Statement by
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Delegates of
the Republic of Indonesia
on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement

Thematic debate: Nuclear Weapons

New York, 14 October 2008
Mr. Chairman,

I am honored to speak on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

While reaffirming the absolute validity of multilateral diplomacy in the field of disarmament and non-proliferation, we reiterate our determination to promote multilateralism as the core principle of negotiations in the area of disarmament and nonproliferation, and in this regard, we welcome the adoption of General Assembly Resolution 62/27 on Promotion of multilateralism in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation.

On its 30th anniversary, NAM underlines the importance of the Final Document of the First Special Session of the General Assembly Devoted to Disarmament (SSOD I) held in 1978.

We reaffirm NAM's principled positions on nuclear disarmament, which remain our highest priority, and on the related issue of nuclear nonproliferation in all its aspects, and stress the importance that efforts aiming at nonproliferation should be parallel to the simultaneous efforts aiming at nuclear disarmament. We stress our concern at the threat to humanity posed by the continued existence of nuclear weapons and of their possible use or threat of use. We reiterate our deep concern over the slow pace of progress towards nuclear disarmament and the lack of progress by the Nuclear Weapons-States (NWS) to accomplish the total elimination of their nuclear arsenals. We underscore the need for the NWS to implement the unequivocal undertaking that they provided in 2000 so as to accomplish the total elimination of nuclear weapons and emphasize, in this regard, the urgent need to commence negotiations on nuclear disarmament without delay.

Mr. Chairman,

We remain deeply concerned at the strategic defense doctrines of NWS, including the "NATO Alliance Strategic Concept", which not only set out rationales for the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons, but also maintain unjustifiable concepts on international security based on promoting and developing military alliances and nuclear deterrence policies.

We reiterate that the improvement in the existing nuclear weapons and the development of new types of nuclear weapons as envisaged in the United States Nuclear Posture Review contravene the security assurances provided by the NWS. We further reaffirm that these improvements as well as the development of new types of such weapons violate the commitments undertaken by the NWS at the time of the conclusion of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT).

NAM emphasizes that progress in nuclear disarmament and nonproliferation in all its aspects is essential to strengthening international peace and security. We reaffirm that efforts toward nuclear disarmament, global and regional approaches
and confidence building measures complement each other and should, wherever possible, be pursued simultaneously to promote regional and international peace and security.

NAM again calls for an international conference to identify ways and means of eliminating nuclear dangers, at the earliest possible date, with the objective of arriving at an agreement on a phased program for the complete elimination of nuclear weapons with a specified framework of time to eliminate all nuclear weapons, to prohibit their development, production, acquisition, testing, stockpiling, transfer, use or threat of use, and to provide for their destruction.

Mr. Chairman,

The total elimination of nuclear weapons is the only absolute guarantee against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons, and we reaffirm further that non-NWS should be effectively assured by NWS against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons. Pending the total elimination of nuclear weapons, NAM calls for the conclusion of a universal, unconditional and legally binding instrument on security assurances to non-NWS as a matter of priority. We note the establishment in 1998 of an Ad Hoc Committee on effective international arrangements to assure non-NWS against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons in the Conference on Disarmament to negotiate universal, unconditional and legally binding security assurances to all non-NWS.

We stress the significance of achieving universal adherence to the CTBT, including by all NWS, which, inter alia, should contribute to the process of nuclear disarmament. We reiterate that if the objectives of the Treaty were to be fully realized, the continued commitment of all States signatories, especially the NWS, to nuclear disarmament would be essential.

While noting the entry into force of the 2002 Moscow Treaty between the Russian Federation and the United States, we stress that reductions in deployments and in operational status cannot substitute for irreversible cuts in, and the total elimination of, nuclear weapons, and call on the United States and the Russian Federation to apply the principles of transparency, irreversibility and verifiability to further reduce their nuclear arsenals, both warheads and delivery systems, under the Treaty.

NAM continues to be concerned over the negative implications of the development and deployment of anti-ballistic missile (ABM) defence systems and the threat of weaponization of outer space which have, inter alia, contributed to the further erosion of an international climate conducive to the promotion of disarmament and the strengthening of international security. The abrogation of the ABM Treaty brings new challenges to strategic stability and the prevention of the arms race in outer space. We remain concerned that the implementation of a national
missile defence system could trigger an arms race(s) and the further development of advanced missile systems and an increase in the number of nuclear weapons.

Mr. Chairman,

NAM reaffirms the inalienable right of developing countries to engage in research, production and use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes without discrimination.

NAM States Parties to the NPT emphasize that nothing in the NPT shall be interpreted as affecting the inalienable right of all the parties to the Treaty to develop research, production and use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes without discrimination and in conformity with Articles I, II, and III of the Treaty. NAM States Parties stress that this right constitutes one of the fundamental objectives of the Treaty and in this connection, confirm that each country’s choices and decision in the field of peaceful uses of nuclear energy should be respected without jeopardizing its policies or international co-operation agreements and arrangements for peaceful uses of nuclear energy and its fuel cycle policies. In this connection, we confirm that each country’s choices and decision in the field of peaceful uses of nuclear energy should be respected without jeopardizing its policies or international co-operation agreements and arrangements for peaceful uses of nuclear energy and its fuel-cycle policies.

Mr. Chairman,

NAM believes that the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones (NWFZs) created by the treaties of Tlatelolco, Rarotonga, Bangkok, Pelindaba and Mongolia’s nuclear weapon-free-status are positive steps and important measures towards strengthening global nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. We welcome the signing of the Treaty on a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Central Asia in Semipalatinsk on 8 September 2006 as an effective contribution to strengthening regional and global peace and security. NAM reiterates that in the context of nuclear-weapon-free zones (NWFZs), it is essential that NWS should provide unconditional assurances against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons to all States of the zone. We urge States to conclude agreements freely arrived at among the States of the region concerned with a view to establishing new NWFZs in regions where they do not exist, in accordance with the provisions of the Final Document of the First Special Session of the General Assembly devoted to Disarmament (SSOD-I), and the principles adopted by the 1999 UN Disarmament Commission. Recalling the convening and the outcome of the First Conference of the States Parties and Signatories to Treaties that Established Nuclear Weapon Free Zones held in Tlatelolco, Mexico, from 26 to 28 April 2005, we call on the States parties and signatories to the Treaties of NWFZs to implement further ways and means of co-operation among themselves, their treaty agencies and other interested States. We express our support for Mongolia’s continued efforts in institutionalizing its nuclear-
weapon-free status by working to conclude the required legal instrument in this regard with its two neighbors.

NAM reiterates its support for the establishment in the Middle East of a nuclear weapon free zone, in accordance with the Security Council resolution 487 (1981), and paragraph 14 of the Security Council resolution 687 (1991), and the relevant UNGA resolutions adopted by consensus. Pending the establishment of such a zone, NAM demands Israel to accede to the NPT without delay, and to place promptly all its nuclear facilities under comprehensive IAEA safeguards. In this context we also condemn the statement made by the Prime Minister of Israel on 11 December 2006, related to the possession of nuclear weapons by Israel. NAM urges the continued consideration of the issue of Israeli nuclear capabilities in the context of the IAEA.

Finally, Mr. Chairman,

We believe that the issue of proliferation should be resolved through political and diplomatic means, and that measures and initiatives taken in this regard should be within the framework of international law: relevant conventions; the UN Charter, and should contribute to the promotion of international peace, security and stability.

Thank you.

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