Statement by the delegation of Indonesia

Thematic Debate: Nuclear Weapons

New York, 15 October 2008

Mr. Chairman,

We must deliver on our commitments that we have all made to make this world a peaceful and prosperous place. Otherwise, we undermine the security of peoples everywhere, and risk tarnishing the image of the United Nations as the embodiment of the collective will of humanity.

Our people deserve an international environment, where the precious resources are utilized for not increasing the nuclear and other such humanity obliterating weaponry of some, but for realizing the fundamental vision of the UN Charter: to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom.

The international community will not have a peace of mind unless the clearly non-workable paradigm of ensuring security through nuclear weapons is done away with.

The nuclear weapons must be eliminated in a systematic and comprehensive manner. The responsibility for elimination of these weapons lies in the hand of the Nuclear Weapons States (NWS). We urge all NWS, particularly those, which have the largest nuclear arsenals, to expedite their disarmament efforts.

The existence of nuclear weapons not only risks inducement for their acquisition in some of those who do not posses them, the danger in the use of these weapons is unthinkable. There can never be any realistic guarantees against the miscalculations and accidents. The best assurance against this threat is the complete eradication of nuclear weapons.
It is high time that the NWS move away from rhetoric, and start to take concrete disarmament steps, as per their agreed commitments. There is no reason to linger on how to pursue nuclear disarmament.

As an interim measure, for instance, the NWS should de-alert and deactivate their nuclear weapons immediately. The NWS should also take other concrete measures, to reduce the operational status of their nuclear weapon systems. But it should be clear that reductions in deployment and operational status cannot substitute for irreversible cuts in, and the total elimination of nuclear weapons.

Mr. Chairman,

The failure to fulfil the obligations under the multilaterally agreed disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation agenda will threaten the continued existence of the NPT. It will also threaten disarmament regime as a whole. The NWS and NNWS alike have an equal responsibility to fully implement all provisions of the NPT, and to realize its universality.

In this regard, we are of the view that the states party to NPT should encourage all countries outside the regime to join the Treaty. At the same time, it is also vital that the rights of the NPT member states to pursue peaceful uses of nuclear energy are fully acknowledged and respected. Nuclear energy is a crucial resource for the developing countries, in facilitating their national development efforts, and also helps to mitigate the affect of climate change.

However, there should not be any cooperation on nuclear matters with states that remain outside the NPT. The nuclear cooperation between the state party and the states outside the Treaty will undermine the universalization efforts of the Treaty, and will set a negative precedent as a whole. We believe that the nuclear cooperation should be rendered exclusively to the states party to the

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