



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

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STATEMENT BY

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

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

TUESDAY, APRIL 8, 2008

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UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS AT THE SUBSTANTIVE
SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS DISARMAMENT COMMISSION,
NEW YORK, 8 APRIL 2008.**

Mr. Chairman,

I congratulate you for your election to chair the session of the United Nations Disarmament Commission. I also congratulate other members of the bureau and the Chairs of the two Working Groups who will work with you. The United Republic of Tanzania associates herself with the statement read by Congo DRC and Indonesia on behalf of African Group and NAM respectively.

Tanzania has consistently supported the Secretary General's efforts in promoting and enhancing international peace and security and the work of this Commission to support the attainment of these goals. However, it should be noted from the outset that this Commission is commencing this time with fresh memories of the deliberation of the First Committee of the 62nd session of the General Assembly which was marred with apprehensions and disagreements, on allegations that some of the nuclear weapon states are positioning their arsenals on alert. This is a frightening reminder of the cold war era. We need unambiguous assurances from all quarters on this sensitive issue.

Mr. Chairman,

This substantive session of the United Nations Disarmament Commission will deal with two basic agenda items; that is Recommendations for achieving the objective of nuclear disarmament and non proliferation of nuclear weapons and Practical confidence -building measures in the field of conventional arms. Tanzania abides by its principled positions on nuclear weapons as adopted in several summits and ministerial meeting and is

supportive of the confidence building measures at all levels in the field of conventional arms for strengthening international peace and security.

While most nuclear weapon states are insisting on balanced reductions of their arsenals based on the principle of undiminished security, others are calling for complete nuclear disarmament to avoid new instabilities, but at the same time refuse to discuss steps towards disarmament with verification. Tanzania calls for complete and total disarmament. We reaffirm the principle that disarmament and non-proliferations are the main pillars of NPT regime and call for the universalization of the regime.

It should equally be noted that the differences among nuclear weapon states on one hand and between the nuclear weapon states and non nuclear weapon states on the other in strengthening the NPT regime need to be resolved through negotiated compromises in the interest of international peace and security. Tanzania believes that it is unreasonable, to expect non-nuclear weapon states to comply with their obligations while the nuclear-weapons states have failed to accomplish their obligations with transparent enforcement and verification measures. Short of that, the NPT regime will remain shaky. The bottom line should be a world without nuclear weapons with verifiable disarmament and sharing of nuclear technology for peaceful purposes on non-discriminatory basis.

Mr. Chairman,

Conventional weapons are of highest concern to developing world in general and to the Great Lakes region of Africa in particular. Tanzania commends the Office of Disarmament Affairs and the EU which have pushed resolutions on problems arising from the accumulation of conventional weapons stockpiles and surplus A/62/166 add, 1, conventional Arms control at regional and sub regional levels A/62/93 and the Arms Trade Treaty 62/278. Equally, we recommend all states which have taken steps towards

combating uncontrolled and illegal transfer of small arms and light weapons including MANIPADS.

Tanzania supports the Arms Trade Treaty and the and the Global campaign launched under the banner “What people want” based on the analysis given by the Secretary General on feasibility , scope and draft parameters for Arms Trade Treaty. Tanzania appreciates the views expressed by a number of states that Arms Trade Treaty must include all conventional weapons and that the range of activities including transfers that fall within the scope of Arms Trade Treaty must be defined clearly. We look forward to the establishment of an Open Ended Working Group in 2009 by the General Assembly to negotiate and agree the Terms of a Global Arms Trade Treaty

Mr. Chairman ,

Tanzania supports the growing consensus among states on implementation and universalisation of the Biological and Toxin Weapon Convention and the Chemical Weapon Convention. That being the case, Tanzania urges member states to work for penal legislation and strict export and control on biological agents associated with dual use of technologies and equipments. These measures should be accompanied with the revitalization of the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention Confidence Building Measures by ensuring the annual submission of reports by all member States.

Mr. Chairman,

Tanzania has always been stressing on the linkage between Disarmament and Development in the context of government expenditures on military capability and armament and the potential use of such resources for development purposes. Both the developed and developing states have had enormous expenditures on armaments as compared to allocations on socio-economic development. The prosperity to spend on

arms should be curbed by generating political will to implement disarmament measures, credible confidence building measures as disarmament proceeds and by cultivating a culture of peace in present and succeeding generations.

The Disarmament Commission should have a high stake in this process but the challenge has many stakeholders including political constituencies, and civic organizations of civil society in all countries and their international networks.

I thank you Mr. Chairman.