



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

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STATEMENT BY

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REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

AT THE

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

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Statement by H.E. Dr. Augustine P. Mahiga, Permanent Representative of the United Republic of Tanzania to the United Nations, Delivered at the General Debate of the First Committee, 8th October, 2009

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation and I express warm congratulations to you and through you, to the entire Bureau of the First Committee for the 64th Session of the General Assembly, on your well deserved election. Please rest assured that you have our full cooperation and support as you steer the deliberations of this Committee to a successful conclusion. We wish to associate ourselves with statements delivered by Nigeria on behalf of the African Group and Indonesia on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

Mr. Chairman,

We also wish to reaffirm Tanzania's commitment to multilateralism, through the First Committee as a UN forum for deliberations and decisions in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation. We support and welcome General Assembly resolution 63/50 of 2008 and previous relevant resolutions on this subject. To complement this lead role by the United Nations, Tanzania also commends all initiatives undertaken by regional and sub-regional organizations as well as Member States in partnership with the international community to develop various instruments and practical measures on disarmament and non-proliferation of nuclear weapons including denying terrorist groups the capacity to develop, acquire and use weapons of mass destruction.

Mr. Chairman,

We welcome the current positive momentum towards more nuclear arms reductions and efforts on nuclear non-proliferation by the leading nuclear weapons states and non-nuclear weapons states. This is an encouraging and most welcome trend which needs to be sustained in all fora, both bi-lateral and multilateral such as the resumption of the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva.

We welcome the convening of the Conference on facilitating entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) in September, 2009. We are encouraged by the adoption of the final declaration by consensus, and are particularly encouraged by the exemplary commitment and leadership demonstrated by the current U.S. Administration in pursuing a step-by-step approach to persuade the US Congress to ratify the Treaty. We believe that such ratification will go a long way in encouraging other States which have not yet signed or ratified the Treaty, to do so. In that spirit, the Community of Nations will go a long way in advancing sustainable nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation.

Mr. Chairman,

Our efforts should also be demonstrated through the ratification of Nuclear Weapons Free Zones treaties. In Africa we have celebrated the entering into force, in July this year, of the Treaty of Pelindaba on the establishment of a Nuclear Weapons Free Zone in Africa. We believe that this historical achievement will act as a catalyst to achieve the remaining ratifications in our continent and beyond.

It is a chilling reminder to recall that uranium which was used by the first atomic bombs which were dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki came from Africa. Africa has the largest proven deposits of uranium and nuclear related strategic minerals in the world. Africa is showing by example in abiding by all international and regional instruments to prevent nuclear proliferation by working transparently with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in safeguarding the exploitation, trade and peaceful uses of nuclear materials and technology.

In this regard, we call for the strengthening of the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa to be able to provide more expert knowledge to African States on nuclear and conventional disarmament in Africa. The Centre should also be more proactive in expanding its network and partnerships with various Civil Society Organisations in the various sub-regions of Africa in promoting peace and disarmament initiatives in the African continent.

In the same vein, Mr. Chairman, we welcome the entering into force of the Nuclear Weapons Free Zones in Central Asia in March, 2009. We believe that these Zones can play a pivotal role in promoting international peace and security in the regions concerned and the international community as a whole. It is in that light that we encourage similar efforts to be undertaken in establishing a Nuclear Weapons Free Zone in the Middle East and the Korean Peninsula.

Mr. Chairman,

We live in a world which is facing a mounting energy crisis. Countries particularly in the developing world are increasingly searching for reliable and green sources of energy. Nuclear energy is one of the promising solutions to this energy crisis. It is a compelling logic that more countries are seeking and will continue to pursue this technology in the foreseeable future. It is imperative that our collective commitment to nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament does not undermine the inalienable right of developing countries to engage in research, production and use of nuclear energy and technology for peaceful purposes. We therefore need to ensure internationally safeguarded access to fissile material for peaceful scientific uses in accordance with the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and safeguards by the IAEA.

Mr. Chairman,

Africa in general and its Great Lakes Region in particular are deeply concerned by the continuing proliferation of small arms and light weapons (SALW), which are a real threat to security and human rights and have been weapons of mass atrocities in the region. SALW fuel conflicts and instability, they displace civilians and undermine the provision of humanitarian assistance to victims. They also undermine peace building efforts in post-conflict situations and contribute to trans-border crimes and terrorism.

Mr. Chairman,

We support international efforts, particularly the United Nations Programme of Action (UNPoA) to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit trade of SALW in all its aspects. We shall continue to support efforts to reach expeditiously an Arms Trade

Treaty which will regulate the trade in arms and ammunitions as well as prevent their illicit circulation.

We also reaffirm our commitment to regional efforts under the Regional Centre on Small Arms (RECSA). We call on the international community to support our regional non-proliferation and disarmament efforts in Africa through the activities and initiatives of this institution.

Mr. Chairman,

I should also like to touch briefly on the importance of political will in adherence of States to international instruments in the area of non-proliferation and disarmament. Adoption of conventions and binding resolutions, without the political will and commitment of individual States to implement their obligations, in letter and spirit, is futile.

Tanzania is party to several international instruments on disarmament and non-proliferation, including the NPT, CTBT, Chemical Weapons Convention, the Ottawa Convention and the Treaty of Pelindaba. We are in the process of ratifying the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention and the Convention on Cluster Munitions. Where required we have established National Authorities and Focal Points and are in the process of enacting a groundbreaking legislation which shall cater for all categories of weapons of mass destruction. Tanzania looks forward to the successful Review Conference of the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty next year following the disappointment outcome of the review conference in 2005.

I thank you for your attention.