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**STATEMENT**

**BY**

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**AMBASSADOR AND PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE**

**IN THE GENERAL DISCUSSION OF**

**THE FIRST COMMITTEE OF THE  
77<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**4 OCTOBER 2022**

**NEW YORK**  
*(Check Against Delivery)*

**Your Excellency, Mohan Pieris,**

- 1. Allow me to use this opportunity to congratulate you heartily on your appointment as First Committee Chair for the 77<sup>th</sup> Session. I assure you, together with your Bureau, of our full support and cooperation. My delegation wishes to extend our appreciation to the Under Secretary General and High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, Her Excellency Izumi Nakamitsu and her team for their work in carrying out their mandate at UNODA.**
- 2. We associate with the statements delivered by Nigeria on behalf of the African Group and Indonesia on behalf the Non-Aligned Movement.**

**Chair,**

- 3. Following two years of severe constraints and restrictions which limited our ability to convene in the manner we are accustomed to, this year we were presented with several opportunities to bring into focus the disarmament agenda, through statutory meetings. This year alone, we have seen the**

**reconvening of the Conference on Disarmament, the First Meeting of State Parties on the TPNW, the 8<sup>th</sup> Biennial Meeting of State Parties to consider the implementation of the UN Programme of Action on Small Arms and light weapons, the 10<sup>th</sup> Review Conference of the Non Proliferation Treaty and the 8<sup>th</sup> Conference of State Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty.**

**4. Namibia remains firm in its resolve to play its part in advancing the principles of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, as we consider these central tenets to our collective ambition of promoting international peace and security. This is advanced with the conviction that inclusive multilateral cooperation and negotiations among States, is the only avenue through which we can make headway on the vertical and horizontal proliferation of nuclear weapons and mitigate their humanitarian consequences.**

**Chair,**

**5. Military spending continues to increase at a time when the world is in need of a reallocation of resources to fund development, especially in the global south. The stark geopolitical tensions that characterise the current world order, place immense pressure on us to navigate complex global security challenges. Thus, we have a collective responsibility to build bridges of peace that can bring us closer together, despite our differences.**

**6. Namibia continues to call for the swift entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT). In this regard, we encourage the Annex 2 States to ratify the Convention in view of its entry into force.**

**7. Namibia remains disappointed that the recently ended 10<sup>th</sup> Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty review conference failed to deliver a conclusive outcome that supports clear commitments to a world in which**

**nuclear weapons are not a threat to humanity. For us, the NPT remains the cornerstone of the disarmament and non-proliferation agenda.**

**8. We are however encouraged by the entry in to force of the TPNW and the progress in its implementation through the hosting of the first Meeting of State Parties in Vienna in June. Namibia considers the TPNW and NPT to be complementary instruments and we continue to encourage states that have not done so to accede to and ratify both instruments. As we endeavour to meet our disarmament obligations, we remain acutely aware of the need to work closely with both nuclear weapons states and non-nuclear weapon states. We are concerned that to this day, no Nuclear Weapon State has joined the TPNW. The TPNW remains a major step towards a world free of nuclear weapons and if we are genuine in our pursuit towards disarmament, we have a collective responsibility to ensure its universalisation.**

**Chair,**

**9. My delegation continues to place great importance on nuclear weapon free zones and the value they add to global disarmament and non-proliferation efforts.**

**10. As a committed State Party to the African Nuclear Weapons Free Zone (the Treaty of Pelindaba), which provides a shield for Africa by preventing the stationing of nuclear explosive devices and prohibiting testing of those destructive weapons on the continent, Namibia supports the establishment of nuclear weapons free zones in all regions of the world. We believe that this constitutes a confidence-building measure and an important step in achieving nuclear disarmament and nonproliferation. For this reason, Namibia calls for the establishment of a Nuclear Weapon Free Zone and all other weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery in the Middle East, without further delay, as recommended by the**

## **1995 Non-Proliferation Treaty Review and Extension Conferences.**

- 11. During the 77<sup>th</sup> Session, Namibia is particularly encouraged by the efforts to advance the full and equal participation of women in the disarmament agenda. Equally so, by mainstreaming youth into the disarmament agenda, we ensure that our approach is holistic and in line with the ambitions of the global agenda, which strives to leave no one behind.**
- 12. In conclusion, let me emphasise that Nuclear Weapons are an unnecessary evil that we have the power to rid the world of in our life time. It is with this conviction that my delegation will engage in the discussions of the first committee during the 77<sup>th</sup> session.**
- 13. Our positions will be expounded on in detail during the thematic discussions. We once again reiterate our full cooperation to you, dear Chair and will support you and your Bureau in the hope that this session will yield a positive outcome.**

**I thank you**