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STATEMENT

BY

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AMBASSADOR/PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS

IN THE

GENERAL DEBATE OF THE

FIRST COMMITTEE

OF

THE 60TH SESSION OF THE
UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

AGENDA ITEMS 85 TO 105

New York
7th October, 2005
Mr. Chairman,

I join the other delegations who have spoken before me to congratulate you on your election as Chairman of the First Committee during the 60th session. I also equally congratulate the other members of the bureau. My sincere appreciation goes to your predecessor, Ambassador Luis Alfonso de Alba of Mexico who presided over the First Committee during the Fifty-ninth session.

Mr. Chairman,

Allow me from the outset to sincerely convey condolences to the Government and people of Indonesia on their loss of life and property at the hands of international terrorists, who planned and carried out the inhuman suicide attack in Bali. On 2nd October, 2005 the people of Indonesia and Bali in particular, have hardly recovered from the 2002 terrorist attack and therefore need the support of the international community. Zambia shares their sorrows and loss.

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation fully associates itself with the statements delivered by the delegation of Indonesia, on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), Nigeria on behalf of the African Union and Botswana on behalf of the Southern African Development Community (SADC).

Mr. Chairman,

In his opening remarks to this Committee, on Monday, 3rd October, 2005, Mr. Nobuyasu Abe, the Under Secretary-General for Disarmament Affairs, summed the circumstances under which we are meeting correctly when he said, "We meet at a particularly difficult and challenging moment for disarmament and non-proliferation, and a time of heightened global anxiety about weapons of mass destruction - particularly nuclear weapons."

I share the view of the Under Secretary-General that it is the responsibility of the First Committee, to use this session to promote and strengthen the various multilateral efforts to eliminate the threat posed by weapons of mass destruction to international peace and security.

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation shares the concern over the lack of progress in the multilateral disarmament machinery. For the 8th year going the Conference on Disarmament (CD), the United Nations Disarmament
Commission (UNDC) and recently the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons Treaty (NPT) review conference failed to achieve progress on their substantive agenda items.

In addition, the Final Document of the United Nations 60th Summit did not include provisions for disarmaments and Non-Proliferation. This inexcusable development, poses a great danger to the current highly charged international security structure.

Mr. Chairman,

My government believes that the international community could undo the impasse in disarmament negotiations by a strong reaffirmation to uphold multilateralism and work for multilaterally agreed solutions. It is, therefore, incumbent upon all experts of disarmament to recognize the symbiotic relationship between disarmament and non-proliferation. When there is little progress in general and complete disarmament, there is correspondingly likelihood of vertical proliferation. Hence, there is need for a careful balance between disarmament and non-proliferation.

Mr. Chairman,

Zambia reaffirms its support of disarmament and non-proliferation. As agreed by consensus, in the Final Document of the Special session of the General Assembly devoted to Disarmament (SSOD-I), held in 1978, general and complete disarmament in all its aspects is essential to strengthening international peace and security. The Non-Proliferation of nuclear Weapons Treaty (NPT), depends on a carefully balance of its three equally important pillars, disarmament, non-proliferation and the peaceful application of nuclear science by all States, without discrimination.

Mr. Chairman,

It is our belief that negotiations on nuclear disarmament, undertaken in good faith, would act as catalyst in reaching an agreement in other weapon systems. In other ways, Zambia welcomes innovations that will strengthen confidence building measures that helped to secure important disarmament successes such as the INF and SALT I and II in the last century.

Mr. Chairman,

There is need to reduce the high exaggerated threats posed by hostile regimes and fanatic groups through an enhanced confidence
building regime. In other words, as disarmament experts, let us go back
to the drawing boards and alter the current mind sets, that have
brought the international community to a statement in arms control and
disarmament.

Mr. Chairman,

My government is aware of the destructive nature of small arms
and light weapons on the stability of regions and countries. In this
regard multilateral efforts in the implementation of the United Nations
Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate Illicit Trade in
Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, will serve humanity
well. The adoption of an internationally binding instrument to enable
States to identify and trace illicit small arms and light weapons is a
welcome development. It is our hope that the 2006, Small Arms Review
Conference, will further strengthen the implementation of the Programme
of Action.

Mr. Chairman,

Anti-personnel mines are silent killers and should continue to
deserve the collective attention of the international community. In this
regard, I wish to call upon all States, international organizations and the
civil society to seize the opportunity of the forthcoming Sixth Meeting of
States Parties to accelerate the implementation of the Nairobi Action
Plan. Working together, the international community can achieve the
vision of a world free of anti-personnel mines.

Mr. Chairman,

May I conclude by underscoring the fact that disarmament,
particularly nuclear disarmament, is a key factor in enhancing
international peace and security. Nuclear disarmament, can trigger
progress in other weapon systems, be they conventional, chemical,
biological and bacteriological weapons.

Weapons of mass destruction (WMDs) can be effectively addressed
by existing instruments in the field of disarmament. The proliferation of
armaments, including nuclear arms is a consequence of insecurity. A
commitment to multilateralism by all states, will effectively resolve, once
and for all, the threat posed by the proliferation of weapons of mass
destruction.

I thank you Mr. Chairman.