STATEMENT

by

His Excellency
Ambassador František Ružička

Permanent Representative of the Slovak Republic
to the United Nations
to the First Committee
of the 70th Session of the United Nations General Assembly

on Disarmament Machinery

- Check against delivery -

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Mr. Chairman,

Slovakia fully associates itself with the statement delivered on behalf of the European Union. Nevertheless, I would like to add few comments from our national perspective.

Mr. Chairman,

Slovakia continues to be concerned by the paralysis in the disarmament machinery and see a pressing need for a progress. The Conference on Disarmament has been for a long time valued and recognized multilateral channel for strengthening international security. However, the prolonged stalemate affecting the CD is unacceptable and unsustainable.

We regret that, despite increased and concerted efforts, the CD once again failed this year to meet its obligation to establish a Program of Work thus ignoring numerous demands of the international community.

The CD should resume its work without any further delay. It is therefore our responsibility to search every avenue that could lead into substantive work in the CD. We are firmly convinced of the fundamental importance of a properly functioning CD, capable of fulfilling the mandate of the single multilateral disarmament negotiating forum.

The schedule of activities adopted by the CD for its 2015 session led to substantive, intensive and high quality exchanges. The re-establishment of the Informal Working Group tasked with producing a program of work provided the opportunity for close examination of a number of considerations that should be further explored upon next year. However we always have to keep in our minds that informal negotiations cannot replace substantive discussion. That is why the immediate commencement of the substantive work of the Conference on Disarmament including the start of negotiations of a Treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices remains our priority.

My delegation also pays due attention to a desire and interest in the CD membership expressed by many countries. We believe that this issue deserves proper consideration. In this regard, Slovakia welcomes increasing support for appointing a special coordinator on the expansion of the CD membership.

We have been registering views advocating the move of disarmament agenda to some other forums because of continuing impasse in the CD. We are convinced that the CD is still the best place to produce global, well-founded and viable instruments and remains the sole multilateral forum tasked with the negotiation of universal disarmament treaties to which it was given legitimacy by the 1978 Special Session of the General Assembly (SSOD-I).

Slovakia stands ready to work with all partners with a view to bring a CD deadlock to an end and to take multilateral disarmament negotiations forward.

Mr. Chairman,
We deeply regret that the 2015 NPT Review Conference was not able to achieve a consensus on its final document. This has deepened frustration among the States and underscored a lack of confidence within the non-proliferation regime.

We need to work together and focus on finding a consensus in order to take our multilateral efforts forward. However, these efforts should not lead to ignoring, omitting or even bypassing the established and relevant disarmament and non-proliferation forums.

We should keep in mind that despite many differences we remain united by a common goal and bound by a shared vision of achieving and maintaining a world free of nuclear weapons. This should be our guiding principle in our upcoming efforts aimed at restoring the trust and credibility of the non-proliferation regime and the NPT as its cornerstone. We need to advance on the full implementation of all commitments and undertakings in this area as a vital element and the main tool towards our shared common goal.

In this context, we strongly believe that the early entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) would certainly generate much needed impetus towards this end.

Furthermore, it will be beneficial to efficiently and effectively utilize the UN Disarmament Commission in New York as one of well-established multilateral forums in promoting common disarmament efforts. The UNDC was designed as the main subsidiary body of the UN General Assembly on disarmament matters. In the past it proved its ability to play an important and universal role by adopting a number of guidelines and recommendations. Although since 1999 it was unable to fulfill its mandate properly and failed to agree on any recommendation to the UN General Assembly, strong potential, determination and resolve on the part of its universal membership are evident and clearly present, and as such should be fully grasped. Achieving a consensual outcome by the UNDC at the end of its current three year cycle in 2017 would be a great boost and so much needed impetus in our broader multilateral efforts.

Mr. Chairman,

We would like to underline the importance of the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) and to express our gratitude for its work during 35 years of its existence. There is a great value of UNIDIR as a research institute. Being an autonomous body enables it to provide an important service through carrying out independent analysis. UNIDIR played an important role in the past and we hope that its current problems will be overcome in order to continue its work also in the future.

I thank you Mr. Chairman.