



**PERMANENT MISSION OF BRUNEI
DARUSSALAM
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

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**NATIONAL STATEMENT BY
THE REPRESENTATIVE OF BRUNEI DARUSSALAM
TO THE UNITED NATIONS IN NEW YORK

AT THE GENERAL DEBATE OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE
OF THE 77th SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS
GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

12 OCTOBER 2022

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Mr Chairman,

1. Brunei Darussalam aligns itself with the statements delivered by Indonesia on behalf of the NAM, and the statement delivered by Thailand on behalf ASEAN.
2. The current state of the global security environment has strained international efforts on disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control. As we continue to recover from the impacts of COVID-19, security challenges continue to become much more complex, outpacing our ability to address them individually. A recommitment to multilateralism is therefore paramount.
3. In this context, Brunei Darussalam believes that multilateralism is key to addressing all issues related to global disarmament and non-proliferation. Brunei Darussalam continues to support the UN as the key forum to strengthen our collective resolve in maintaining and strengthening universal norms on disarmament and the non-proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction ("WMD"). We believe the work of the First Committee remains important as a means for countries to engage constructively, in setting and preserving important norms and principles, with full respect of the rule of law.

Mr Chairman,

4. For us, disarmament of WMD remains indispensable in securing a future that is safe and sustainable. We therefore continue to support the UN Secretary-General's announcement of his agenda for disarmament – "*Securing our Common Future*" – back in 2018.
5. In Brunei Darussalam, these efforts will be underpinned by our continued commitment to the various international treaties and conventions which we are party to,

including the Treaty on Nuclear Non-Proliferation (NPT), Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW), Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT), Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC), and Biological Weapons Convention (BWC).

Mr Chairman,

6. Allow me to focus on five points. Firstly, we welcome the conduct of the 10th Review Conference of NPT in August 2022, following its postponement in the past two years. In this regard, we also note the conclusion of 1st Meeting of States Parties TPNW in June 2022. The meeting saw the adoption of the political declaration and action plan, which will help set the course for the Treaty's implementation and are important steps toward our shared goal of a world free of nuclear weapons.

7. Secondly, Brunei Darussalam commends the invaluable contributions the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has made in advocating for peaceful uses of nuclear energy and prevent it from being utilised for military purposes especially as nuclear weapons. However, we remain concerned with the dangers posed by nuclear weapons, given their serious humanitarian and environmental risks and consequences. As such, we acknowledge the IAEA central role in this endeavour.

8. Thirdly, as the international community continues its work towards complete nuclear disarmament, ongoing efforts to establish nuclear-weapon-free-zones should not diminish. Brunei Darussalam would like to reiterate ASEAN's commitment towards the preservation of our region as a Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone and free of all other WMD as enshrined in the ASEAN Charter and the Treaty on the Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapon Free Zone. In moving forward, Brunei Darussalam reaffirms its support for the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East to promote greater trust, confidence building and an environment that is conducive to peace processes.

9. Fourthly, the past few years have witnessed the continued use of chemical weapons. The re-emerging and unaccounted use of such weapons around the world has had a damaging impact on international disarmament and non-proliferation efforts. The loss of innocent lives and the suffering of those affected, are serious reminders that more

needs to be done to uphold the fundamental tenets of the CWC, to prevent the use of chemical weapons which is a serious violation of international law.

10. To address the threats of chemical weapons nationally, Brunei Darussalam has adopted a whole-of-government approach and is currently in the process of establishing a National Chemical Management Committee and finalising the comprehensive legislation. In addition to working closely with the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), we also look forward to engaging other countries, for the purpose of capacity building in ensuring the full and effective implementation of the CWC.

11. Lastly, as we rely more and more on information and communication technology (ICT) in our daily lives, we are also increasingly exposed to cyber threats. On this note, Brunei Darussalam reiterates its support towards efforts that promotes a secure, inclusive and responsible state behaviour in cyber space including the Open-ended Working Group (OEWG) on security and in the use of ICT.

Mr Chairman,

12. In closing, Brunei Darussalam would like to reiterate the importance of the First Committee's work, as part and parcel of the overall goal of the UN to promote sustainable development and build a better future for all. To that end, Brunei Darussalam will continue to work constructively with all countries and relevant bodies to help attain positive and tangible outcomes in this Committee.

Thank you.