

Permanent Mission of the Republic of Kenya To the United Nations, New York Security Council -2021-2022

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

TENTH REVIEW CONFERENCE OF THE TREATY ON THE NON-PROLIFERATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS

NATIONAL STATEMENT

TUESDAY, 2 AUGUST 2022

STATEMENT BY AMB. NJAMBI KINYUNGU – DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE

[Secretary-General]

Mr. President,

- 1. The Kenya delegation congratulates you and members of the bureau on your election to preside over this critical and much awaited Tenth Review Conference of the Treaty on Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT). My delegation assures you of our full support and constructive engagement.
- 2. Kenya aligns itself with the statements delivered by the distinguished representatives of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Republic of Zambia on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), and the African Group, respectively.

Mr. President, Excellencies & Colleagues

3. Kenya reaffirms its unwavering commitment to the objectives of the NPT and our longstanding commitment to nuclear disarmament, non-proliferation, and the achievement of a world free of nuclear weapons.

- 4. Nuclear weapons continue to have devastating effects on humanity, biodiversity as well as the environment. We note that as much as nuclear security assurances remain an important tool of nuclear diplomacy, they point to intent, and are never guarantees.
- 5. Kenya therefore reaffirms that the total elimination of nuclear weapons remains the only absolute guarantee against the use of, or threat of use of nuclear weapons.
- 6. As highlighted by the Secretary-General during the opening segment, five decades since the NPT entered into force an alarming number of nuclear weapons remain. The rising nuclear rivalry, tensions and use of dangerous rhetoric by some nuclear weapon states who are also members of NPT, is also disheartening.
- 7. These trends, along with the increasing modernisation of nuclear weapons, their delivery mechanisms, as well as the weakening of intergovernmental arrangements aimed at curtailing nuclear arsenals only serve to undermine the NPT and our shared goals on nuclear disarmament.

- 8. My delegation calls for strengthened multilateral dialogue and a renewed momentum among all States to implement their disarmament commitments. In particular, we urge all nuclear weapon states and the "nuclear umbrella states" to aim for new defence and security doctrines devoid of nuclear weapons. Total and complete nuclear disarmament must remain a priority and our ultimate goal.
- 9. Towards this objective, we reaffirm that the outcomes of previous Review Conferences and the commitments therein, including the "13 Practical Steps" of the 2000 Review Conference and the "64 Point-Action Plan" of the 2010 Review Conference remain pertinent. Subsequent Review Conferences should build on these and focus on implementation.

Mr. President, Excellencies,

10. As a developing country, Kenya affirms the importance of the continued respect of the inalienable right of ALL States to engage in research and development of nuclear technology for peaceful purposes.

- 11. As provided in Article 4 of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, ALL countries have a duty to promote and cooperate in the peaceful exploitation of nuclear technology, while at the same time working towards complete nuclear disarmament.
- 12. The pursuit of developing nuclear technology must however remain within the framework, protocol, and safeguards system of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). We urge reinforced efforts in the area of capacity building and equitability in technology affordability.
- 13. Kenya commends the significant role of the IAEA in their support and cooperation in the area of maximising the potential of science and technology for socio-economic development including the SDGs.
- 14. Kenya has been a member of the IAEA since 1965 and has benefited tremendously from technical cooperation projects with the Agency in areas of Health, Agriculture, Water, Industry and Energy. These projects are coordinated through our Nuclear Power and Energy Agency (N*u*PEA) which is an institution established under the Energy Act of Parliament.

- 15. Through this collaboration, Kenya has seen leadership of women in Peaceful use of nuclear science and technology through our very own Professor Miriam Kinyua. She has developed rust and weed resistant wheat variety, which contributes to climate-resilient food security. This variety has been distributed to local farmers and the same will be scaled up in the region.
- 16. To further demonstrate our multilateral commitment to climate change and adaptation, Kenya, will be a panelist, alongside other delegates, in a roundtable discussion on *Non-Proliferation, Nuclear Energy and Climate Change* on the sidelines of this Conference **here at UN Headquarters this afternoon**.

Mr. President,

17. It remains our view that as long as nuclear weapons continue to be maintained anywhere, they constitute a clear and constant existential threat to humanity everywhere.

- 18. Kenya underscores that the threat of nuclear weapons or nuclear material falling into the hands of terrorists and criminal groups as real and immediate. This threat requires increased vigilance and collective action. We therefore call upon all States to urgently and collaboratively work within the established international and regional frameworks to mitigate against this threat.
- 19. As a State Party to the African Nuclear-Weapons-Free-Zone Treaty – the Pelindaba Treaty- my delegation is fully cognisant of the role Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones play as critical building blocks towards the attainment of a safer world free of nuclear weapons.
- 20. The Pelindaba Treaty is a strong indicator of Africa's commitment to nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. And we do recognise the similar role of the treaties of TLATELOLCO, RAROTONGA, and SEMIPALATINSK also play in disarmament efforts.
- 21. In line with implementation efforts of the outcome of the 1995 Review Conference, we recognise the ongoing process of the Conference on the Establishment of a Middle East Zone Free of Nuclear Weapons of Mass Destruction and look forward to its Third Session in November this year.

Mr. President,

- 22. As we are aware of the real and imminent threat posed to all of humanity by nuclear detonation, Kenya continues to call for the banning of nuclear weapons testing as embodied in the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT).
- 23. As a State Party to the CTBT, we call on all the Annex 2 States that have yet to ratify the Treaty to make the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty a reality by ensuring its entry into force.
- 24. Collectively, we, Member States, must work relentlessly to foster trust, political will, and commitment to nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation.
- 25. As I conclude **Mr. President,** I take this opportunity to once again urge all States parties to work together and negotiate in good faith towards a bold, practical and consensual outcome from this Review Conference.

26. We, the peoples of the United Nations, have a solemn duty to save succeeding generations from the scourge of nuclear war. This Review Conference can indeed be a key contributor to this shared goal.

I THANK YOU.