



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

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

**STATEMENT BY
MR. SALIM JEWE
OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF THE
UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

**AT THE 2007 SUBSTANTIVE SESSION OF
THE UNITED NATIONS DISARMAMENT COMMISSION**

APRIL 10, 2007

**STATEMENT BY MR. SALIM IBWE OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF THE
UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS AT THE
2007 SUBSTANTIVE SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS DISARMAMENT
COMMISSION**

TUESDAY, APRIL 10, 2007

Mr. Chairman,

The United Republic of Tanzania wishes to congratulate you, Ambassador Rosselli, and through you, the other members of the Bureau, on your election to preside over this important session of the United Nations Disarmament Commission (UNDC). We have no doubt that under your wise guidance and leadership, the UNDC this year should be able to have fruitful discussions and chart out some practical recommendations on how conventional nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation can together and progressively be achieved in the present and future globalized world. Allow me to thank your predecessor, Ambassador Oh Joon of the Republic of Korea, for his remarkable contributions to this end. We also wish to express our profound appreciation to the Secretary General for his enlightening keynote address yesterday.

Furthermore, we would like to associate ourselves with the Non Aligned Movement and the African Group's statements, which were delivered by the distinguished representatives of Indonesia and Sudan respectively.

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation has noted that in general, there is prevailing political will and commitment from Member States to learn from the experience gained so far and the setbacks encountered to date by this Commission, in order to move the process forward despite the failures of the two Review Conferences - one on the NPT in 2005 and the other on Small Arms in 2006.

There is also high recognition by members on the continuing vital role of the UNDC as a viable multilateral deliberating body to deal with disarmament and non-proliferation problems. This is a great source of encouragement and reason for further dedication to the process. A candid assessment on the root causes of the setbacks largely point, on one hand, to the political and security sensitivity and complexity of the subject matter in question and, on the other hand, to the inherent weaknesses deeply embedded in the multilateral arms control process.

The difficulties should not be an excuse for complacency, but should be seen as challenges to be addressed. Attaining full and complete disarmament should remain our determined goal, major focus and ultimate achievement. In fact, disarmament and non-proliferation is a moral and ethical compulsion to be underpinned by legal obligations if we are to ensure the survival of the human species and the future of planet earth with its already fragile ecology. We strongly believe that it is not only the likelihood of accidents of nuclear detonation, but more so from the incomprehensible logic of the nuclear arms race and nuclear proliferation that the fate of humankind will be sealed. We have a chance to arrest that logic by rededicating ourselves to the mission and work of this Commission.

We agree with previous speakers who have insisted that although all of us bear responsibility and have an important role to play towards the implementation of the two tenets of advancing disarmament and non proliferation, the primary responsibility for putting in place an effective, nondiscriminatory control regime that goes hand in hand with other universally agreed global values is, in the final analysis, on the nuclear states and those aspiring to join the nuclear arms club.

In this context, we should recall that the NPT came about after difficult bargaining and compromise between nuclear states and non-nuclear states on conditions that the former agreed to negotiate the elimination of their weapons and share technology for peaceful purposes in return. It would appear that unless and until nuclear states demonstrate their readiness to allow transparent verification, compliance and enforcement measures, the effectiveness of the NPT will remain doubtful and, in the long run, frustrate the work and future achievements of the Commission.

We therefore appeal that the ongoing gradual erosion of general confidence on various existing treaty regimes, should be arrested and every effort should be urgently taken to improve the regimes and enhance political commitment. The increasing demand for more rigorous regimes is dictated by changing security circumstances and evolving threats which demand more rigorous adherence to such multilateral agreements. The work of the Commission is therefore more necessary today than ever before given the increasing terrorist threats emanating from some radical non-state actors.

Mr. Chairman,

Regarding the conventional aspect of the problem, the Great Lakes Region of Africa to which my country belongs, concluded last December a regional Pact on Peace, Security, Democracy and Development. In the

Pact, the non-proliferation of small arms and light weapons is a major component. Tanzania upholds the NPT and its 13 practical steps; is a party to the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty; and a signatory to the International Atomic Energy Agency Additional Protocols. Regrettably until now, the Treaty still lacks enough ratifications to allow it to become fully operational. We appeal to those members who have not yet signed or ratified, to do so. Their signatures are long overdue. We believe that differences amongst Member States regarding the interpretations are not beyond compromise and a consensus can be reached. Here again, we urge nuclear powers to exercise leadership while we collectively muster the necessary political will and occupy the moral high ground.

Regional nuclear free-zone agreements such as the Pelindaba Treaty, Mongolia's nuclear weapon free status, the treaty of TLATELOLCO in Latin America and the Rarotonga Treaty in the South Pacific play a crucial role in line with the Commission's consensus conclusions of 1999 on guidelines for establishing nuclear weapon free zones and for encouraging conventional arms control.

We consider these treaties to be important measures towards the strengthening of global non proliferation efforts and wish to commend the signing by the five Central Asian countries of the Semipalantinsk on 8th September 2006.

Mr. Chairman,

In the context of conventional weapons, we share the view that on the disarmament agenda, greater emphasis should be put on illicit arms trade and their devastating human security consequences, especially to Africa, where small arms and light weapons are in effect weapons of mass destruction. Their ease of use and the ease with which they can be spread exacerbate insurgencies, civil conflicts and ethnic and regional conflicts. The adoption of the UNPOA in 2001 to combat small arms and light weapons proliferation was very welcome and highly appreciated. The same applies to the United Nations Firearms Protocol of 2005.

In conclusion, therefore, my delegation calls for further political commitment from all members and the Commission's improvement of all regimes in place, including a follow up conference to the Program of Action as a significant step to ensure full implementation of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regimes. We are ready to contribute and support you and cooperate with other members to ensure the success of the third cycle of UNDC in 2008.

I thank you Mr. Chairman