disarmament and non-proliferation during the UN World Summit, and failure to reach consensus at the 2006 UN Review Conference on illicit trade in small arms and light weapons is unfortunate and does not auger well for disarmament initiatives. My delegation is deeply concerned by these disappointing outcomes and resulting stalemate.

**Madame Chair,**

When we agreed in 2000 on the 13 practical steps for the systematic and progressive efforts to achieve the complete elimination of nuclear weapons pursuant to Article VI of the NPT, there were promising prospects for the successful implementation of the steps but so far there is no evidence of commitment from member states to support that initial optimism. Nevertheless, we still believe that the future of the NPT rests on the implementation of the 13 practical steps as a useful way to move forward.

Tanzania is fully committed to supporting the entire NPT regime. In recent years, Tanzania has ratified the Pelindaba Treaty that established the African Nuclear-Weapon Free Zone. Tanzania has ratified the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty and signed the International Atomic Energy Agency Additional Protocol in conformity with the Treaty. Tanzania's Parliament has also passed legislation which ratified the Convention on the Protection of Nuclear Material.

**Madame Chair,**

We urge Nuclear Weapon States to change their defense doctrines from cold war confrontational legacy to new global collective security. We see no merit in trying to upgrade existing nuclear weapons and precision of their delivery systems. We are equally opposed to any new attempts by states to acquire nuclear weapons. In the same vein, we condemn any illegal transfer of nuclear technology to individuals and non-state actors, a nightmare scenario which may enable terrorists to have those weapons of mass destruction. The transfer of such weapons would further complicate negotiations, implementation and verification of the NPT regime.

The NPT enjoys universal adherence among member states. We call upon those countries which have not joined the NPT to do so with a view to ensuring that the rest of us are collectively safe under the umbrella of the same.

**Madame Chair,**

Non-Nuclear Weapon States have voiced their concern and called for assurances by the five declared nuclear-weapon States not to use or threaten to use nuclear weapons against the former that are Parties to the NPT. This assurance is vital to remove the excuse and temptation by new states to pursue the nuclear option as a deterrent or defence against nuclear threats or even attacks. This assurance should be viewed as a temporary measure pending the complete eradication of nuclear weapons.

Once again, we call on Nuclear Weapon States to honor their obligation and conclude a legally binding agreement on negative security assurances since signing Protocols establishing NWFZ is not adequate and is in no way legally binding.

**Madame Chair,**

Tanzania takes note of nuclear tests moratorium maintained by the NWS. Nevertheless, self-imposed or unilateral moratorium does not provide any guarantee against future testing. It is for this reason that my delegation believes that the only guarantee is the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test Ban Treaty (CTBT). This was one of the objectives of the 1995 Review Conference. It is regrettable, however, that the CTBT has not entered into force for lack of ratification by 10 of the required 44 nuclear-capable States.

We consider the CTBT to be a vital component of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. We believe that the CTBT stands to play a key role in preventing the proliferation of nuclear weapons. Its early entry into force is therefore crucial and we should strive to make this happen. In this context, we call upon all States that

have not done so to ratify the Treaty as soon as possible, particularly those States whose ratification is a prerequisite for the Treaty to enter into force.

**Madame Chair,**

We wish to emphasize the importance of the three pillars of the NPT, namely non-proliferation, nuclear disarmament and the use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. They should be treated with the same equanimity. Any attempt to de-link them or be selective will have damaging impact on the Treaty. In this connection, we underscore the role of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in the verification and safeguards of nuclear programmes to ensure that they are used for peaceful purposes and not used for manufacture of nuclear weapons. It is incumbent upon all states to give the IAEA unimpeded access to national nuclear programmes.

We should offer the IAEA the necessary support to enable it to perform better. This includes the need for all States Parties to sign the Additional Protocol as called for under Article III. The goal should be the universalization of the Additional Protocols as proposed by the 2000 Review Conference.

**Madame Chair,**

As part of our efforts to seek freedom from fear as articulated and advocated by the Secretary General, Tanzania would also want to remind the international community that small arms and light weapons are not only the weapons of choice in most conventional conflicts today, but in some part of the developing world they constitute real weapons of mass killing. Tanzania wants to reiterate and calls upon the international community through the United Nations and the efforts of non-governmental organizations to continue working for a legal regime to guide the import, export and transfer of small arms and light weapons at both regional and international levels.

I thank you.