Statement made
By
Mr. Belachew Gujubo,
The Representative of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia at the First Committee of the 69th Session of the United Nations General Assembly
On
Thematic Debate: Weapons of Mass Destruction

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Mr. Chairman,

Permit me at the outset to state that my delegation fully aligns itself with the statement made by Nigeria on behalf of African Group and Indonesia on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement. I also wish to thank Secretary – General for the reports presented to us on the subject under discussion.

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation believes that the agenda item remains an important aspect of disarmament, particularly, to address the continued concerns of the international community over the destructive nature of weapons of mass destruction. We are convinced that the implementation of the United Nations Security Council resolution 1540(2004), which affirms that proliferation of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons, as well as their means of delivery constitute a threat to international peace and security issues.

We recognize in particular the importance of countering nuclear, chemical and biological weapons threats in the context of this resolution and more importantly, the necessity to prevent non-state actors access to these weapons. is imperative that we need to ensure that this does not happens, and in this region, there must be a coordinated effort and cooperation among all stakeholders. Obviously, the negative effects of possessing these devastating and indiscriminate chemical and biological weapons by non-state actors are not limited to a specific country or region, but are also far reaching.

Mr. Chairman,

It is to be recalled that the States Parties to the NPT in their 2010 Review Conference reached a consensus, which expressed their “deep concern at the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of any use of nuclear weapons”, and called on all States in the event of armed conflict at all times and wherever they occur, to comply with international humanitarian law.

It is this context that Ethiopian welcomes the international conference held in Oslo Norway and Nayarit, Mexico- and the upcoming conference, which will take place in Vienna, Austria, in December this year. These Conferences concretely demonstrate the unanimous position of the international community on curbing the already tested damages of nuclear weapons, other chemical and biological weapons as well as perceived use and threat of use of these destructive weapons.
Mr. Chairman,

It is our firm conviction that the pursuit of universal memberships and full compliance with the chemical and biological weapons conventions, and the negotiations of other Treaties to limit conventional arms should not be considered as optional for states to accept or leave, but are obligations of State Parties to work towards achieving their obligations and implementing them on urgent basis. Individual states and multilateral entities therefore have to work closely and in partnership to bring about significant, effective and negotiated solution by compromising their differences to save lives of human being and all other lives on our planet.

Mr. Chairman,

Finally, we wish to stress the fact that our global fight against the proliferation of weapons of Mass Destruction and ballistic missiles is yet far from over, and the ongoing crises in many regions of the world remind us that our continued engagement and action in this regard, are more needed than ever.

It is therefore, incumbent upon all states not only to come out a constructive discussion during the Vienna conference, but also to ensure its success, so that it serves us a good step forwarded to address the challenges of humanitarian impact of nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction. In this regard, we hope that nuclear weapon states will lead these efforts by recognizing their nuclear disarmament obligation.