

Mr. Chair,

Let me start by expressing my appreciation to you, **Chair**, for the very effective way in which you have continued to lead the work of this Committee. I reiterate the full support of my delegation in discharging your responsibilities.

Mr. Chair,

The world is in turmoil. The adverse impacts of the pandemic, climate change, poverty, terrorism, as well as the food, fuel, and financial crisis are the interlocked and complex challenges the world is confronted with. Regrettably, these coupled with heightened global rivalry and geopolitical tension, multilateralism is facing difficulties in offering solutions to address these multifaceted problems. Moreover, the world is deeply concerned by proliferation of nuclear weapons and armament.

Almost all member states have pronounced repeatedly that nuclear weapons pose the greatest threat to humankind and the survival of civilization. What is deeply worrisome is that there is no sufficient political will to translate our words and resolutions into concrete actions for the achievement of general and complete disarmament **under an effective international monitoring mechanism.**

That is why, instead of nuclear disarmament and progress to create a world free from nuclear weapons, what we are alarmingly witnessing is modernizing of nuclear arsenals. With the current arms race and lack of an effective and robust global monitoring system, there is a high chance that nuclear and other mass destruction weapons could fall into the hands of rogue non-state actors compounding the threats to global peace and stability.

Mr. Chair,

There is also this concern that with technological advancement, the threat of nuclear war has not lessened but increased. Experts rightly warn us that modern technology multiplies the destructive capacity of nuclear conflict through the introduction of high-tech weapons and far-reaching improvements in artificial intelligence. It appears that we continue to lack a credible and updated common framework of dialogue to advance the peaceful use of such advanced technologies. Hence, **what indeed is lacking today is a genuine** global partnership and leadership to implement what we continue to advocate for. Until the world, particularly those with nuclear weapons demonstrate the much-needed political commitment for concrete actions, our words would remain largely devoid of their purpose; and creating a world free from nuclear weapons would remain elusive.

If we had achieved real and effective disarmament and the billions of financial resources spent in the arms race had been allotted to eradicating poverty and achieving the sustainable development agenda, the state of humanity and the safety of our planet would have improved much better. This, Ethiopia believes, should be our ultimate goal - a higher objective of saving humanity from the scourge of war as we promised in our Charter. In this regard, we underscore that this **is high time for the surge for diplomacy for global peace to avoid calamity.**

Mr. Chair,

Ethiopia has demonstrated its commitment towards the establishment of Africa-nuclear –weapon-free zone by signing and ratifying the Pelindaba Treaty. Ethiopia also supports the establishment of Middle East –Nuclear – Weapon – Free Zones for it enhances the maintenance of peace and security in the region.

We also call upon all States to reaffirm their commitment to preserve and strengthen the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of nuclear weapons (**NPT**) which

is a corner stone to international security agreement. Ethiopia also stresses the right of all States to develop, produce and use of nuclear technology for peaceful purposes only. In this regard, my delegation strongly supports the mission of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in terms of verification of States' compliance with their commitments, under the Non-Proliferation Treaty and other non-proliferation agreements, to use nuclear material and facilities only for peaceful purposes.

I thank you.