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## **STATEMENT**

**BY**

**MS. HELENA NDAPEWA KUZEE  
DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE**

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

**FIRST COMMITTEE  
THEMATIC DEBATE: "NUCLEAR WEAPONS"**

**NEW YORK  
18 October 2022**

**Chair,**

1. Namibia aligns itself with the statements delivered by Nigeria and Indonesia, on behalf of African Group and the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) respectively. I would like to point out some issues in my national capacity.

**Chair,**

2. Namibia, one of the world's largest uranium producers, does not support the use of its uranium for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices. Nuclear weapons are a source of international antagonism, instilling fear and posing endless threats of the use of destructive force to entrench international instability, we should continue to promote their non-proliferation and elimination.
3. The continued heightened global tensions should not discourage us from taking action to continue demanding this but, rather, it should give impetus to our commitment to re-engage with multilateral methods.
4. Namibia reiterates its disappointment that the 10<sup>th</sup> NPT Rev Con failed to reach a conclusive outcome. We further reiterate that all nuclear weapon states, without exception, should be obliged to subject their arsenals, facilities and programmes to international scrutiny, verification, and IAEA safeguards. We call on those who contemplate the development or production of nuclear weapons to refrain from this dangerous path, as a nuclear war cannot be won and must be avoided at all costs.

**Chair,**

5. Having ratified the Pelindaba Treaty which establishes the African Nuclear Weapons Free Zone, Namibia supports and is committed to the establishment of nuclear weapons free zones in all regions of the world. Nuclear-weapon-free zones represent legal and political achievements paving the way for global prohibition and subsequent elimination of nuclear weapons. Therefore, we reiterate our unwavering support for the establishment of a Middle East Zone Free of Nuclear Weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction in accordance with relevant General Assembly and the Security Council resolutions.
6. In the same vein, Namibia welcomes the entry into force of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW), on 22 January 2021, and the

convening of the First meeting of the State Parties earlier this year. The TPNW is the only multilateral treaty that calls for the total elimination of nuclear weapons and in this context, complements nuclear weapons free zones and the NPT. Consistent with our obligations to uphold nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament global norms, Namibia ratified the TPNW 21 March 2020.

7. We would like to emphasize that, while these instruments complement each other, it is important not to confuse the concepts of prohibition and elimination. The prohibition of nuclear weapons is an essential foundation for their total elimination. The former should not be hostage to the latter. According to resolution 71/258, the legally binding instrument should be conceived as leading towards the total elimination of nuclear weapons.

**Chair ,**

8. Namibia remains concerned that nuclear weapons states continue to spend tremendous amounts of money to modernize, upgrade, refurbish and extend the lives of their nuclear weapons and related facilities. We believe that the continued existence and possession of nuclear weapons do not guarantee security, but rather substantially increase the risk of their potential use.
9. In our pursuit of a nuclear weapons-free world as envisaged by the NPT and other mechanisms, no state party is too big to do it alone, and none is too small to make a contribution. Therefore, multilateralism remains central to attaining the goal of nuclear disarmament, non-proliferation and peaceful use of nuclear energy for the benefit of humanity which is an inalienable right of all Parties.
10. As a fully committed State Party to Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT), the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW), Namibia reaffirms its commitment to the nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation in all aspects and continues its efforts in contributing to the international peace and security by promoting its nuclear-weapons free status.
11. Last but not least, as we this month commemorate the 22<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of the adoption of Security Council Resolution 1325, on Women Peace and Security, Namibia is pleased to note the effort to internalize the gendered impact of nuclear weapons and will continue to advance the recognition of

women and girls and mainstreaming of their participation in disarmament processes. We believe this to be an acknowledgement of the value of the full, meaningful and equal participation of women in all peace processes, while continuing to keep top of mind the impact of nuclear weapons on women and girls.

I thank you.