



S U D A N

PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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STATEMENT

**By
His Excellency**

**The Permanent Representative
of the Republic of the Sudan
to the United Nations**

Dr. Abdalmahmood Abdalhaleem Mohamad

on

**The General Debate of the First Committee
(Disarmament and International Peace and Security)**

**of the 62nd session of the General Assembly
New York, Tuesday, October 16, 2007**

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Mr. Chairman

Allow me at the outset to congratulate you on a well deserved assumption of the Chairmanship of the First Committee. Indeed it is a privilege to see a seasoned diplomat of your caliber presiding over the work of this important committee. We assure you and your bureau of our full support and cooperation.

Mr. Chairman

Once again their committee is considering issues of disarmament and current scenarios of international peace and security. It is doing so at the backdrop of successive failures, setbacks and even erosion of previous international commitments and agreements. This is indeed no good news for the international community which resolved since the inception of the United Nations to make disarmament its priority. Developments since last session of this Committee indicate that technological advances are being used to enhance sophistication of arms build up rather than disarmament.

Mr. Chairman

The Sudan once again reaffirms that multilateralism premised on the UN Charter principles, is the only way to addressing the complexity of disarmament and international peace and security agendas. Unilateralism is only the opposite as it certainly makes our globe more unsafe. It is incumbent upon us all to constructively engage to promote multilateralism as a core principle and direction for the international collective security. As the UN is the suitable and relevant forum for total and complete disarmament we welcome the restructuring of the Department of Disarmament Affairs into the Office of Disarmament Affairs as part of the Secretary-General's commitment to revitalize the international disarmament programs. We wish to congratulate Ambassador Sergio Duarte for his appointment as High Representative of the Secretary General for Disarmament Affairs and to reiterate our support the work of the

new Office of Disarmament Affairs, where Sudan actively participated in all the deliberations leading to its establishment. The commitment expressed by the Secretary-General to give priority to disarmament and international peace and security agendas is a test and a challenge that disarmament machinery might be on track again. We shall be waiting for results.

Mr. Chairman

Sudan is a party to all the important treaties and agreements related to disarmament and it's our firm belief that the total and complete disarmament is vital to the maintenance of international peace and security notwithstanding the serious setbacks in past years. In 2005 and 2006, no substantive consensus document was achieved, especially at three major multilateral conferences namely the Seventh Nuclear-Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) Review Conference, the World Summit, and the UN Conference to review the implementation of the Programme of Action (PoA) on small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW). And while we are gathering here reiterating our positions, the practical facts outside this building remain totally the opposite as military expenditure is marking its highest record (37%) more than what it used to be ten years ago. Serious efforts need to be exerted to reverse this serious trend.

Mr. Chairman

The cornerstone for non-proliferation is the establishment of Nuclear-Weapon Free Zone (NWFZ) especially in the Middle East, and the only path to achieving such goal is through Israel's accession to the Non-proliferation treaty and to submit fully all its nuclear capabilities to the comprehensive Safeguard System of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). Sudan further calls on all member states to ratify the African Nuclear-Weapons Free Zone Treaty (PELINDABA) so that it can enter into force without further delay. Efforts by member states towards peaceful uses of nuclear energy should not be hindered or compromised. It goes without saying also that the institutional architecture for the maintenance of

international peace and security should have as a key component the role given to regional organizations and arrangements.

Mr. Chairman

With regard to the conventional weapons and since the last Session, we are closely following the ongoing discussions on the ways and means to develop an international strategy aimed at controlling the transfer, import and export of conventional arms, including the proposed Arms Trade Treaty. We should continue to engage constructively in this process, to figure out its feasibility, how far will it serve the disarmament objectives within the multilateral context and in full transparency without prejudice to the legitimate rights of the member states.

Mr. Chairman

Sudan remains deeply concerned about the lack of significant progress in the implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade of Small Arms and Light Weapons in all its aspects. The illegal transfer of these weapons to armed groups and the non-state actors continue to fuel civil wars and conflicts in Africa. Sudan, as a country affected by this phenomenon, has established the National Office for Combating the Illicit Traffic on Small Arms, along with enacting related national rules and regulations. The office participated in all regional conferences and workshops held in Nairobi, Cairo, Oman, Addis Ababa and Algeria. As national efforts are definitely insufficient, international assistance in accordance with the provisions of the programme of action is vital; particularly in the field of technical assistance, in the stockpile management and the cross-border activities. We are hopeful that the deliberations of this Committee during this session would greatly enhance the attainment of our desired objectives.

Thank you.