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PERMANENT MISSION OF THE FEDERAL
DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF ETHIOPIA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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Statement

By

**Ambassador Yoseph Kassaye,
Deputy Permanent Representative of the Federal
Democratic Republic of Ethiopia to the
United Nations**

At

**The General Debate of the First Committee of
the 77th Session of the United Nations General
Assembly**

04 October 2022
New York

Mr. Chairman,

I would like to begin by congratulating you and other members of the Bureau on your election to preside over the work of this Committee. Let me assure you of my delegation's full support and cooperation in the discharge of your responsibility.

My delegation also wishes to associate itself with the statements made by the distinguished representatives of Indonesia on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement and Nigeria on behalf of the African Group, respectively.

Mr. Chairman,

We live in a world which is currently facing enormous and complex challenges. Increasing conflicts are threatening regional and global peace and security. The proliferation of nuclear weapons, coupled with geopolitical tension, has exacerbated the situation to unprecedented level in which the likelihood of nuclear catastrophes cannot be ruled out.

It is deeply worrisome that after the end of the Cold War, we hear, as the United Nations Secretary General said, "the rattling of nuclear sabres." We also share the warning of the Secretary-General that "any use of nuclear weapons would incite a humanitarian Armageddon."

At this critical time, my delegation underscores the primacy of diplomacy to ease global tensions and eliminate the threat of nuclear war. In this regard, the work of this Committee remains more important than ever to continue to contribute to the efforts of disarmament and the maintenance of international peace and security.

While emphasizing that the nuclear-power states should take meaningful actions to de-escalate global tensions, we all need to come together and restore confidence to achieve a nuclear free world. Ethiopia firmly believes that this is possible with strong political commitment and shared vision.

Mr. Chairman,

The Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of nuclear weapons (NPT) is the cornerstone of the international nuclear non-proliferation regime and an essential foundation for the pursuit of nuclear disarmament and the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. It is regrettable, however, that the 10th NPT Review Conference that was held in August this year ended without consensus. Ethiopia, as a State Party to the Treaty, reaffirms its commitment to its implementation and calls on all to forge a new consensus to collectively address nuclear threats.

We in Africa have adopted the African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty, also known as the Pelindaba Treaty, to ensure that nuclear weapons are not developed, produced, stockpiled, tested, acquired or stationed in Africa. We are confident that through this and similar commitments in other regions, we can advance the cause of global peace and security.

We would like to seize this opportunity to underline the importance of the inalienable right to peaceful uses of nuclear energy and call on the International Atomic Energy Agency to continue its technical support.

Mr. Chairman,

Ethiopia underlines the vital role of the Conference on Disarmament in negotiating multilateral disarmament and non-proliferation agreements. In fact, it's our firm position that CD is and should be the world's single multilateral disarmament negotiating forum. We therefore call for greater flexibility for the Conference on Disarmament to commence its substantive work without further delay.

In the same vein, illicit trade, transfer, manufacture, possession and circulation of small arms and light weapons have become a great concern, particularly in Africa fueling conflicts and terrorism. It is essential that we strengthen our collective efforts to effectively implement the UN Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade

in Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALWs) in All Its Aspects to address this pressing challenge. It is also crucial to scale up support for sub-regional and regional efforts to eliminate this profound threat to peace and security.

Ethiopia welcomes the progress made with regards to the Open-Ended-Working-Group on security of and in the use of ICT which we believe will immensely contribute to the global efforts of safeguarding cyberspace.

We also underline the critical importance of prevention of arms race in outer space through a legally binding instrument. Furthermore, it is vital that the necessary support be provided to developing countries so that they can enhance their capacities to use outer space for peaceful purposes in their efforts to achieve sustainable development.

Let me conclude, Mr. Chairman, by reaffirming the commitment of my government to discharge its 'Treaties' obligations and we look forward for a productive deliberation of the Committee.

I thank you.