



Permanent Mission of the Republic of Kenya to the United Nations

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STATEMENT

BY

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OF THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

AT

**THE GENERAL DEBATE OF THE
FIRST COMMITTEE OF THE 64TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

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Mr. Chairman,

I wish to add my voice to others who spoke before me in congratulating you on your election to chair the deliberations of this important Committee. My delegation has confidence in your leadership abilities and commitment to guide our work. Allow me also to congratulate the other members of the bureau and extend you the assurances of our fullest co-operation.

My delegation associates itself with the statements made by Nigeria on behalf of the African Group and by Indonesia on behalf of the Non-Alignment Movement (NAM).

Kenya believes that multilateral negotiations and agreements are the only viable path to meaningful disarmament and security. Some of the weapons known to exist, by their very nature, call for collective and concerted action to prevent the colossal loss of lives and property that they can easily precipitate. Weapons of Mass Destruction do not discriminate in their effects on populations, nor are they confined by geographic limitations. We are all at risk in the event they are unleashed in any corner of the world.

(NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT)

Mr. Chairman,

The most frightful danger to mankind to date is posed by nuclear weapons. Kenya continues to advocate the belief that the total elimination of nuclear weapons is the surest guarantee that the nightmare that such weapons pose to humanity will never take place. During this year, we have witnessed very encouraging movements in the nuclear disarmament agenda. We recall the positive message that Presidents' Obama and Medvedev gave to the world at their April meeting in London. Their joint statement was a strong indication of their commitment to reduce nuclear weapons, in line with states obligations under article VI of the NPT. The Presidents' confirmation of their wish to commence negotiations with a view to concluding a new Treaty to replace the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START) is also a very welcome sign.

In May 2009, the third session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2010 NPT Review Conference managed to agree on an agenda. The adoption after a very long time of a programme of work in the Conference on Disarmament including agreement to start negotiations on the fissile material treaty, all give us hope and renewed energy to forge ahead towards negotiations to achieve complete nuclear disarmament.

It is encouraging to see a fresh impetus being injected into the quest for the entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear – Test Ban Treaty (CTBT). We welcome the Final Declaration and Measures to Promote the Entry into Force of the CTBT that was adopted on 24th September, 2009 at the Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the Treaty in New York. We strongly urge all States that have not signed the treaty to do so as well as ratify it in order for

it to enter into force. We especially urge those States whose ratification is essential for the treaty to become a legally binding instrument to ratify the CTBT as soon as possible.

As a member of the Conference of Disarmament (CD), Kenya participated in the negotiations and drafting of the CTBT. Kenya signed the Treaty in 1996 and ratified it in 2000. Kenya has always supported and advocated for the achievement of universal adherence to the CTBT and therefore urges an early entry into force of the treaty.

We are particularly pleased by the entry into force of the Treaty of Pelindaba in July 2009. Africa has sent out an unequivocal message to the whole world that the continent is a nuclear weapon-free zone. Henceforth, nuclear weapons will not be developed, produced, tested, acquired or stationed in Africa. The entry into force of the Treaty of Pelindaba confirms Africa's commitment to strengthen the global nuclear weapons regime and greatly contributes to international efforts on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. We note that while this Treaty commits the continent to nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, it also provides for the peaceful use of nuclear science and technology. This aspect is very important for Kenya especially in seeking alternative sources of energy to spur the development agenda.

(CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS)

Mr. Chairman,

The problem of proliferation of illicit small arms and light weapons continues to plague my country and indeed the rest of the African Continent. The volume of weapons diverted from the legal trade in small arms and light weapons to a thriving black market, continues to grow at an alarming rate. Sadly, the merchants of doom continue to benefit from this illicit trade without the slightest regard to the suffering and violence meted out to the most vulnerable populations in Africa. In addressing the problem of illicit small arms and light weapons, it is important that we address such challenges as absence of export and import controls, failure to enforce already existing mechanisms due to loopholes in the law, and more importantly the root causes for demand of these weapons. It is imperative that states implement the UN Programme of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons, both at a national as well as regional level, as the problem of SALW's is often a cross-border one. On the eastern board of Africa, the efforts of the Regional Centre on Small Arms (RECSA) are commendable.

Mr. Chairman,

Although the global trade in small arms and light weapons is currently not regulated, we are pleased to note that significant progress has been made towards achieving a legally binding treaty governing the transfer of conventional weapons. In this regard, Kenya strongly supports the establishment of an arms trade treaty to govern the trade in arms. During the Open Ended Working Group on the ATT meeting in July 2009, there was unanimous agreement

that international action is needed to address the problem of unregulated arms trade in conventional weapons and their diversion to the illicit market. What is essential now is for members to boldly take the process forward towards a legally binding Arms Trade Treaty.

Kenya signed the Convention on Cluster Munitions in December 2008. As in the case of the Ottawa Convention, my country is not a mine affected state nor does it possess cluster munitions, however, we believe it is crucial to give support to both these conventions that seek to make our world safer and more humane. We have commenced internal processes that will enable us eventually ratify the convention.

Mr. Chairman,

It is widely acknowledged that economic development and the reduction of violence go hand in hand. Thus long-term development is impossible without long-term security. In this regard, I recall the words of the former United Nations Secretary-General Dr. Kofi Annan in his seminal work, *In Larger Freedom "there can be no development without security and there can be no security without development."*

The cost of armed conflict and violence as well as the concomitant human tragedy in Africa is estimated at over \$18 billion annually. The effects of armed violence fueled by readily available small arms and light weapons have been disastrous. Innocent civilians are killed, maimed, abducted, and displaced from their homes. To address insecurity, governments are forced to spend considerable resources on arms acquisition and training of security apparatus. This diverts their budgetary allocation from other much needed public services like education and health care, thus having a negative impact on the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

It is for this reason that Kenya was among the first signatories of the Geneva Declaration on Armed Violence and Development. In this regard my delegation welcomes the Secretary-General's report *"Promoting Development through the reduction and prevention of armed Violence."* (A/64/228) and looks forward to continue advocating the goals of the Geneva Declaration.

Mr. Chairman,

In conclusion, Kenya urges all delegations to rededicate their efforts to further the work of this important committee. My delegation will work diligently towards this end. All states should invest more in human beings than spending trillions in armaments. Investment in human capital is the only assurance to security, peace and stability.

I thank you.

