STATEMENT

BY

H.E. MR. ANTHONY ANDANJE
AMBASSADOR/DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF THE
REPUBLIC OF KENYA TO THE UNITED NATIONS
GENEVA

AT

THE GENERAL DEBATE OF THE
FIRST COMMITTEE OF THE 66TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

NEW YORK

Monday 3rd October, 2011

Please Check against delivery
Mr. Chairman,

I wish to add my voice to others who spoke before me to congratulate you on your election to steer the deliberations of the current session of the First Committee. Allow me also, to congratulate the other members of the Bureau and to extend to all of you the assurances of the fullest cooperation of my delegation.

Mr. Chairman,

Kenya associates itself with the statements made by Nigeria on behalf of the African Group and by Indonesia on behalf of the Non Aligned Movement (NAM).

Mr. Chairman,

The world must come to the stark realization that security, stability and sustainable peace will only be possible through deliberate and targeted investment in the human person, rather than reliance on sophisticated armaments. Investment in the development of the human being is the only surest path to meaningful disarmament and security.

No nation can enjoy peace and security until the same is guaranteed to all other nations. We must therefore seriously seek, together, to address the root causes of strife and despair, poverty, hunger, marginalization and denial of basic human rights.

Mr. Chairman,

Kenya believes that multilateral negotiations and agreements are the only viable path to meaningful disarmament and security. In this regard Kenya acknowledges the crucial role that the First Committee plays in addressing important disarmament issues. The importance and the relevance of this committee can only be underlined by the collective, constructive action of its membership. Let us all therefore rise to the occasion and use this important organ of the disarmament machinery to advance the cause of arms control and disarmament.

Mr. Chairman,

Kenya remains committed to the goals of a nuclear-weapons free world. We continue to advocate the belief that the total elimination of nuclear weapons is the only surest guarantee that the danger that such weapons pose to humanity will never take place.

The adoption of the final document of the 2010 NPT Review Conference was a great success, however, it will not be worth the paper it is written on if member states do not demonstrate genuine political will to commit to early realization of a world free from nuclear weapons. We urge all states especially the Nuclear Weapon states to work harder to meet their obligations under the NPT.
Mr. Chairman,

Kenya reiterates its unwavering support for the universalization and early entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) and in this regard we call upon those states that have not yet signed or ratified the CTBT to do so as a matter of urgency. We especially call upon the states in annex 2 of the CTBT and whose ratifications are crucial for the treaty's entry into force, to ratify as soon as possible.

The negative effects of nuclear testing far outweigh military imperatives. It is politically immoral to pursue nuclear strategies that result in health hazards and environmental damage that will last for generations to come.

The unilateral moratoriums observed by nuclear weapons states, Mr. President, are not in themselves a panacea to the problem, what is required is the early entry into force of the CTBT.

Mr. Chairman,

The multilateral disarmament machinery offers us the best avenue to pursue disarmament negotiations. The serious security challenges that face our peoples need effective multilateral arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation instruments. Sadly, the persistent lack of movement has weakened the disarmament machinery, to the detriment of our collective security.

It is disappointing that for more than a decade, the CD has continually frustrated expectations of the international community. The CD has failed to fulfill its mandate. The CD has been unable to unlock its potential.

Kenya finds the stalemate in the CD unacceptable. We see an urgent need to revitalize the work of the CD and to take forward multilateral disarmament negotiations. In this regard we are highly appreciative of the Secretary General's initiatives in support of such efforts.

The follow-up High-level General Assembly Meeting on revitalizing the work of the CD held on 27 July 2011 highlighted the view states have on the causes of the stalemate in the CD. But above all, the HLM made it clear that the international community wants to move beyond mere rhetoric to concrete action.

The situation is not any better at the UN Disarmament Commission. It is evident to all of us that the UNDC has been comatose for over a decade, leading to some questioning whether it is fit for purpose and whether it is making any credible contributions to disarmament. The Commission's problems in consensus building date from the cold war era. Surely in today's world we ought to be reading from a different page.

Mr. Chairman,

The proliferation of illicit small arms and light weapons continues to be a great source of worry to Kenya and indeed the rest of the African Continent. It is imperative that states implement the UN Programme of
Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons, both at a national as well as regional level, as the problem of SALWs is often a cross-border one. In this regard, in the East and Central African region, the Regional Centre on Small Arms (RECSA) has continued to coordinate and assist member states address the effective control of arms transfers within and outside the sub-region. It is important to take note of the positive contribution of sub-regional instruments on small arms and light weapons in the implementation of the UNPOA.

Mr. Chairman,

Kenya has consistently supported the establishment of an Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) to regulate the trade in arms and in this regard we are pleased to note that significant progress has been made towards achieving a legally binding treaty governing the transfer of conventional weapons. We note with satisfaction the considerable progress made in the three PrepComs, so ably steered by Ambassador Moritan and we look forward to constructive engagement in the fourth and last PrepCom in February 2012 as we move to the Conference proper in July 2012.

Kenya is a signatory to the Convention on Cluster Munitions and the Ottawa Convention, because we believe it is crucial to give support to both these treaties that seek to make our world safer and more humane. These Conventions prove that with determination and political will, it is possible to come up with new international humanitarian law and disarmament instruments that ultimately aim to avoid unnecessary deaths and human suffering.

Mr. Chairman,

In conclusion, Kenya urges all delegations to seize this opportunity to make real and substantive progress in multilateral disarmament. There is a need for concerted and robust follow-up. It is therefore of utmost importance that the momentum thus far built up should not be allowed to wane. Dialogue and engagement on all disarmament fronts must continue at full speed.

My delegation will work diligently towards this end.

I thank you.